

Universidade do Minho
Escola de Engenharia

WELCOME GUIDE

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

of the

UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

Braga & Guimarães, Portugal

1. Why Visit the School of Engineering?

Welcome Message

Welcome to the School of Engineering of the University of Minho (EEUM)! The EEUM is a leading school on the national and international stage, committed to excellence in teaching, research and innovation. We are delighted to welcome you to our *campuses* in Braga and Guimarães.

About the EEUM

- Founded in 1975, the School of Engineering of the University of Minho (EEUM) has established itself as an agent of change, making an outstanding contribution to the advancement of science and technology. The School has consolidated its position among the country's leading engineering education institutions, with international visibility.
- Two *campuses*: the Gualtar Campus (Braga) and the Azurém Campus (Guimarães - the EEUM's head office)
- Nine Research Centres carrying out Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) activities
 - ✓ ALGORITMI Research Centre (ALGORITMI)
 - ✓ Centre for Textile Science and Technology (2C2T)
 - ✓ Centre of Biological Engineering (CEB)
 - ✓ Center for MicroElectroMechanics Systems (CMEMS)
 - ✓ Centre for Territory, Environment and Construction (CTAC)
 - ✓ INESC TEC . UMinho
 - ✓ Institute for Polymers and Composites (IPC)
 - ✓ Centre for Mechanical Engineering and Resource Sustainability (MEtRICs)
 - ✓ Institute for Sustainability and Innovation in Structural Engineering (ISISE)
- Nine departments:
 - ✓ Department of Civil Engineering (DEC)
 - ✓ Department of Industrial Electronics (DEI)
 - ✓ Department of Mechanical Engineering (DEM)
 - ✓ Department of Polymer Engineering (DEP)
 - ✓ Department of Textile Engineering (DET)
 - ✓ Department of Informatics (DI)
 - ✓ Department of Production and Systems (DPS)
 - ✓ Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (DEQB)
 - ✓ Department of Information Systems (DSI)
- Strong links to the business community and the regional innovation ecosystem
- Participation in international networks of academic and scientific cooperation

International Community

The EEUM regularly welcomes visitors from around the world: students, researchers, teaching staff and administrative and management staff, in a diverse and cosmopolitan community that values knowledge sharing and international collaboration.

The EEUM takes part in programmes linking Portugal to leading universities in the United States, namely MIT Portugal (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), CMU Portugal (Carnegie Mellon University) and UT Austin Portugal (University of Texas at Austin), and maintains links with major scientific infrastructures such as CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) and the INL (International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory).

These networks create mobility opportunities, joint research projects and contact with scientific communities that extend well beyond Braga and Guimarães. Here you will find colleagues of various nationalities and an environment accustomed to working across languages and cultures, where your international experience is a valued contribution.

Reasons to visit us

- Internationally recognised academic and research excellence
- Modern laboratories and top-class infrastructure
- Prime location in two historic and dynamic cities in the north of Portugal
- A welcoming and multicultural academic community
- An affordable cost of living compared with other European and even Portuguese cities

[Official EEUM website](#)

International Office contact: intl@eng.uminho.pt | Tel. 253 510 713 and 253 604 494

2. Before You Visit

Checklist Essentials

- Confirm the dates and contacts for your visit with the EEUM
- Arrange your travel documents in advance
- Take out travel and personal accident insurance
- Install useful apps (transport, maps, payments)
- Check the weather and pack accordingly
- Make initial contact with the EEUM member who will host you, in coordination with the EEUM International Office.

Visas and Documentation

European Union Citizens

No visa is required to enter Portugal. You need only present a valid national identity document or passport.

Non-EU Citizens

Nationals of non-EU countries who are still in their country of origin should apply for the appropriate visa before travelling, through the Portuguese consular authorities in their country of residence.

A visa application generally requires the following:

- A valid passport
- Proof of means of subsistence
- Travel and personal accident insurance
- Specific documentation according to the nature and duration of the visit


Obtaining a visa can take at least six weeks, and possibly longer, as an interview must be scheduled at the consulate. We recommend starting the process well in advance.

