

Academia de Verão



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Promoting Science: 2012 Summer Academy at the University of Aveiro

Between the 8th and 20th of July the University Campus of Santiago received more than 300 young students from all over the country, aged between 10 and 18 years old, to participate in the extraordinary experience of living a true university life, in the scope of the seventh edition of Aveiro Summer Academy.

The 2012 edition focused on the scientific areas of Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Geosciences, Civil Engineering, Telecommunications and Computer Science, Mechanics, Languages, Design, Multimedia and Health studies, but included as well a vast program of cultural and playful activities, specially directed to these potential university students.

Either during one or two weeks, the University gave these young participants the opportunity to explore interesting scientific projects, integrated in a handful of projects totally organized by the fifteen departments that accepted this annual challenge. Some municipalities and companies supported the participation of the best students in the Academy, with a total of 63 scholarships attributed.

Besides the laboratorial experiments, the exciting field work and the nice field visits outside the Campus, students also had the privilege to be in contact with a real university life - they were accommodated in the students' residences, had meals in the campus canteens and sports activities in the gymnasium and on the university lanes in the afternoon. Of extreme importance was the close relationship with the university students and researchers that monitored their stay on Campus and coordinated the cultural, sports and lab activities.

Before leaving the Academy, participants participated in a «farewell ceremony» at the Auditorium, where they received their Diplomas from the Vice-rector and were applauded by their families and friends.

In the last six editions, more than 2000 students, from 500 Portuguese secondary schools, had the opportunity to experience the university atmosphere and envisage their academic future at UA. The organization of such initiatives to foster public understanding of science plays a central role in the university strategic positioning. Stimulating curiosity and interest for scientific activities, motivating the youngsters for the learning and highlighting the importance of research and science in everyday life is a permanent concern of UA.

A new program with enriching scientific experiments and lots of fun for all participants will certainly be part of next year's Summer Academy.

