# **OPUS-College**

### STUDENT INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM

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## Purpose and Structure of the Presentation

To give you an *over-all and detailed introduction to the OPUS-College system*: its history, the principles or points of departure for the design and development of the system and – obviously - the content and functionality of the system.

To *inform/update you about the implementation process of OPUS-College at CBU*: the time planning of the implementation and the organizational framework (functions and tasks) to be put in place for a sustainable functioning of the OPUS-College system in the institution.

## Purpose and Structure of the Presentation

The presentation is divided into 3 main parts:

- 1. General introduction, history and points of departure.
- 2. Content and functionality of the system.
- 3. Implementation planning and organizational framework.

## Part 1.

General introduction of the OPUS-College system, its, history and points of departure for design and development.

## A short definition

"Opus-College" is the name of a web-based information system for the registration and consultation of information on:

- *Students* (personal data, study plan, previous educational career, absence registration, etc..).
- Studies (structure and content: programmes of study, courses, exams, tests...).
- Lecturers (staff members involved in the academic education process).
- Organizational units (Schools, Departments, Institutes, ...).

Note: if wanted OPUS-College can also be used as a HRM-system, given the extensive data on staff members which can be stored in the system.

## Advantages / Merits of OPUS-College (1)

- OPUS-College covers a *broad range of functionality* concerning academic administration issues and tasks in an *integrated way*: full registration and update functions for student, staff, studies, courses and exam information in one system.
- OPUS-College is *cheap*: given the fact that OPUS-College is open source, the system as such is for free.
- OPUS are not dependent of the policy of vendors, e.g. as to when and how new versions or functionality becomes available, but the open source character of the systems make adjustments by any qualified IT-expert possible at any time.

## Advantages / Merits of OPUS-College (2)

- Based on proven and future-oriented technology:
  - *Application written in JAVA*: the worldwide standard for professional open source application development.
  - Database PostgreSQL: called the "ORACLE of Open Source". But in principle any other database can be used in combination with the OPUS-College application.
  - Full *modular service-oriented architecture*; based on OSGI: the leading framework for service-oriented JAVA application development.
  - o **100% web-based**: accessible anytime from anywhere over the Internet. All the user need to use the system is a web browser, so no technical learning investment needed by the user.
  - *XML-based interoperability*: all the exchange of information with other systems is done by means of XML with existing schemas for validation.

# Advantages / Merits of OPUS-College (3)

- **Easily extendible:** given the **modular architecture** of the system, the functionality of OPUS-College can easily be extended with modules of various kinds (e.g. a module for managing the housing of students on campus, an electronic publication module, a research information module, etc...).
- **Platform independent**: can run on Windows, Linux and Mac operating systems.
- Based on (international) "community approach": OPUS-College is developed in cooperation with various international IT-experts (Netherlands, Austria, Mozambique) and all modules developed by participants are put available for free to the whole community. This approach makes the system a good platform to initiate South-South cooperation.

- OPUS-College was initially developed as part of a development project for Mozambican universities, founded by *NUFFIC*, the Dutch governmental organization for university development cooperation.
- This project, called "ICT Capacity Building at Institutions of Higher Learning in Mozambique" started in 2006 and just a few days ago had its closing ceremony.
- OPUS-College was the main component of the project and as a result the system now is implemented or in the process of implementation at 5 institutions of higher learning in Mozambique. Plans exist to extend the implementation of OPUS-College to the majority of the HEI's in Mozambique.
- Given the relative success of the Mozambican project, NUFFIC decided to also choose OPUS-College as the Student Information System to be implemented at the Zambian universities, within the framework of a new development project, which started early 2010.

- So the starting point was the system as it was developed for the Mozambican institutions.
- However, from an in-depth analysis of the specific Zambian (and UNZA and CBU) requirements which took place in the course of 2010, resulted that quite a lot of adjustments and extra functionality where necessary to make the system suitable for the Zambian situation. (the document describing the specifically required functionality for Zambia or UNZA or CBU holds some 80 pages!).
- This is the reason that the implementation of the system could not be done immediately, but takes some time in order for the new functions to be developed and integrated. We will come back later in more detail on the implementation planning.

With respect to the foregoing, the following is worth to consider for a while....

A principle point of departure for the development and implementation of the Zambian version of OPUS-College was:

To try to, as much as possible, adapt the system to the specific needs of the Zambian users, in other words: to grant as much as possible the wishes and demands put forward by the user community.

This is not obvious, certainly not when buying a commercial software where in most cases the user has no choice than to adapt (his way of working) to the system. This is something to keep in mind when considering (and at the same time explains) the time it takes to implement the system at your institution.

### BUT...

The introduction of a new information system may also require some changes in the existing way of working or the workflows concerning the registration of student related information.

Automation of business processes requires more formalisation of workflows and ways of working, i.e. regulations (and discipline) to execute some activities in a given order, according to a standardized format and within a given time frame (deadline).

Stakeholders involved in the processes (among others: YOU) should be aware of (and willing to adapt to) this.

## Two concrete examples:

- 1. The registration of data in OPUS-College should be done in a certain order: first data on the organizational units (Schools, Departments) next data on the Lecturers, then the Studies, next the Courses and finally the Students. Students follow courses which belong to studies organized by a School or Department. So registering a student for a given study and its courses requires that this information is already stored in the system previously.
- 2. For reasons of preventing unwanted or unintended corruption of data (you may not be aware of) in OPUS-College it is for instance not possible to change some data of a Progamme of Study, e.g. adding additional courses for a semester, after students have already been registered for this Programme in the given semester. The consequence of this is that the School or Department organising the Programme of Study must fully think through, define and register the course structure of the Programme before starting to subscribe students to that Programme.

## OPUS-College or eSURA: what's in a name?

• The general or generic name of the system is "OPUS-College", where OPUS stands for "OPen University Systems", indicating the open source character of the system. The Mozambican or Portuguese instance or implementation of the system is called "eSURA", which in Portuguese means: (electronic) system for academic registration.

So it is possible that you will see and hear the 2 names being used.

## The users OPUS-College is meant for.

- a. Academic Office personnel: to register students, and linked information, possibly also information on the organizational units and their studies (depending whether this is centrally organized in the university); further: to produce student cards, diploma's etc... out of the system.
- b. School or Department personnel (deans/assistant deans): to register information about their staff members, studies and courses teached and to consult information on their staff and students (if this is decentrally organised in the university), to produce student cards, diploma's etc... out of the system (if decentrally organised).
- c. Lecturers: to enter information about the courses they teach, the results of exams and tests they supervise, and possibly their personal data (depending on what the university policy is on what teachers may enter in the system) and to consult information on their students, subjects and exams they supervise.
- d. **Students:** to register on line, to consult information on their study plan, the subjects they (have to) follow, their exam results, etc...

### INDIVIDUAL ROLES AND PRIVILEGES IN THE STUDENTS INFORMATION SYSTEM

	Roles or Privileges	Deputy Vice-	Registrar	Dean /	Head of	Assistant	Lecturer	Librarian	Bursar	Student	UCC
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	course(s)										
2	To edit, enter , edit and print				٧						
	all results in the Department										
3	View, enter, edit and print			٧							
	result in the entire school										
4	View and print results in the					٧					
	entire School but will not edit										
	or amend										
5	View the results for all the	٧	٧								
	students in all the faculties in										
	the University										
6	View, edit & enter results			V	٧						
	after senate Examinations										
	Committee meets										
7	Define Staff Roles & Privileges										٧
	& provide security										
8	Block & open sub system:										٧
	Register, results as authorized										
9	Determine when to Block &	٧	٧								
	unblock the system										
10	Continuous development										٧
	work on the system										
11	Block Registration & Results of		٧						٧		
	students who owe the										
	University funds										
12	Suspend students caught		٧								
	cheating in exams										
13	Correction of results after	٧	٧	٧							
	appeals & after system has										
	been blocked										
14	Block results of students who		٧					٧			
	owe the Library & Dean of										
	Students										
15	Online registration & viewing									٧	
	of one's own results										
16	Giving written authority for	٧									
	Deans, Registrar to correct										
	results										

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## The modules of OPUS-College.

- The structure of OPUS-College is as follows (foreseen for final version: August 2011).
  - A Core Module or Kernel common for all institutions implementing OPUS-College and dealing with all data registration and update functions.
  - *Additional Modules*, which can be specified and tailored to the needs and situation of a country or even an individual institution. Currently the following additional modules are under development for OPUS-College:
    - An *On line Registration* Module allowing students to register/subscribe through the internet.
    - \* A *Reports Module* which holds all the output functions of OPUS-College and which can be tailored to the needs and (style) requirements of each individual university.
    - \* A **Scholarship Module** for registering information about student's scholarship (Mozambican situation).
    - \* A *Fees Module* for registering information on the fees paid (to pay) by students.
    - An Accommodation Module for registering information on housing of students on campus.

## Some notes on the design of the system.

When designing an information system for a given organization or institution, there are two dimensions which can be distinguished and which both should be taken into account.

- 1.The content and structure of the *Business Domain* (meaning the data which are typical for the business domain in question in our case the domain of Higher Education and the relation between these data. E.g.: students, lecturers, studies, courses, exams etc...)
- 2.The *Business Processes* (and their work-flows) which should be supported by means of the system (e.g. the registration of students, the assignment and registration of exam results, etc...)

In the following slides I will give a summary of both the Business Process and the Business Domain analysis and modeling the OPUS-College design was based on.