Website: [Portuguese consulates worldwide](#)

AIMA - Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum

In October 2023, Portugal restructured its immigration services, replacing the former SEF (Foreigners and Borders Service) with AIMA. AIMA is now the public body responsible for visas, residence permits, migrant integration and asylum applications in Portugal.

Website: [AIMA - official portal](#)


 (+351) 217 115 000

Health and Insurance

We recommend taking out travel and personal accident insurance before departure, covering the entire period of your stay in Portugal.

To access the National Health Service (SNS):

- EU citizens: present the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
- Other citizens: present an identity document and proof of visa/residence permit at the Health Centre

 SNS 24: 808 24 24 24 | sns24.gov.pt

Weather in Braga and Guimarães

The Minho is the greenest and wettest region in Portugal. It is wise to prepare for:

- Spring / Autumn - mild temperatures (15–22°C), with possible rain
- Summer - hot and dry, sometimes exceeding 30°C
- Winter - cool and rainy, rarely below 5°C

Time Zone in Mainland Portugal

Mainland Portugal follows WET (Western European Time), i.e. UTC+0 in winter, switching to WEST (UTC+1) during summer time, which runs from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October. It therefore matches London time (GMT/BST).

Learning Portuguese?

The University of Minho offers Portuguese courses for international students and visitors.

Website: [Portuguese courses at UMinho](#)

3. Getting Here

The nearest airport is Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport in Porto (OPO), about 40 minutes from both Braga and Guimarães.

From Porto Airport to Braga and Guimarães

FlixBus - Airport Shuttle

[FlixBus](#) offers direct daily non-stop connections to Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport from the cities of Braga and Guimarães.

Get Bus - Direct Airport Connections

[Get Bus](#) offers direct daily non-stop connections to Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport from the cities of Braga and Guimarães.

Comboios de Portugal (national railways)

CP timetables – Portuguese national trains

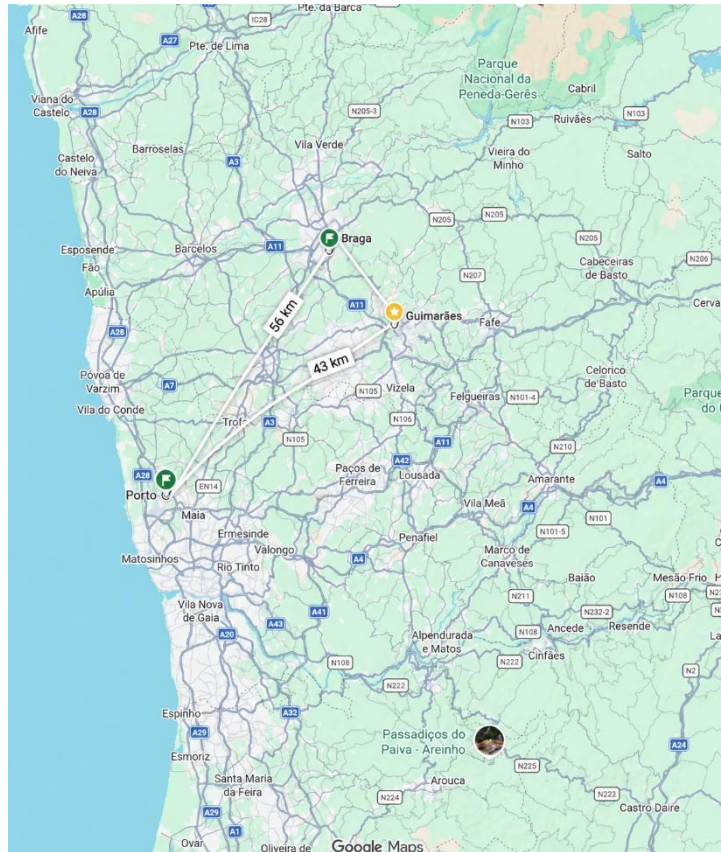
Uber / Bolt - Door to Door

A convenient option available 24/7, ideal for groups or out-of-hours arrivals:

