

ANNOUNCEMENT/OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

**RECOGNITION OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE  
TO ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND IN HIGH-SCHOOL EDUCATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS IN WORLD LANGUAGES (NEWL)  
DEVELOPED BY THE *AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION* AND  
RECOGNIZED BY THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM (AP) OF THE COLLEGE  
BOARD INCLUDE THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE EXAM, USING THE SCORES FOR  
CREDIT AND PLACEMENT IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.**

The Education Office for the Portuguese Language Programs and Education Affairs in the United States of America (CEPE-USA) in collaboration with Camões Institute – Institute for Cooperation and Language, I.P., the Embassy of Portugal, the diplomatic and consular network in the USA, the *American Councils for International Education* and the *College Board*, convey the information below:

- The Advanced Placement Program (AP) of the *College Board*, endorses the National Examinations in World Languages (NEWL) developed by *American Councils for International Education*, including for credits to access higher education and recommends them to all affiliated education institutions/members;
- The NEWL exams which will take place in 2017, will include, for the first time, the Portuguese Language;
- In order to apply for the exam in 2017, the students should be enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or at least 14 years old on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016;
- The exam will be held online on April 28. The enrollment must be made until March 31<sup>st</sup>, at the exam centers approved by NEWL/AC. The exam will include the diverse variations of global Portuguese (EP, BP and AP) and will evaluate the students competences, in the following components:
  - ✓ Reading Comprehension (60 minutes)
  - ✓ Listening Comprehension (45 minutes)
  - ✓ Presentational writing (30 minutes)
  - ✓ Interpersonal Listening/Speaking (30 minutes)

The exam will have the duration of 3 hours, including an intermission of 15 minutes between the first two components and the two last ones.

- As regards proficiency levels, the NEWL exams follow the guidelines of the *American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)*, and rank between *Novice High* and *Intermediate High levels*. Taking into account the correspondence between the proficiency levels of CEFR/QUArepe and the ACTFL levels, it is concluded that the NEWL exams stand between A1 and B1 levels.

Link:

[https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/reports/Assigning\\_CEFR\\_Ratings\\_To\\_ACTFL\\_Assessments.pdf](https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/reports/Assigning_CEFR_Ratings_To_ACTFL_Assessments.pdf)

The final score – in a scale of 5 points, equivalent to AP levels of the College Board – results of an assessment which takes into account the evaluation of the oral and written expression and the results of the answers of the multiple-choice questions, taken on the computer.

- The Teachers and the students can prepare for the interpersonal listening and speaking components through demo resources in the official website of the AAPPL (The ACTFL Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Languages)

Link: <https://aappl.actfl.org/demo>;

- The cost of the exam – 93 USD – is equal to those of the AP program of the *College Board*. The students, with parents with low income, and attested by their school will pay a reduced fee – 53 USD. Part of this amount, 9 USD (when the fee applied is 93 USD) will revert to the exam center of the school; in case the student benefits from the reduction of 53 USD, the school receives 4 USD;
- *American Councils for International Education (AC)* will send out the score reports to the participating students by mid-July.

The student score report will include a certificate with the final scores obtained in the exam.

- For students applying to a higher education institution (College or University), AC sends the certificates to the admissions officer of the institution.

Link: <https://apps.collegeboard.org/cbsearch/searchMInstitutionStart.jsp>

If the student intends to apply for several higher education institutions, he/she can request the AC the issuance of as many transcripts as he/she desires. The first request is free of charge and the following will cost a fee of 15 USD. The requests that call for urgency cost a fee of 32 USD. Any of the requests is processed through the filling of a specific AC form, which can be accessed through the link: <https://www.americancouncils.org/services/testing-and-assessment/newl/forms>.

- In the event the student intends to pursue his/her studies in Portuguese Language, in a higher education institution, the NEWL exam score, is in principle, taken into account in the decision on the proficiency level, on the basis of a table found below, in which 5 reflects the higher proficiency level (note that the transcript includes intermediate levels – e.g. 4, 5 – for each of the above mentioned fields).

NEWL Levels (5 points)	Suggested semester placement (higher education)
5	5 <sup>th</sup> (first semester of third-year)
4	4 <sup>th</sup> (second semester of second-year)
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> (first semester of second-year)
2	2 <sup>nd</sup> (second semester of first-year)
1	1 <sup>st</sup> (first semester of first-year)

The table above is, notwithstanding, merely illustrative, and does not place in question the discretionary exercise of any college or university.

- The education institutions interested in establishing NEWL exam centers should fill in the application form and send it to NEWL at: [NEWL@americancouncil.org](mailto:NEWL@americancouncil.org). Upon approval by NEWL, the institution can enroll students from any other schools where such centers do not exist or have not been authorized;
- The education institutions must provide the adequate resources, both human, technological and computing for the sitting of online exams, namely a lab technician or an IT teacher, computer labs and the following software equipment: Windows or Mac OSX, Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox or Safari, among others;
- These guidelines will allow that the Learning of Portuguese in the United States to be recognized as part of an educational curriculum that may grant additional credits, both in secondary education and higher education institutions, enjoying the recognition of the most prestigious U.S. entities in this matter, in particular, the *American Councils for International Education* and *College Board* (Advanced Placement Program).
- Further detailed information can be obtained through the following link: <https://www.americancouncils.org/services/testing-and-assessment/newl/Portuguese>

**Or through the following contacts:**

**Huma Manati**, Assistant program Manager, Assessment and Curriculum Development (NEWL)

E-mail: [hmanati@americancouncils.org](mailto:hmanati@americancouncils.org)

T: 202.833.7522 F: 202.833.7523

**João Caixinha**, Deputy Coordinator to CEPE-USA

E-mail: [joao.caixinha@camoes.mne.pt](mailto:joao.caixinha@camoes.mne.pt)

T: 617.775.9161 F: 617.536.2503

**José Adão**, Deputy Coordinator to CEPE-USA

E-mail: [josecarlos.adao@camoes.mne.pt](mailto:josecarlos.adao@camoes.mne.pt)

T: 973.780.0576 F: 973.643.3900

**Relevant Documents:**

College Board (2006) World Languages Framework. New York, NY Author.

Retrieved from:

[https://www.collegeboard.com/prod\\_downloads/about/association/academic/world-languages-framework\\_06.pdf](https://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/about/association/academic/world-languages-framework_06.pdf), 2-24-2015

Educational Testing Service (2009) ETS Guidelines for Fairness Review of Assessments. Princeton, NJ:

Author. Retrieved from

[https://www.ets.org/Media/About\\_ETS/pdf/overview.pdf](https://www.ets.org/Media/About_ETS/pdf/overview.pdf), 2-16-2015

National Standards in Foreign Language Education project (NSFLEP). (2015)

World-Readiness standards for learning languages (W-RSLL). Alexandria,

VA: Author. Retrieved from: <https://www.actfl.org/publications/all/world-readiness-standards-learning-languages>

The ACTFL guidelines:

<https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012>