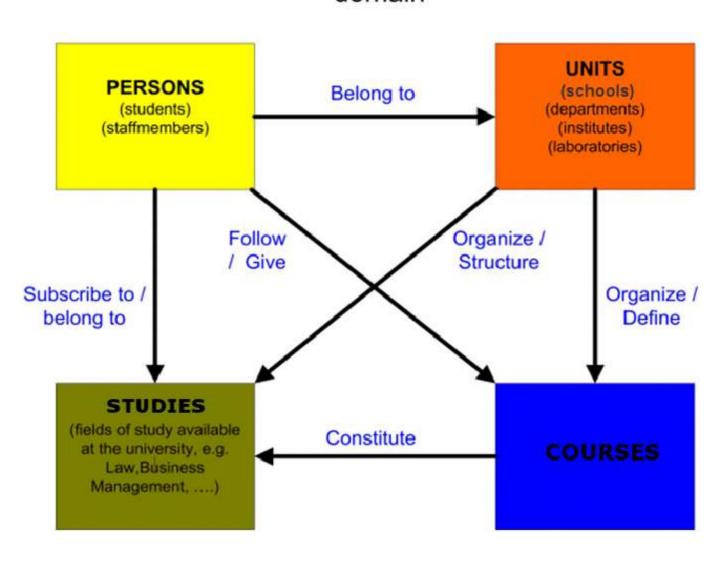
## Some notes on the design of the system

### Part 1:

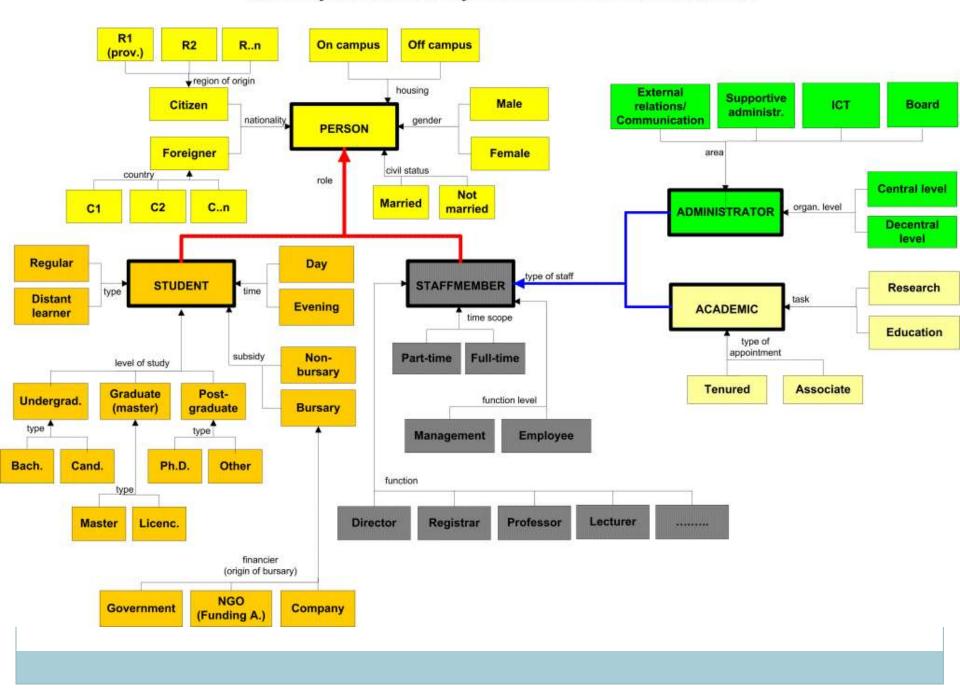
### **Higher Education Business Domain Analysis**

The following slides will show the core diagrams for the Higher Education Business Domain, covered by Opus-College. These diagrams have led to the definition of the entities and attributes (or in normal English: *the data*) to be included in the system

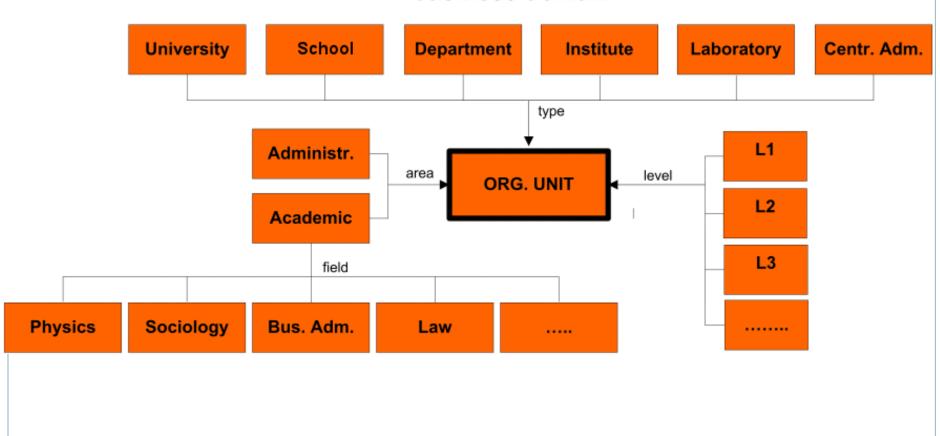
# Core entities of the Higher Education business domain



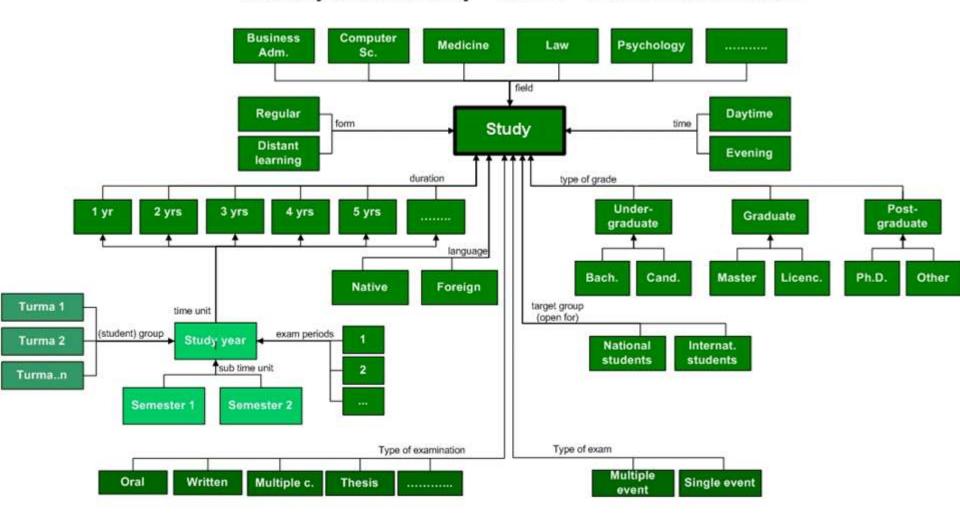
### Taxonomy for the core entity PERSON in the HE business domain



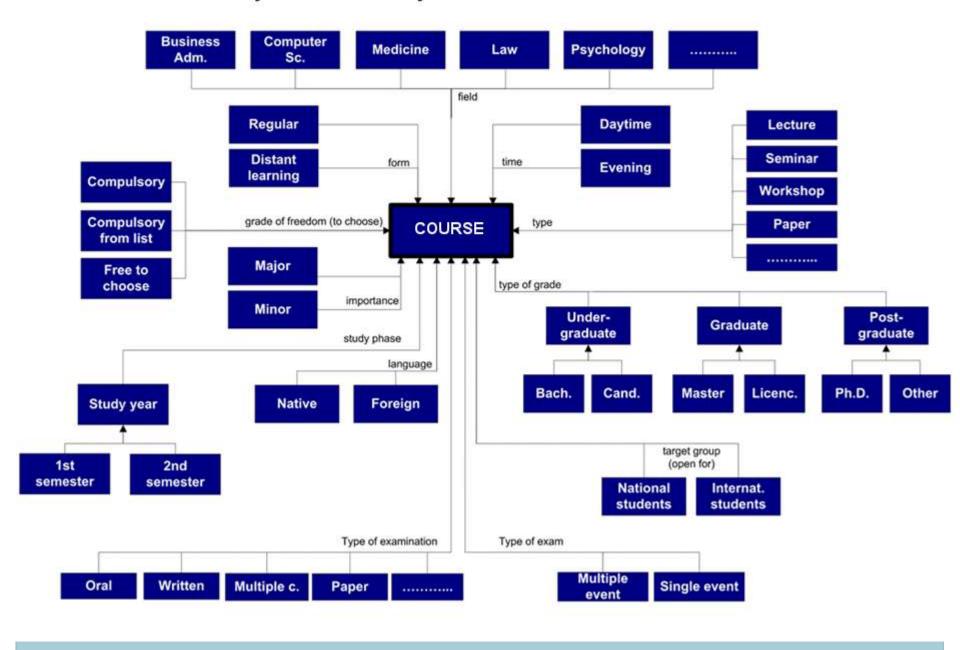
# Taxonomy for the core entity ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT in the HE business domain



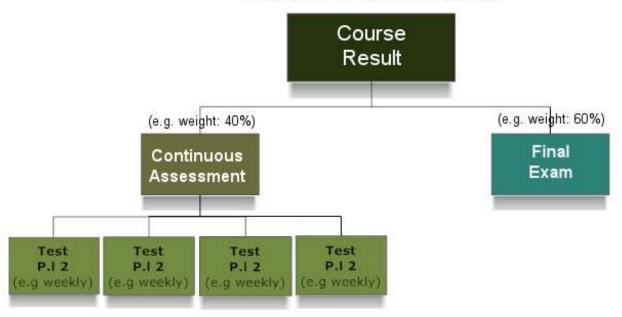
### Taxonomy for the core entity STUDY in the HE business domain



