

Pedido de informação

Pedido da A3ES

Remetente:

CAE

Assunto:

The CAE request for more information about the NCE Phd in Agribusiness & Sustainability

Pedido:

Once analyzed, the PAPNCE of the PhD in Agribusiness and Sustainability, CAE considers that to make a more sustained analysis, it needs the answer to some questions:

4 - It is not totally clear what the recruiting universe is (8.1). The report does not clarify this remitting to "internal management data" of the institutions. This point should be better clarified.

Resposta da IES

Resposta:

Since this interdisciplinary PhD proposal is unprecedented in national, Iberian and Lusophone contexts, with no courses with identical or similar designations or content existing either in Portugal or the rest of Europe, as yet no data from formal statistical sources is available with regard to graduate employability in the host institutions. Despite its efforts, UTAD has no accurate data yet on the employability of recent masters graduates in the thematic areas covered by the proposed PhD Course (i.e. economics, management and agrarian sciences); unfortunately, a survey conducted in 2015 of Master's degree holders had response rates in the thematic area of the proposed PhD that were too low to draw inferences. However, a similar survey of masters degree-holders at the UÉ for 2014-15 elicited more responses, and suggested that the average employment rate of full-time masters students one year after completing their courses in the thematic areas covered by the proposed PhD course was almost 100%, compared to a rate of 88% in the same year for all masters graduates. Nevertheless, official statistics do exist on the unemployment rate of the corresponding undergraduate degree holders: according to the DGEEC (visit: <http://infocursos.mec.pt/>, accessed 10 February 2017), the average unemployment rates for those graduating with first cycle degrees in the above-mentioned fields in the period 2011-14 (compiled from Portuguese HEIs and from the two universities involved in the present proposal) were between 5% and 19%.

Furthermore, it should be noted that, according to the 2015 study "A Empregabilidade dos Doutorados nas Empresas Portuguesas" (PhD-holders' employability in Portuguese firms)", coordinated by Advancis Business Services, and based on DGEEC/MEC data on PhD-holders and on a 2012 survey specifically focusing on PhD training, compared to other countries Portugal suffers from a marked lack of PhD-holders in the active population, resulting in a residual presence in the private sector. The limited extent of mutual permeability between academia and industry, and the persistent gap between the form and content of doctoral programmes and the skill-set sought by firms, are two of the main reasons for this particular weakness, as highlighted by the Advancis study. We are confident that the proposed course will contribute to reducing these divergences, gaps and weaknesses, because it has been designed with the participation of and for the benefit of the agroforestry and food value chain (in the widest sense of the term), with a view to contributing to a reduction in the shortages of advanced training in this field, to increasing the practical, strategic and policy relevance of advanced training provided, and to promoting the integration of sustainability issues in all dimensions of agribusiness and related industries.