

# Best Practices Identification - Grid



**PARTNER SUGGESTING THIS PRACTICE:** Universidade Porto

**TITLE DOCUMENT:** Integrating foreign students

**PROMOTER:** FEUP - Universidade do Porto

**AUTHORS (if identified):** N/A

**WEBSITE:** <https://paginas.fe.up.pt/~orientationdays/index.php/pt/>

**LANGUAGES:**  EN |  DE |  FR |  FI |  GR |  Other:

## The output of this document includes:

- Rational
- Theoretical background
- Characterisation of the context
- Reference to existing "needs"/"problems"
- Reference to possible "benefits"/"resources"
- Definition of goals
- Identification of target groups
- Description of main intervention strategies
- Partnership with other organisations
- Process evaluation
- Outcome evaluation

## Target group(s):

Foreign students studying at college of Engineering of the University of Porto

## Topic or discipline:

N/A

## Short Description

ORIENTATION DAYS  
Foreign Students

The Orientation Days is a welcome event aimed at helping the integration of all incoming foreign students who will attend our School, organized by the Cooperation Division of the Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto (FEUP) at the start of each academic semester.

The event includes a main welcome session, various information sessions about practical issues, an intercultural get-together in an International Snack, and a cultural, social and academic programme that takes place in several days during which foreign students have the opportunity of fully getting to know FEUP and the city of Porto.

The Orientation Days is part of the larger softlanding programme of the Cooperation Services of FEUP. This programme includes also:

- An Intensive Course of Portuguese for Foreigners, held at FEUP in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts, running twice a year, in March and October;
- A FEUP Buddy programme, which aims at preparing, receiving, integrating and supporting foreign students counting with the help of regular FEUP students as volunteers;
- A contact point for foreign students and researchers, which gives support not only during the application process, but also upon arrival. They are welcomed with a debriefing session and receive all help needed during the stay;
- Cultural and scientific events, publicized throughout the academic year.

## Why is this an interesting case? Is there any formal recognition of this case as a good practice? Why do you think this sample should be taken into consideration?

It is a case of integrating students with different cultures in a setting that has its own culture of studying, learning, researching and socializing. The stays are short and a quick adaptation is needed to catch the pace of the environment. It is based in years of experience and strategies were adopted to face issues that existed in previous years. It is an example of action-research with the stakeholders. It is the result of an evolving approach that may be adopted with students with unknown needs and problems.