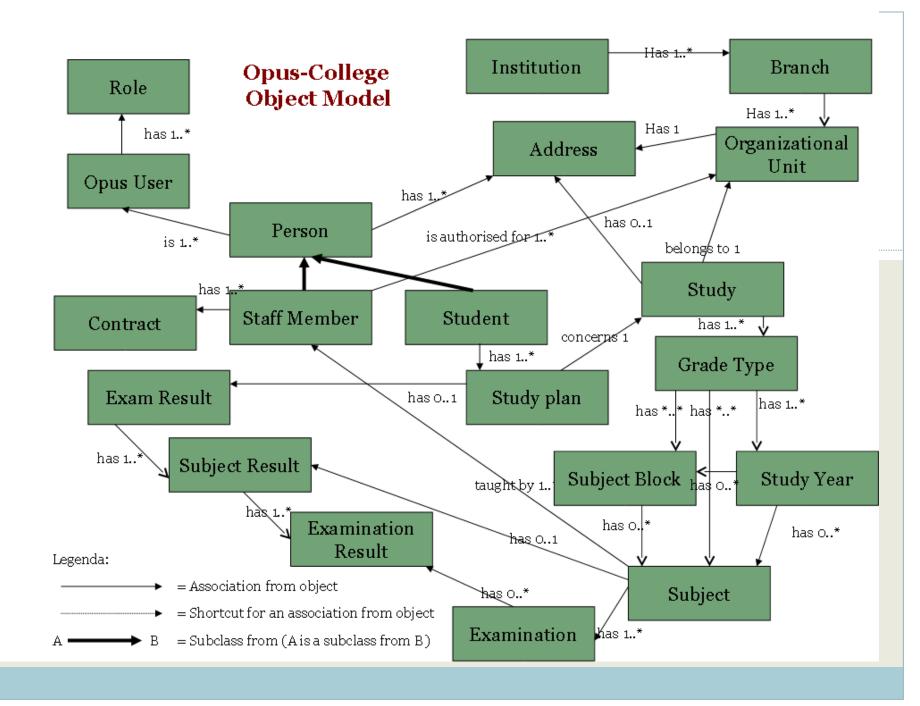
### Taxonomy for the core entity COURSE in the HE business domain

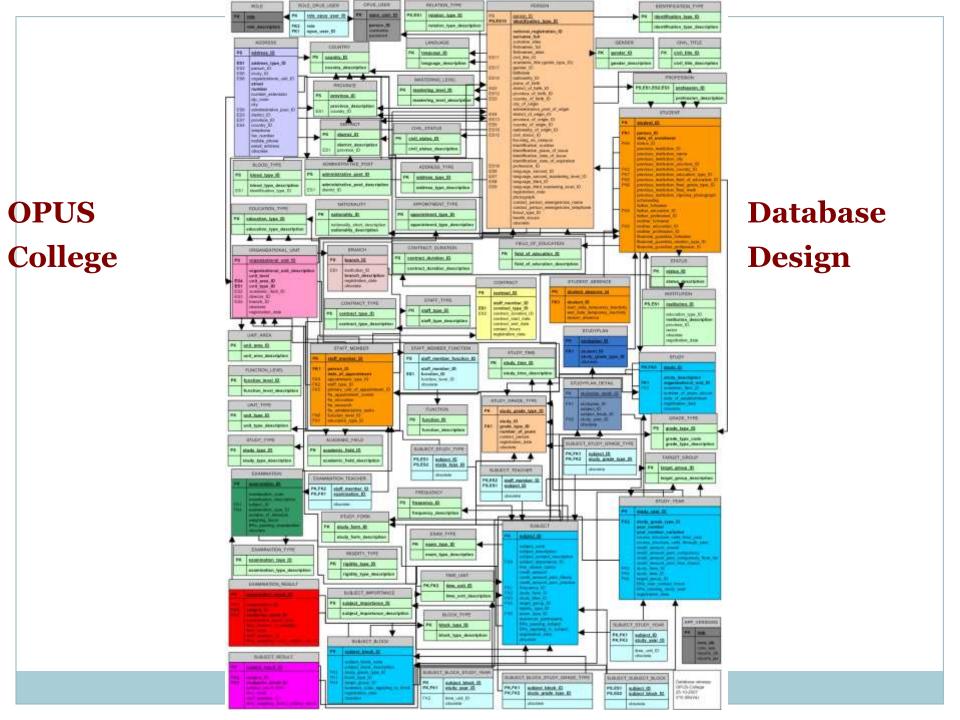


### Structure of Course Result



Course result = (weighed) result of Final Exam and Continuous Assessment Final Exam and Continuous Assessment may have different "weight", according to business rules of the university or school



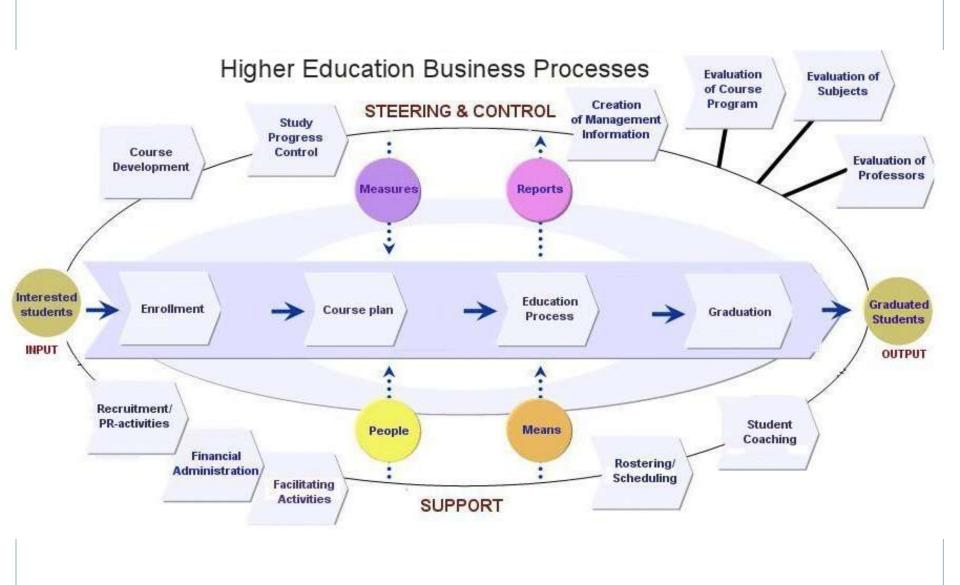


## Some notes on the design of the system

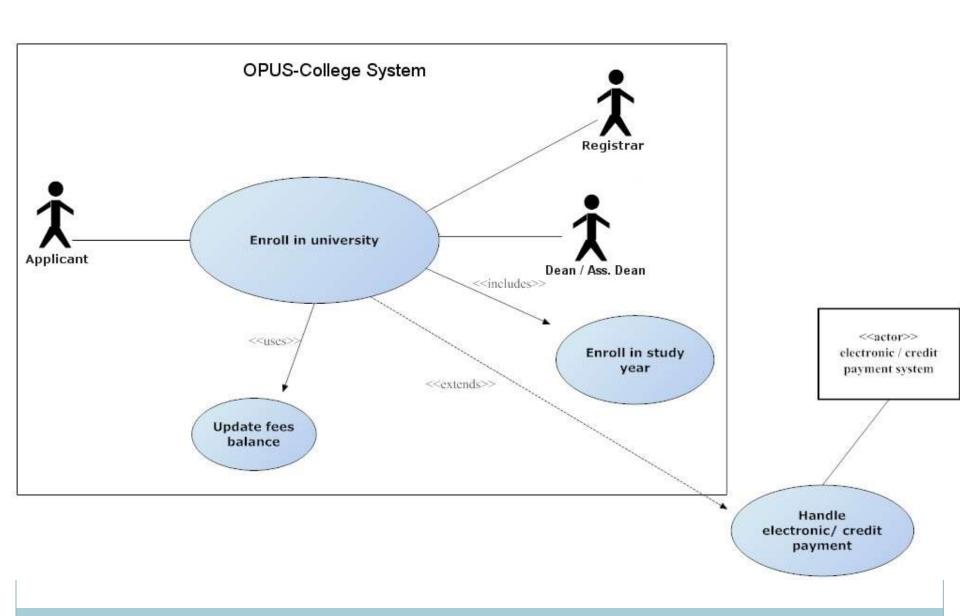
### Part 2:

### **HE-Busines Process Analysis**

The following slides will illustrate the analysis we did of the relevant business processes for OPUS-College. For this we used the "use case" approach and worked this out by applying the UML framework for use case analysis.



### Use Case ENR1: Enroll in University



Primary use case in OPUS-College, initial enrollment (matriculation) of students.

Goal: to register a new student at the university

Primary actor: applicant (to become a student)

#### Stakeholders and their interests:

- Student: wants to start university studies, and therefore wants to be registered properly for a given study.
- University: wants to have students registered in a uniform, structured way.
- Registrar: wants a smooth and efficient administration (registration) process, with minimal efforts and disturbances.

#### Pre-conditions:

Basic data on studies already registered in the system, since a student always registers for a (at least one) study.

Post-condition: student properly registered for a study.

#### Happy Path (main scenario)

- 1. Applicant present him/herself at the registrar administration desk
- Registrar controls whether the applicant is eligible for application (BR: elligible for application conditions)
- 3. Registrar gives an application form to the applicant
- 4. Applicant fills in the application form and hands it back over to the registrar
- Registrar controls the application form (all required items filled in, in the correct way, according to BR's)
- 6. Registrar registers the form data in the system ("fees paid" not checked)
- Student pays fees (BR: percentage of fees to be paid at initial registration).
- Proof of payment is presented to the registrar
- Registrar makes the registration definitive, i.e. enters amount of fees paid and checks "fees paid" indication.
- 10. System executes "enrollment in study year" component.
- System produces a confirmation of registration.
- Registrar hands over the confirmation to the student.

### Extensions/alternatives

1a Student is not eligible

Registrar informs student about reason: use case ends unsuccessfully.

