

Admission and Ranking of Candidates for the Masters in Actuarial Science

Pre-requisites

The Masters in Actuarial Science requires a solid academic background in Mathematical Analysis, Probability and Statistics. This normally implies holding a bachelor's degree, either national or foreign, in Mathematics, Mathematics with Economics, Statistics or some of the bachelor's degrees in Economics, Finance or Management. Applicants from other fields will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In accordance with Point d), of Article 17, of Decree Law No. 74/2006 of the 24th of March, other applications will also be considered, should they be deemed appropriate by the selection jury, based on a curricular analysis.

Students in the final year of the 1st Cycle, can apply by presenting the certificates of those Course Units already completed, subject to concluding the degree.

The Masters Scientific Commission will attribute a classification grade (calculated as described in the following section) to the students that meet the pre-requisites, based on their final grades of the 1st Cycle, and also on the curricular analysis, and sometimes by an interview.

Students with an **attributed classification grade** higher than 12.5 points will be considered for ranking, which is made according to that grade. Students with a grade higher than 14.5 points may be accepted in advance of the ranking.

Calculation of the attributed classification grade

1. The application grade is derived from 4 sources:
 - a. Average Final Grade of the 1st Cycle, taking into consideration the University attended and the Degree studied. Accordingly, a coefficient University/Degree is attributed (ranging from 0.8 to 1.2). The score is obtained by multiplying the average grade of the degree, on a scale of 0 to 20, after it has been standardised, by the respective coefficient.
 - b. Bonus/penalty for grades of specific subjects. After evaluating those grades obtained in CUs that are considered to be fundamental for studying the Masters (namely: Mathematical Analysis, Probabilities, and Statistics), the jury may award a bonus or penalty based on the university attended and the grade obtained in these disciplines when compared with the average of the 1st Cycle. This score ranges from -2 to 2 points.
 - c. The candidate's further academic education can result in an extra score, ranging from 0 to 2 points.
 - d. The candidate's professional experience in areas relevant to the Masters can also be recognised by a score ranging from 0 to 2 points.

2. As this Masters attracts students from various education systems, the final average grade of the 1st Cycle will be standardised on a scale of 0 to 20. This standardisation of grades takes into account the type of education attended and possibly also information regarding percentiles. As an example, the table below shows the equivalence with British grades (used in many countries) and North American ones. This is merely illustrative, as in many cases the students' transcripts contain information that helps attribute a more accurate conversion.

| Classif. UK | Classif. USA (Grade Point Averages) | Classif. PT (valores) |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| First class (1) | [3.68-4.00] | [16;20) $\left(PT = \frac{25}{2} USA - 30\right)$ |
| Second class, upper division (2.1) | [3.33-3.68) | [13-16) $\left(PT = \frac{60}{7} USA - \frac{544}{35}\right)$ |
| Second class, lower division (2.2) | [3.00-3.33) | [11-13) $\left(PT = \frac{200}{33} USA - \frac{237}{33}\right)$ |
| Third class (3) | [2.50-3.00) | [10-11) $(PT = 2USA + 5)$ |

Observations:

- For those students referred to in Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the Masters Regulations, the average grade of those Course Units already completed by the date of application will be taken into account, although these students cannot have more than two Course Units in arrears from previous years.
- Students from other education systems may be asked to provide additional information regarding the grading scale used at their university or their country of origin, to enable the best possible comparison with the grading scale used at ISEG, taking into account, for example, the distribution of final grades in quantiles.