- Estimated time: approx. 40 min to Braga or Guimarães
- Available directly through the app on arrival at the airport

Website: [Uber](#)

Website: [Bolt](#)



Between Braga and Guimarães

Mode of transport	Duration	Notes
Bus	approx. 50 min	Several operators available
Uber / Bolt	approx. 30 min	Faster, door to door

Useful Transport Apps

- FlixBus - airport coaches
- Get Bus - airport coaches
- Uber / Bolt - private transport
- CP – Portuguese national trains
- Google Maps – route planning and public transport

4. Our Campuses

The EEUM is present on both campuses of the University of Minho, in Guimarães and in Braga. Each brings together departments, research centres, teaching and research laboratories, libraries and study areas, support services, catering, social spaces and sports facilities.

Azurém Campus - Guimarães

Address: Campus de Azurém, 4804-533 Guimarães

[Map and Directions, Azurém Campus](#)

Gualtar Campus – Braga

Address: Campus de Gualtar, 4710-057 Braga

[Map and Directions, Gualtar Campus](#)

[Campus Maps](#)

Academic calendar at a glance - University of Minho 2026/2027

1st semester

Classes: 14 Sept 2026 to 30 Jan 2027

Christmas break: 21 Dec 2026 to 2 Jan 2027

Examinations (normal period): until 30 Jan 2027

2nd semester

Classes: 1 Feb to 19 Jun 2027

Teaching break (Enterro da Gata student festival): 8 to 15 May 2027

Break: 22 to 29 Mar 2027

Examinations (normal period): until 19 Jun 2027

Examinations (special period): 6 to 19 Jul 2027

5. Living in Guimarães and Braga

GUIMARÃES

About the City

Guimarães is a historic city that played a crucial role in the founding of Portugal and is often called the "Cradle of the nation". It combines the preservation of its rich heritage with modern dynamism, and is today a vibrant and welcoming city.

European Green Capital 2026

In 2026 Guimarães is European Green Capital, the second Portuguese city after Lisbon (2020). The concept rests on the idea that the title is "a means, not an end", a tool to improve quality of life and achieve climate neutrality by 2030, with strong community involvement ([more than 200 local initiatives](#)). The programme runs throughout the year and includes the Spring Forward Festival (6–9 May), Green Week (4–7 June) and European Mobility Week (16–22 September).

UNESCO World Heritage

The Historic Centre of Guimarães and the Couros Zone are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The historic city is associated with the emergence of Portuguese national identity in the 12th century and is an exceptionally well-preserved example of the evolution of a medieval settlement into a modern town.

Monuments and Culture

- Guimarães Castle - a symbol of the founding of Portugal
- Palace of the Dukes of Bragança - a must-see medieval palace
- UNESCO Historic Centre - medieval streets, churches and historic squares
- Platform for Arts and Creativity / CIAJG - a contemporary art centre
- Penha - a sanctuary and viewpoint with a cable car and views over the city
- Largo do Toural - the heart of the city, a meeting point and urban landmark

Tourism and Cultural Listings

Website: [Guimarães Tourism Portal](#)

Website: [Cultural listings and events](#)

BRAGA

About the City

Braga is a city with over two-thousand years of history, a UNESCO Creative City, voted Best European Destination 2021 and Best Emerging Tourism Destination at the *World Travel Awards* 2023. Known as the "Portuguese Rome", it harmoniously blends a rich historical and religious past with a dynamic, cosmopolitan present, enlivened by a strong university presence.