5a. Information not filled in or wrongly filled in and applicant has information available:

1. Registrar handles back the form to the student for correction

5b. Information not filled in or wrongly filled in and applicant has information not available:

 Registrar informs the applicant about the BR for supply of missing information (BR: applicant has to supply the information before a given date)

6a Not all information available (5b):

- Registrar enters data with "Form complete" indication unchecked.
- System indicates deadline for providing missing information.
- Student provides missing data according to BR.
- Student does not provide missing data according to BR.
  - Registrar deletes form and use case ends unsuccessfully.

6b Preliminary exam needed (BR: some studies need preliminary)

- Registrar enters data; "preliminary needed" indication checked
- 2. Registrar (or system?) provides information (where, when, etc...) on the preliminary to student.
- Student (or system?) (after taking the preliminary) provides preliminary result to registrar.
- 4. In case of failure for preliminary: registrar deletes applicant information and use case ends unsuccessfully.

## Part 2.

Content and Functionality of OPUS-College

## The modules of OPUS-College.

- The structure of OPUS-College is as follows (foreseen for final version: August 2011).
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## The Core or Kernel Module

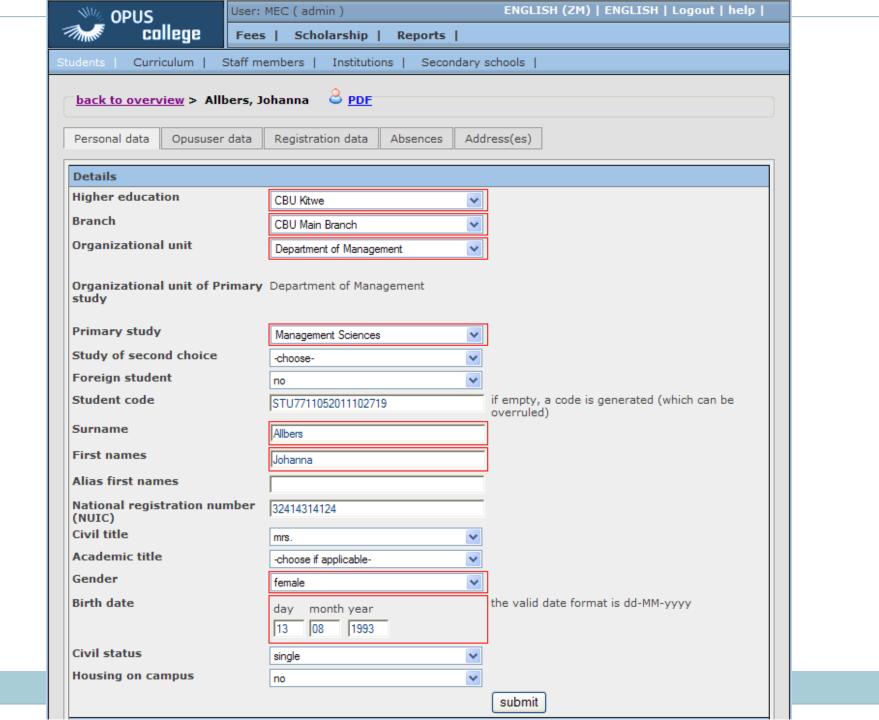
### Part 1:

### **STUDENT**

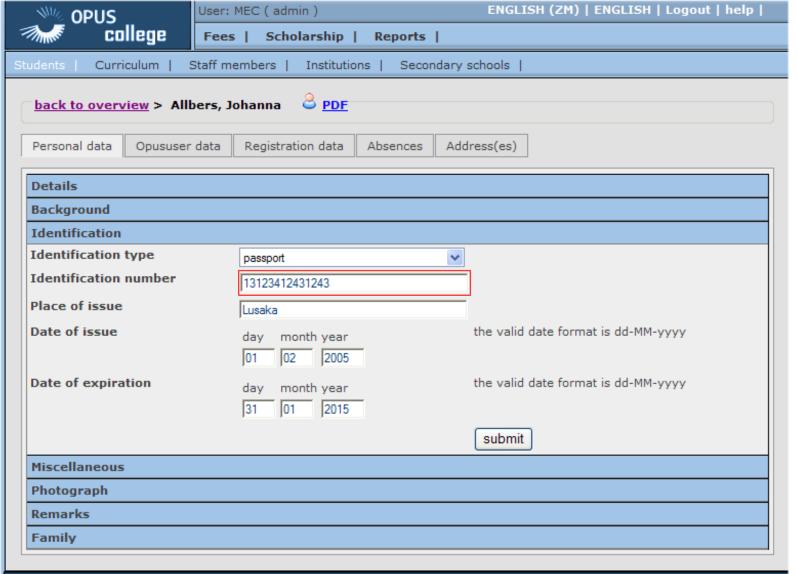
## information in OPUS-COllege

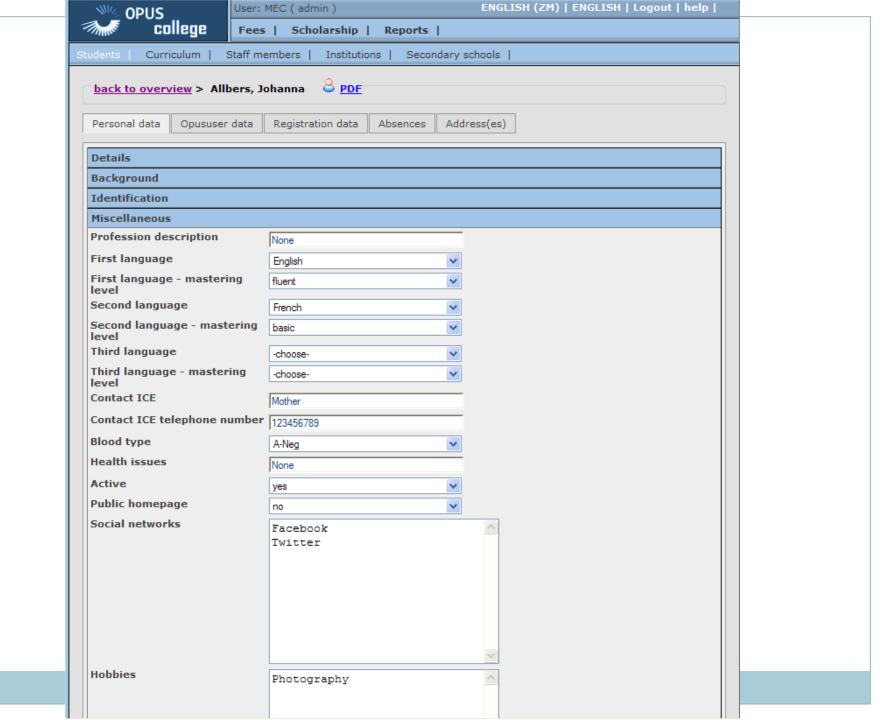
The following slides with screen shots will give an idea of the various data concerning students which can be registered in OPUS-College.

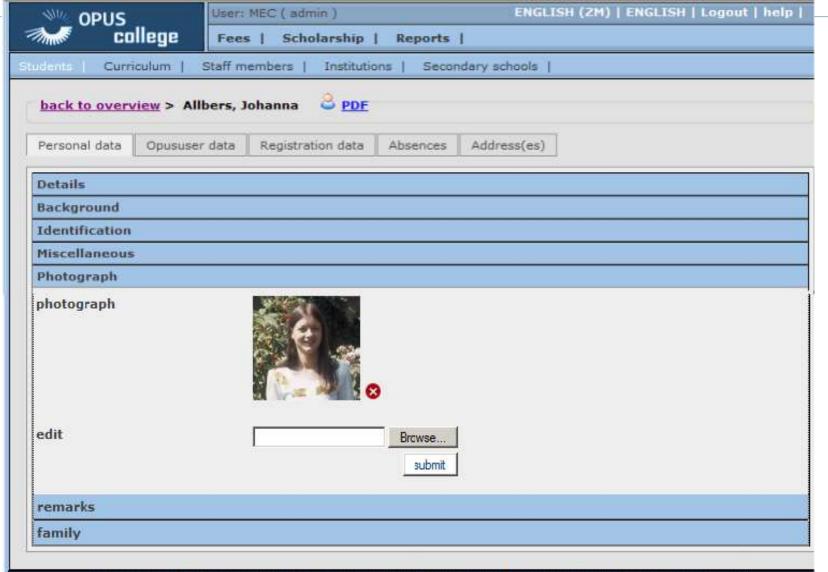
As said before, the screen shots are taken from the Mozambican instance of OPUS-College and therefore bear the "e-SURA" logo instead of the generic "OPUS-College" logo.

