

## **HONORS DISTINCTION (MATRÍCULA DE HONOR) OFFICIAL POLICY**

The Honors Distinction (“Matrícula de Honor”) is established by Spanish law (Real Decreto 1125/2003) and refers to the highest academic grade that can be given in the Spanish official evaluation system. The legal terms and conditions for awarding an Honors Distinction are:

1. Honors Distinctions are granted at the sole discretion of the professor. However, professors are under no obligation to grant such distinction even if one or more students in a given class fulfill the conditions to receive it.
2. The Honors Distinction may be awarded to students who have obtained a grade equal to or greater than 9.0.
3. A professor can only award such distinctions to a limited number of students. Their number must not exceed five per cent (5%) of students enrolled in a course in the respective academic year. Furthermore, only one Honors Distinction can be awarded in courses where there are less than 20 students enrolled.
4. Honors Distinctions are awarded automatically by the professor. Therefore, it is not necessary for students to apply to them.

Spanish Law does not establish any special treatment for those students who demonstrate high academic performance. However, because of its educational model, IE University decided that students who receive Honors Distinctions could benefit from a fee deduction, provided by the University.

As a general policy, students who receive one or more Honors Distinctions will not have to pay tuition fees for the equivalent number of credits during the following academic year at IE University. For example, if a student receives an Honors Distinction for 6 credits course in one academic year, the price of those 6 credits will be deducted from the tuition fees for the following academic year. Such credits and their respective deductions are calculated at the end of each academic year.

This general policy has some exceptions:

1. The tuition fee deduction can only apply to the tuition fees for the next academic year. Therefore, students in the last year at IE University who are awarded an Honors Distinction, the corresponded price will not be deducted from the tuition fees.
2. Honors Distinctions are only awarded for courses of the official programs studied at IE University. This has two consequences:
  - Any similar distinction earned at another university while on exchange will not have the internal effect on the tuition fee of Honor Distinction at IE University.
  - Honor Distinctions could be granted in Seminars and other activities of supplementary training and will be registered in the student's transcript but will not benefit from a fee deduction.
3. If a student is a scholarship/award recipient, the tuition fee deduction that received for Honors Distinction credits will not be added to the existing scholarship/awards, and therefore, scholarships/awards and Honors Distinctions cannot be combined. Students will either be granted the scholarship/award or the price of the sum of the Honors Distinctions courses, depending on which amount is higher, with one exception:
  - Scholarship/award recipients who receive Honors Distinctions in 50% or more of their credits within a single academic year may contact the IE Financial Aid Office to request that their scholarship/award and Honors Distinction fee deduction are combined for the following academic year.
4. Students' tuition fees are calculated on a per credit basis. If a student is granted the ability to combine both the scholarship/award and Honors Tuition Benefit, the price per credit that will be reduced will be calculated after the scholarship/award is applied.
5. Students who hold a 100% scholarship/award will not benefit from the Honors Distinction Policy as this may only be applied to IEU tuition fees. Scholarships/awards and Honors Tuition Benefit combinations cannot exceed 100% of tuition fees.