Monuments and Culture

- Braga Cathedral - the oldest cathedral in Portugal, with styles ranging from Romanesque to Baroque
- Bom Jesus do Monte - a majestic monument and UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2019
- Fonte do Ídolo - a Roman sanctuary of great archaeological value
- Theatro Circo - an iconic cultural venue in the heart of the city
- D. Diogo de Sousa Archaeology Museum - a journey to Roman Bracara Augusta
- Roman baths of Alto da Cividade - remains of the Roman occupation
- Historic Centre - a route through around 70 heritage sites spanning six historical periods

Leisure and Student Life

- Cafés and social spaces in the historic centre
- Green spaces and urban parks
- A varied programme of cultural events
- Lively student life and a wide range of dining options

Website: [Braga Tourism Portal](#)

6. Accommodation

Options in Braga

- UMinho student halls of residence (subject to availability)
- Local accommodation and holiday flats in the city centre
- Hotels across a range of categories and prices

Options in Guimarães

- Accommodation close to the Azurém Campus
- Local accommodation in the historic centre
- Hotels and *hostels* with good links to the campus

For longer stays, rented flats can be more economical. We recommend booking in advance, particularly during periods of academic events.

Website: [Cost of living - UMinho Accommodation](#)

7. Transport

See Section 3 for information on getting here from the airport. This section sets out local transport during your stay.

Urban Transport

- Braga: bus network [TUB](#)
- Guimarães: bus network [GUIMABUS](#)
- Uber and Bolt available in both cities

Recommended Apps

- Google Maps - public transport routes and timetables
- Uber / Bolt - private transport
- CP app – Portuguese national trains
- FlixBus / Get Bus - intercity and airport coaches

8. Resources at the EEUM

Digital Infrastructure

- Free Wi-Fi throughout the campuses
- Institutional VPN for remote access to university resources
- Academic software available to visitors (with credentials)

Laboratories and Spaces

- State-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories across various fields of engineering
- Study and collaborative working spaces

Platforms and Portals

- UMinho E-learning
- UMinho Academic Portal
- RepositoriUM - Scientific Repository

Support Services

- UMinho International Support Service: usai@usai.uminho.pt
- EEUM International Office: intl@eng.uminho.pt
- Libraries on both campuses
- Study rooms
- Academic and administrative services

9. Everyday Life

Payments

- MB Way - a Portuguese mobile payments app, widely used in local shops
- Multibanco (ATM) - a banking network with full coverage across the cities
- Debit and credit cards accepted in most establishments

Supermarkets and Shopping

- Main chains: Pingo Doce, Continente, Lidl, Aldi, Minipreço, Mercadona
- Local markets with fresh, regional produce
- Shopping centres in Guimarães: Guimarãesshopping and Espaço Guimarães
- Shopping centres in Braga: Braga Parque and Nova Arcada

Health

- Braga Hospital - the regional public referral hospital | Tel. 253 027 000
- Senhora da Oliveira Hospital - Guimarães | Tel. 253 540 330
- Health Centres in both cities
- Pharmacies: marked by a green cross; some open 24 hours

Telecommunications

- Main operators: NOS, MEO, Vodafone
- eSIMs and prepaid SIM cards readily available in operators' shops
- Excellent 4G/5G coverage in both cities and on the campuses

Portuguese Opening Hours

- Shops: generally 9 a.m.–8 p.m. (Mon–Sat); some close on Sundays
- Restaurants: lunch noon–3 p.m.; dinner 7.30 p.m.–10.30 p.m.
- Public services: typically 9 a.m.–5.30 p.m. (weekdays)
- Pharmacies: extended hours, with a rota for night-time service

Plugs and Electricity

- Plug type: Type F (Schuko) - two round pins
- Voltage: 230V / Frequency: 50Hz
- Visitors from the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Brazil* or other countries outside continental Europe will need an adapter
- We recommend bringing a universal adapter

10. Survival Portuguese

Portuguese is the official language of Portugal. Although English is widely spoken in academic circles, a few basic phrases are always appreciated!

Portuguese	Approx. pronunciation	Meaning
Olá / Bom dia	Oh-lah / Bom-dee-ah	Hello / Good morning
Boa tarde / Boa noite	Boa-tar-de / Boa-noy-te	Good afternoon / Good evening
Obrigado / Obrigada	Oh-bree-gah-doo / dah	Thank you (m/f)
Por favor	Por-fah-vor	Please
Com licença	Com-lee-sen-sa	Excuse me
Desculpe	Des-kool-pe	Sorry
Sim / Não	Seen / Nowng	Yes / No
Fala inglês?	Fah-la een-glesh?	Do you speak English?
Onde fica...?	On-de fee-ka?	Where is...?
Quanto custa?	Kwan-too koos-ta?	How much does it cost?
A conta, por favor	Ah kon-ta, por fah-vor	The bill, please
Uma cerveja / água	Oo-ma ser-vej-a / ah-gwa	A beer / water
Até logo!	Ah-teh loh-go!	Goodbye / See you later!
Obrigado pela visita!	Oh-bree-gah-doo pe-la vee-zee-ta!	Thank you for the visit!