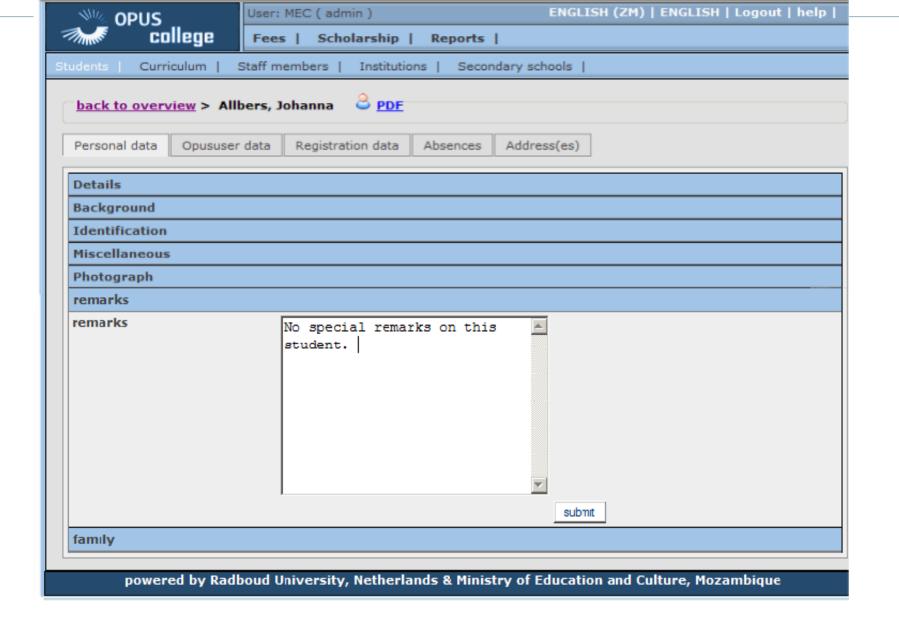


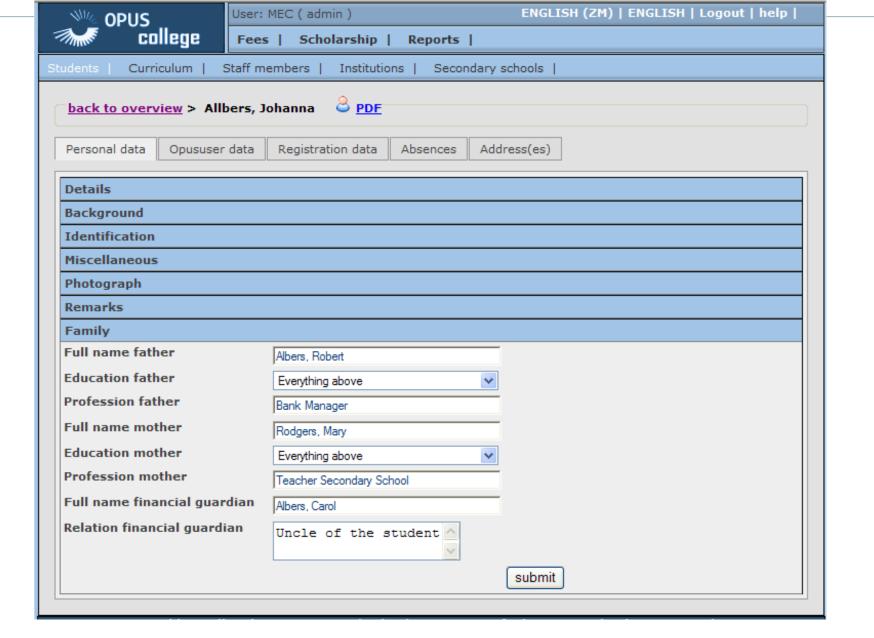
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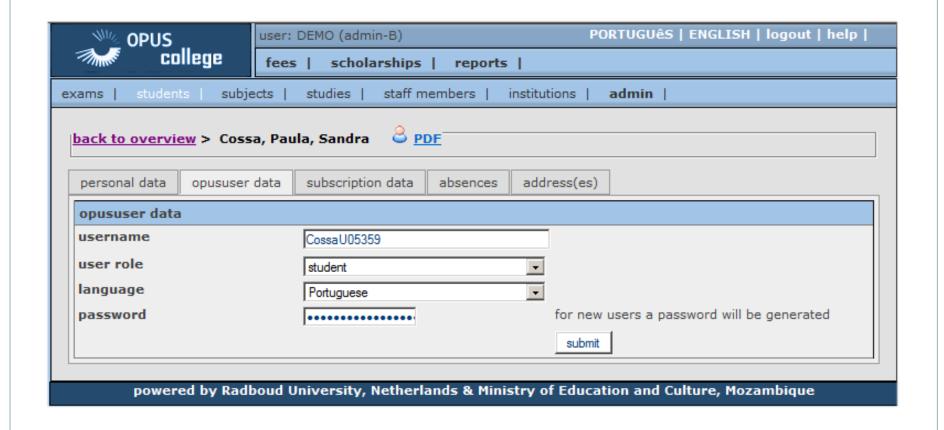


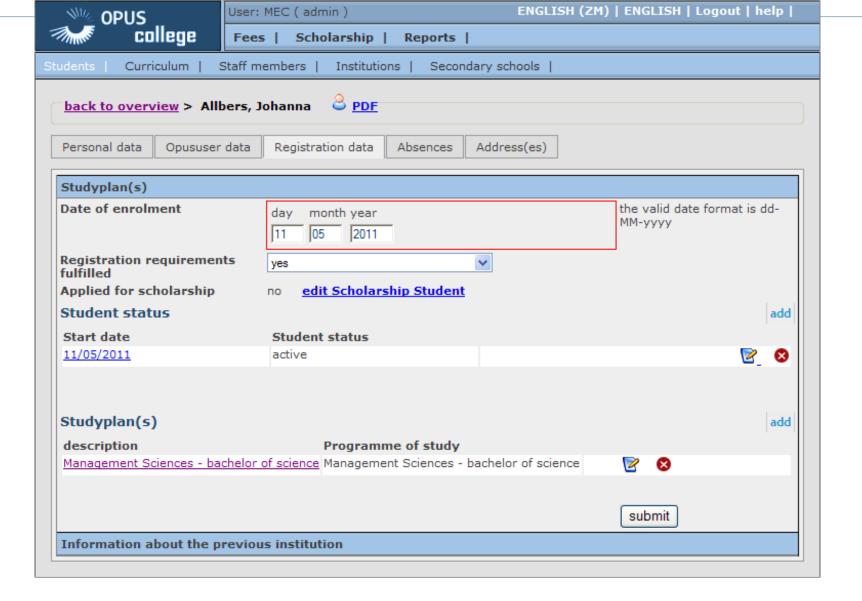


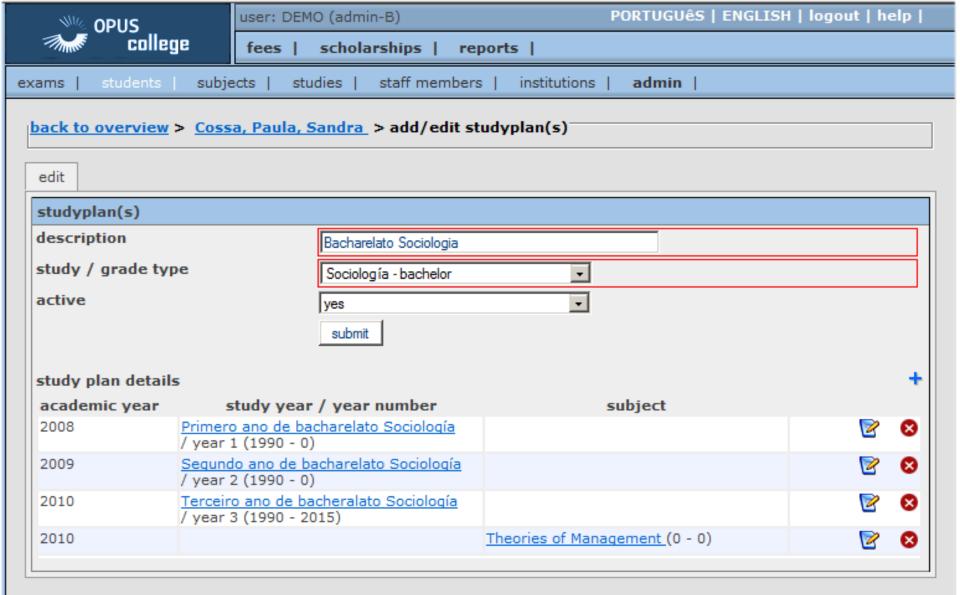








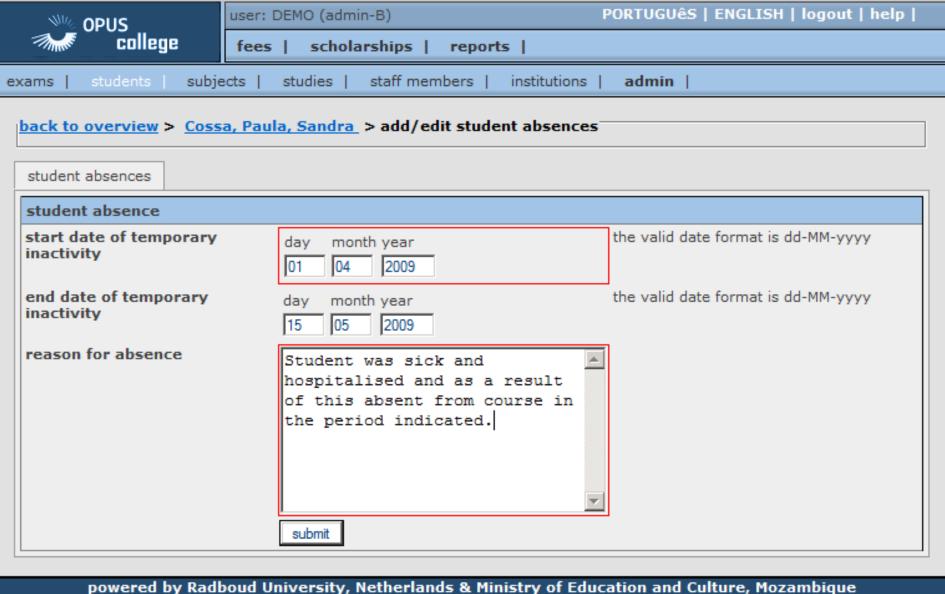




The screen with detailed info on the study plan of a student (this one has followed the first year of the Bachelor of Sociology in 2008, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in 2009 and has planned the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in 2010. On top of this she has planned to follow an extra "free choice" subject in 2010, called: "Theories of Management).

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powered by Radboud	University, Netherlands & Ministry of Education and Culture, Mozambique

The screen with detailed info on the previous institution the student has attended, in this (as in most) case it's her secondary school college. Note also that a copy of the diploma of the secondary school has been uploaded and is now available as an electronic document (PDF) in the system.



