

Date: 30 September 2016

To: Programas Doutoramento, Portuguese Science & Technology Foundation

Subject: Advisory Committee review of the FLUVIO program

From: Robert M. Hughes, Chair, FLUVIO Advisory Committee 

Copy: Maria Teresa Ferreira, FLUVIO Program Director
Rui Cortes, Universidade do Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal

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The FLUVIO Advisory Committee (ACFLUVIO) has reviewed the FLUVIO report for September 2015 to July 2016 dated 12 September 2016. The ACFUVIO has the following comments and suggestions:

ACFLUVIO commends FCT for providing the badly needed funding for student travel to partner universities as well as instructor travel to Portugal. Such funds are essential for a successful international and interdisciplinary educational program such as FLUVIO.

ACFLUVIO commends FLUVIO for increasing the research theme details to which candidate students could apply. This should help ensure that students and supervisors are both on the same path earlier in the degree program.

In the candidate scoring process, ACFLUVIO recommends adding numerical versus qualitative scoring for journal impact factor and participation in scientific meetings (attendance versus presentation, poster versus platform presentation, and local versus regional, versus national, versus international meeting).

ACFLUVIO commends FLUVIO for adding Table 5, indicating student progress through the mandatory and elective courses.

ACFLUVIO commends FLUVIO for markedly improving the course content of Land Use & Water Management, River Conservation under Managed Flows, and River Ecosystem Functioning & Monitoring. It would be useful to learn if those improvements resulted in higher course and instructor evaluations than those received from the first cohort. In addition, it would be interesting to know whether the contents of other courses were altered to better meet the interdisciplinary and quantitative needs of the FLUVIO students.

ACFLUVIO recommends adding a table to the reports indicating the home nations of all cohorts of FLUVIO students.

ACFLUVIO recommends adding a table indicating FLUVIO student progress in initiating their thesis research (rigorous study plan, data collection, data analysis, summary results), presenting their results at professional scientific meetings, and publishing their research results in peer-reviewed scientific journals or books.

In addition to Brazil, ACFLUVIO recommends increased effort to recruit students from Asia, Angola and Mozambique.

