

PALOP Students attending Portuguese higher education institutions – from the needs felt to the support offered

ABSTRACT

The overall goal of this research is the study of the conditions students from Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOP) find when coming to Portugal in order to pursue higher education.

We analyze the supports these students find as well as the main differences and motivations felt. In order to do so we identify the supports presented by the Portuguese higher education system and try to evaluate if that support is adjusted to the need, and, if not, what the real needs are. It is on these two questions that the main perspective lies.

It is also important to understand the nature of the difficulties (economic, integration, etc.), felt during their academic journey, in other words, we intend to contextualize the student's academic journey, assessing whether the support meets the needs and difficulties felt.

We analyze how important the role of teaching institutions is in what concerns integration, through the identification of existing and potential supports.

Keywords: Cooperation, Higher Education, Integration, PALOP, Social Action Services, Scholarships.