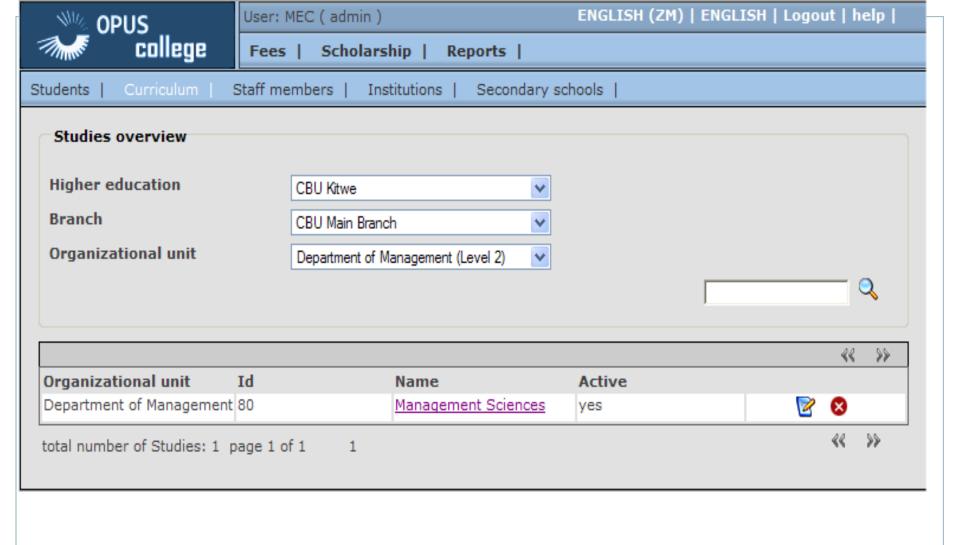
The screen for registering info on the absences of a student.

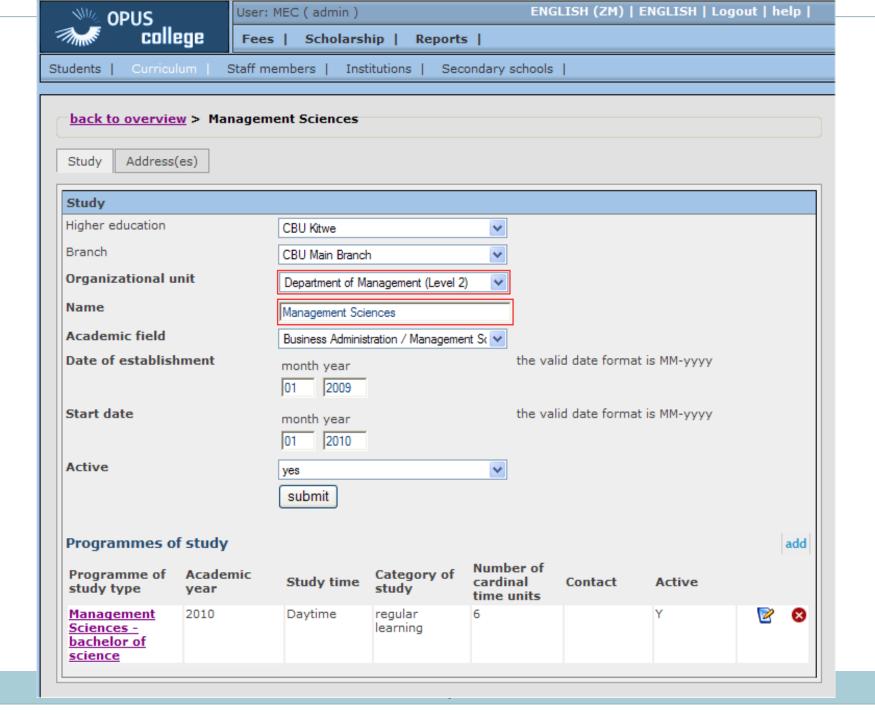
### Data in the Core or Kernel Module

Part 2:

**STUDY** 

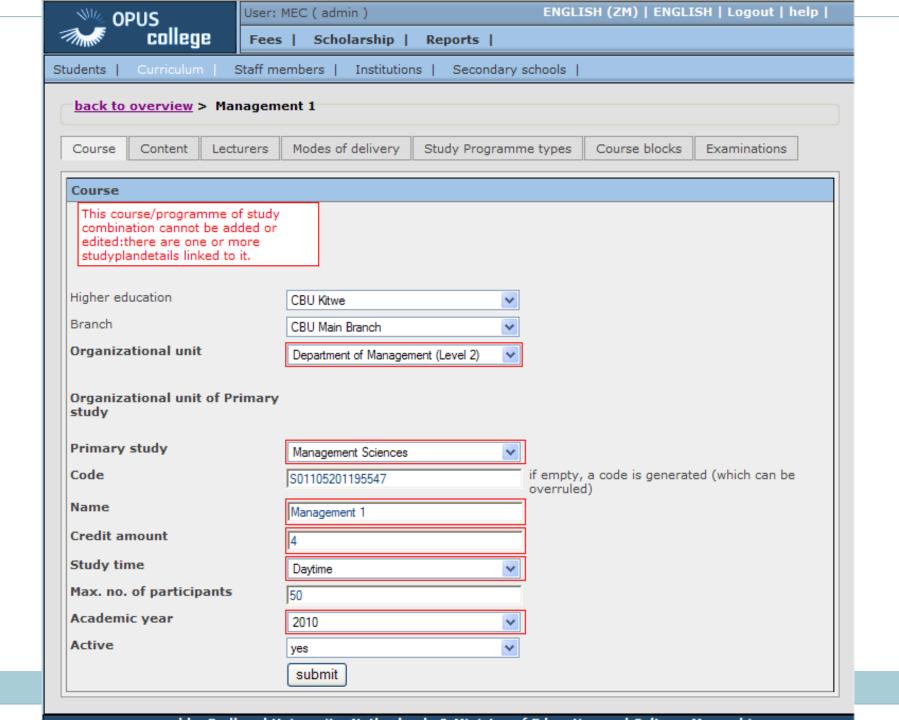
information in OPUS-College

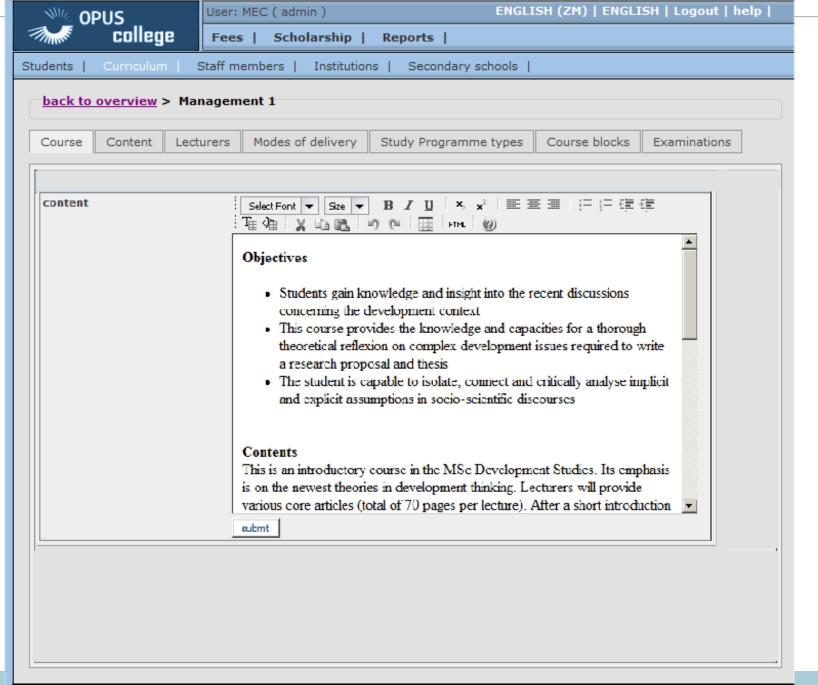


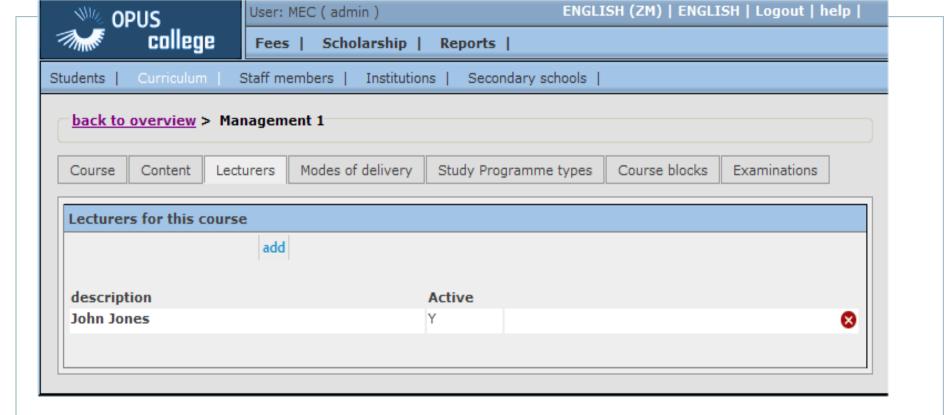


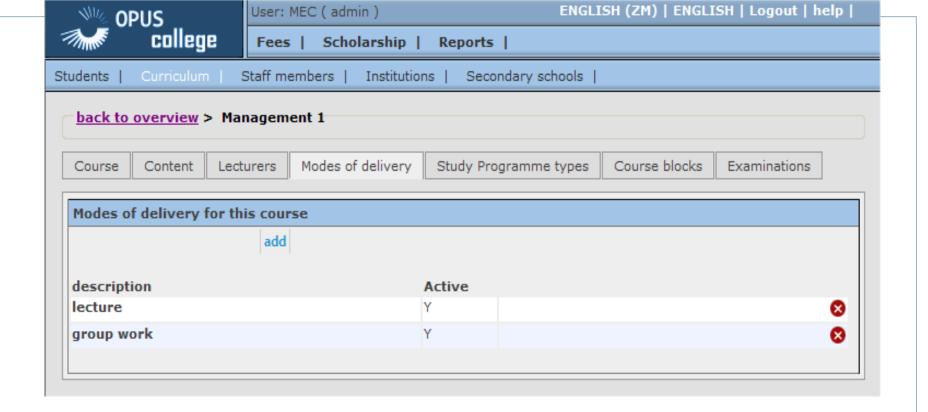
OPUS	User: MEC ( admin )	ENGLISH (ZM)   ENGLISH   Logout   help
college	Fees   Scholarship	Reports
Students   Curriculum	Staff members   Institutions	s   Secondary schools
edit	anagement Sciences > add/	/edit Programme of study
Programme of study		
This programme of stud be added or edited:ther more studyplandetails li	e are one or	
Programme type	bachelor of science	
Academic year	2010	<u>~</u>
Study time	Daytime	<u> </u>
Category of study	regular leaming	<u>▼</u>
Cardinal time unit	semester	<b>▼</b>
Number of cardinal time units	6	<b>▼</b>
Max number of cardinal time units	7	
number of courses per cardinal time unit	5	
max number of courses per cardinal time unit	6	
Contact	Jones	<u>~</u>
Active	yes	·