11. Emergencies and Support

 **NATIONAL EMERGENCY: 112 (police, fire brigade, ambulance)**

 **SNS 24: 808 24 24 24**

Hospitals and A&E

- Braga Hospital: Sete Fontes, São Victor | Tel. 253 027 000
- Senhora da Oliveira Hospital - Guimarães | Tel. 253 540 330
- Health Centres available in both cities

 **Emergency Number within UMinho | Tel. 253 60 10 10**


Psychological Support

- Mental health support line: contact SNS 24 - 808 24 24 24
- Local Health Centres can provide referral for psychological support

Other Useful Contacts

- PSP Braga (Police): 253 200 400
- PSP Guimarães (Police): 253 415 250
- AIMA (immigration and documentation): (+351) 217 115 000
- AIMA - [official portal](#)

EEUM Contacts

-  general: 253 510 713 and 253 604 494
- International Office: intl@eng.uminho.pt
- Website EEUM: <https://www.eng.uminho.pt/pt>

12. Stay Connected with the EEUM

Stay connected with the School of Engineering of the University of Minho community and keep up with the latest news, events and opportunities:

Website and Social Media

[Official EEUM Website](#)

[Facebook - EEUM](#)

[Instagram - @eeuminho](#)

[LinkedIn - School of Engineering UMinho](#)

[YouTube - EEUM Channel](#)

[EEUM News Portal](#)

Newsletter and Community

- [ENGINews](#) - the School of Engineering newsletter
- Events and conferences on campus - schedule available on the website
- International community of *alumni* and visitors

Thank you for visiting the School of Engineering of the University of Minho!

We hope your stay in Braga and Guimarães is a rewarding experience.

intl@eng.uminho.pt | 253 510 713 and 253 604 494 | eng.uminho.pt

Glossary

2C2T - Centre for Textile Science and Technology

AIMA - Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum

ALGORITMI - ALGORITMI Research Centre

ATM - Automated Teller Machine (Multibanco)

CEB - Centre of Biological Engineering

CERN - European Organization for Nuclear Research

CESD/EHIC - European Health Insurance Card

CIAJG - José de Guimarães International Arts Centre

CMEMS - Center for MicroElectroMechanics Systems

CMU - Carnegie Mellon University

CP - Comboios de Portugal (Portuguese national railway operator)

CTAC - Centre for Territory, Environment and Construction

DEC - Department of Civil Engineering

DEI - Department of Industrial Electronics

DEM - Department of Mechanical Engineering

DEP - Department of Polymer Engineering

DEQB - Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

DET - Department of Textile Engineering

DI - Department of Informatics

DPS - Department of Production and Systems

DSI - Department of Information Systems

EEUM - School of Engineering of the University of Minho

GUIMABUS - Guimarães bus network

RD&I - Research, Development and Innovation

INESC TEC - Institute for Systems and Computer Engineering, Technology and Science

INL - International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory

IPC - Institute for Polymers and Composites

ISISE - Institute for Sustainability and Innovation in Structural Engineering

MB Way - Portuguese mobile payments app (a SIBS brand)

MEtRICs - Centre for Mechanical Engineering and Resource Sustainability

MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

OPO - IATA code for Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport (Porto)

PSP - Polícia de Segurança Pública (Public Security Police)

SEF - Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras (former Foreigners and Borders Service)

SNS - Serviço Nacional de Saúde (National Health Service)

UMinho - University of Minho

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UT Austin - University of Texas at Austin

VPN - Virtual Private Network

WEST - Western European Summer Time

WET - Western European Time