



Innovation and curriculum development: the experience of the master's degree in pharmacy of the School of Health of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (id67)

Marlene Santos (ESS-P. PORTO); Ângelo Jesus (ESS-P. PORTO); Ana Isabel Oliveira (ESS-P.PORTO); Claudia Pinho (ESS-P.PORTO); Fernando Moreira (ESS-P.PORTO); Patricia Correia (ESS-P. PORTO); Rita Oliveira (ESS-P. PORTO); Agostinho Cruz (ESS-P.PORTO)

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on various aspects of society, including education. UNESCO estimates that more than 90% of students worldwide were deprived of face-to-face attendance during the epidemic, affecting around 1.5 billion students. In response to the measures to minimize the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and ensure the safety and health of teaching staff, non-teaching staff, and students, the teaching regime was changed from face-to-face to distance learning. This trend, which included the growth of e-learning and b-learning, represented a rapid shift in the paradigm of learning. During this period, the Master's in Pharmacy program at the School of Health at the Polytechnic Institute

of Porto (ESS-P.Porto) adapted its activities to the limitations imposed by the pandemic. This modality was well-received by Pharmacy Master's students who were able to better reconcile professional and academic activities and successfully complete the course. The objective of this paper is to highlight the response to the opportunities for improvement identified by the Master's in Pharmacy program through a proposal to restructure the study cycle to a b-learning modality. The experienced methodology of distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, being more flexible, proved to be a good teaching modality, creating the possibility of adapting to other teaching-learning methods, including synchronous and asynchronous

moments. This new restructuring of the study cycle came into effect this academic year (2022/2023). Higher education faces new opportunities and challenges, including approaching curricular programs oriented towards Sustainable Development. The development of the Master's in Pharmacy program in a b-learning regime represents a contribution to this objective.