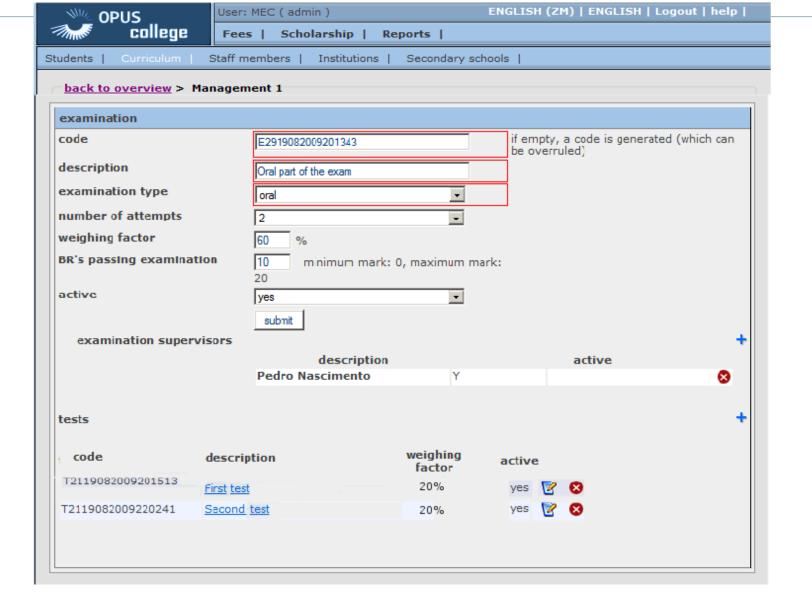
Study	Program	me of study type		
Course / Programi	me of study			ado
Code	Course	semester	Rigidity	
301105201195547	Management 1	1	compulsory	8
501105201195833	Management 2	2	compulsory	8
5011052011101527	Business English	1	compulsory	8
ourse block / Pro	gramme of study			ado
Course block / Pro	-	emester Rio	gidity	











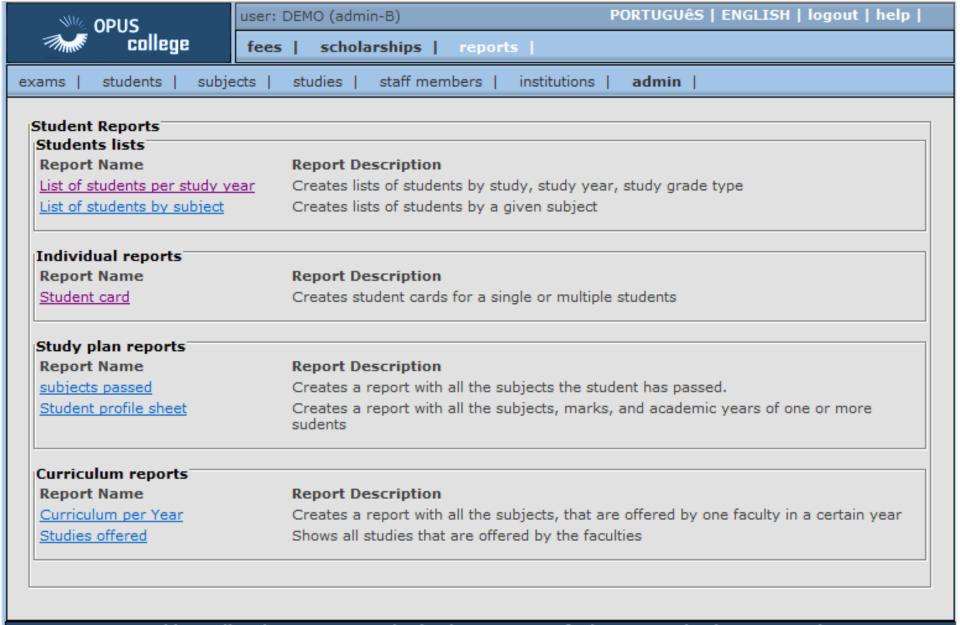
### **Additional Modules**

Part 1: the

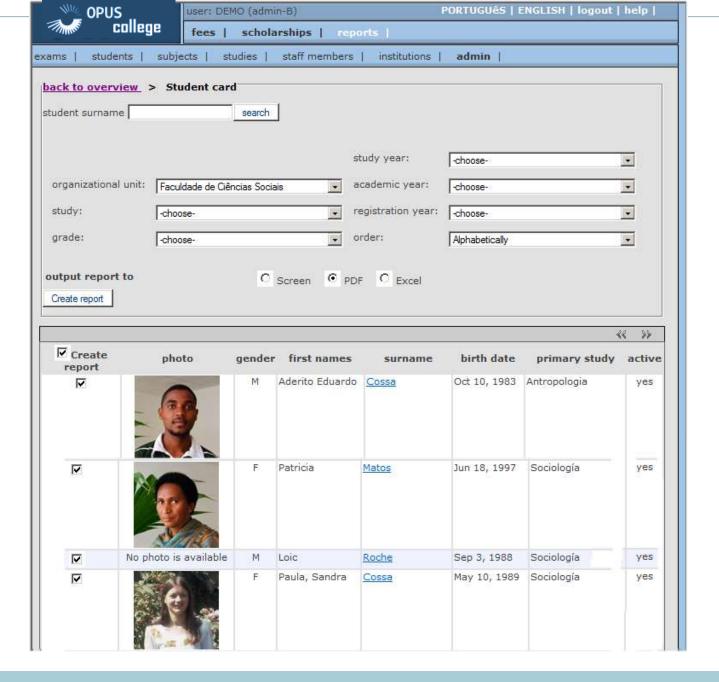
#### **Reports Module**

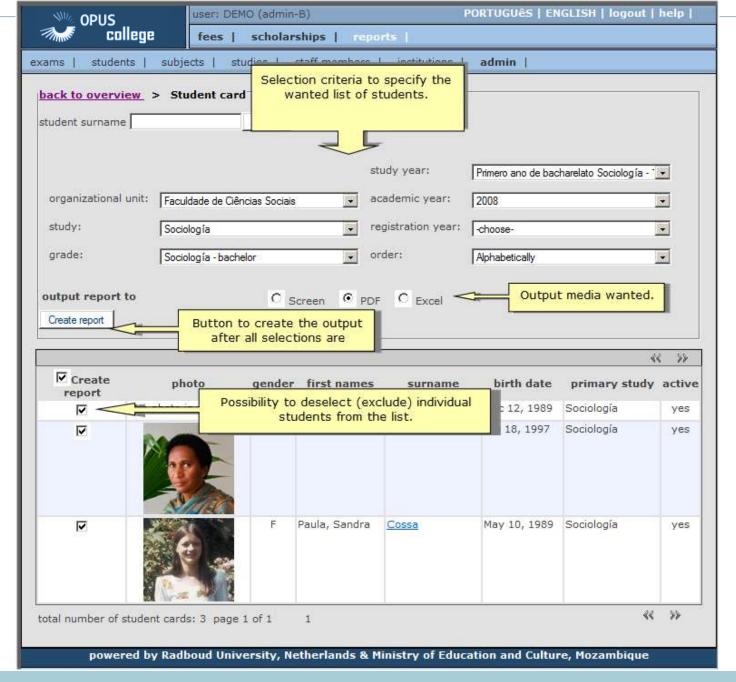
The following screens will illustrate the "Reports Module" of OPUS-College in which all the output functions of the system are bundled. Since it is a separate, additional module not part of the core, this module can be tailored to the specific needs and requirements of a university.

We again, as was the case for the core module, will show examples from the Mozambican "eSURA" instance of OPUS-College.



The currently available forms of output (reports) in OPUS-College.







#### STUDENTCARD

Faculdade de Ciências Sociais

N°: STU2110042008145046

BI:

Name: Patricia Matos

Student's signature

Registry's signature



#### STUDENTCARD

Faculdade de Ciências Sociais

N°: STU117042008105112

BI: 1234124312341241234

Name: Paula, Sandra Cossa

Student's signature

Registry's signature



#### List of Students

Org. Unit: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais

Study - Grade: Sociología - bachelor

Studyyear: 1° ano - 2007

Variation: Primero ano de bacharelato Sociología

 Number
 Student's name
 Birthdate
 Gender
 Prov. of Birth

 STU211004
 Sandra, Pilar GARCIA RAMIREZ
 Oct 29, 1988
 F
 Inhambane

Total: 1

Org. Unit: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais

Study - Grade: Sociología - bachelor

Studyyear: 1° ano - 2008

Variation: Primero ano de bacharelato Sociología

Number	Student's name	Birthdate	Gender	Prov. of Birth
STU117042	Paula, Sandra COSSA	May 10, 1989	F	Cabo Delgado
STU211004	Patricia MATOS	Jun 18, 1997	F	
STU211004	Pedro, Juan VARON	Dec 12, 1989	М	

Total: 3

Org. Unit: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais

Study - Grade: Sociología - bachelor

Studyyear: 1° ano - 2009

Variation: Primero ano de bacharelato Sociología

Number	Student's name	Birthdate	Gender	Prov. of Birth
STU211702	Jorge, Juan GONZALEZ	Oct 20, 1990	М	Cidade de Maputo
STU211702	Maria, Pilar RUIZ	Mar 18, 1990	F	Cabo Delgado

Total: 2



#### List of Students by Subject

Delegation: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais

Academic Year: 2008 - 1° year

Study - Grade: Sociología - bachelor

Variation: Primero ano de bacharelato Sociología

Subject: Introduction to Sociology 1

Student's name	Birthdate	Gende	Province of Origin	Mark
Cossa, Paula, Sandra	May 10, 1989	F	Cabo Delgado	8.0
Garcia Ramirez, Sandra, Pilar	Oct 29, 1988	F	Inhambane	9.0
Gonzalez, Jorge, Juan	Oct 20, 1990	M	Cidade de Maputo	
Matos, Patricia	Jun 18, 1997	F		7
Ruiz, Maria, Pilar	Mar 18, 1990	F	Cabo Delgado	
Varon, Pedro, Juan	Dec 12, 1989	M		9.0

Total: 6

Delegation: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais

Academic Year: 2008 - 1° year

Study - Grade: Sociología - bachelor

Variation: Primero ano de bacharelato Sociología

Subject: Introduction to Sociology 2

Student's name	Birthdate	Gende	Province of Origin	Mark
Cossa, Paula, Sandra	May 10, 1989	F	Cabo Delgado	10
Garcia Ramirez, Sandra, Pilar	Oct 29, 1988	F	Inhambane	8
Gonzalez, Jorge, Juan	Oct 20, 1990	M	Cidade de Maputo	
Matos, Patricia	Jun 18, 1997	F		7.8
Ruiz, Maria, Pilar	Mar 18, 1990	F	Cabo Delgado	
Varon, Pedro, Juan	Dec 12, 1989	М		6.5

Total: 6



#### Subjects passed

Garcia Ramirez, Sandra, Pilar Sociología - bachelor

Discipline	Mark
Theories of Management	9.0
Introduction to Sociology 1	9.0
Introduction to Sociology 2	8

Matos, Patricia Sociología - bachelor

Discipline	Mark
Introduction to Sociology 1	7
Introduction to Sociology 2	7.8

And a last example: a list of subjects per student (subjects passed by the student)

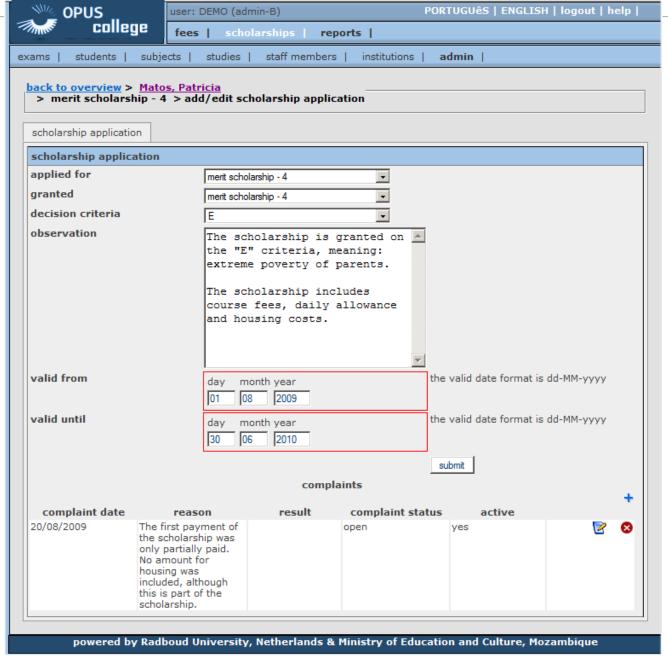
### **Additional Modules**

Part 2: the

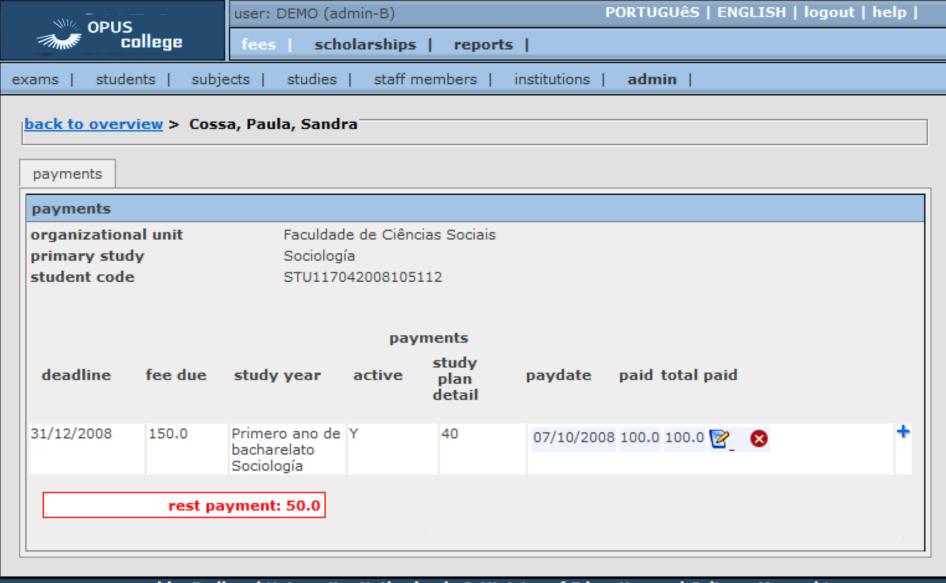
# Scholarship Module and the Fees Module

These two additional modules were developed for Mozambique and are tailored to the Mozambican situation and regulation. But just as is the case for the Reports Module, these modules can be left out of the system or re-tailored to the specific needs and requirements of any country or institution.

We will just deal briefly with these modules in the next slides.



Screenshot from one of the screens of the SCHOLARSHIP Module, including a complaint by the student concerning the fact that part of the scholarship money was not paid in time.



Screenshot from the FEES Module, showing that the student in question has paid 100 (euros, dollars...) or whateve currency is applicable for the country in question, and still has to pay 50.

### Part 3.

Planning of the implementation of OPUS-College at your institution and the organizational framework necessary for a sustainable functioning of the system

## Time Frame and activities of Implementation

November - February 2011: conversion of student and course data from the current system, into OPUS-College.

March 2011: start of the implementation phase with the installation of version 3.1. and training of a selected group of test users.

March – July 2011: testing of the milestone 3.1. version of OPUS by the selected and trained group of users (3 to 5) under supervision of the Functional System Administrator of OPUS-College.

March – June 2011: joint development of module(s) by the Zambian and Mozambican developers under supervision of the central project management (M. Pscheidt).

## Time Frame and activities of Implementation

July/August 2011: installation of the remaining modules of OPUS-College requested by the Zambian universities by the central OPUS-development group (milestone/version 3.2.).

August 2011: 1 week "train the trainers" course concerning the new modules of OPUS given by the central project management (joint training for CBU and UNZA).

August – October 2011: testing of the full version of OPUS, including the new modules, by the selected and trained group of users under supervision of the Functional System Administrator of OPUS-College.

October 2011: final installation of the system.

## Time Frame and activities of Implementation

October 2011: university-wide user training of OPUS, by the local trainers (test users), who by then should know the system enough to function as trainer.

November/December 2011: end of the implementation phase. The OPUS-College system now enters it production state and can be used for the registrations/management of the Academic Year 2012.

In order for a sustainable implementation and functioning of OPUS-College, the following functions and positions should be created at the institution.

#### **Technical System Administration functions**

- 1. One **Server administrator:** responsible for the optimal technical functioning of the machine and platform the system runs on.
- 2. One **System or application administrator**, responsible for the installation and updates of the OPUS-College application, including the database management.
- 3. Two **System Developers**, responsible for the development of new modules for OPUS-College.
- 4. Last but not least: one **Technical Project Manager** or supervisor, responsible that all above mentioned tasks are executed correctly and in time.

#### **Functional System Administration functions**

- 1. One **Central Functional Manager of OPUS-College:** responsible for:
- a. The user training for OPUS-College
- b. The (organization and supervision of) the initial testing of the system and structurally testing of newly added functionality.
- c. The coordination of the de-central functional administrators.
- d. The collecting of new requests for functionality.
- e. The communication with the technical people concerning (possible problems in) the technical functioning of the system as well as informing them about newly requested functionality to be developed.
- f. Guard the agreed upon development process for new functionality (e.g. take care that the new functionality is delivered in time).

#### **Functional System Administration functions**

- 2. De-central Functional Administrator for each School, responsible for:
- a. The timely filling of the OPUS-College system in the school in question
- b. The collecting of possible requests for new functionality within the School.
- c. Functioning as contact person for the Central Functional Manager of OPUS
- d. Representing the School in the OPUS-coordination and information meetings, organized by the Central Functional Manager.

#### **Functional System Administration functions**

- 3. One Contactperson for the de-central functional administrators (1 dean / asst. dean), responsible for:
  - a. Functioning as spokesperson for the De-central Functional Administrators
  - b. Functioning as contact person for the Technical Project Manager of OPUS.
  - c. Functioning as contact person for the Central Functional Manager of OPUS.

## **OPUS-College**

Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?