

UFMG hosts the second edition of its Summer School on Brazilian Studies

Next year, from July 15 to 26, UFMG will host the second edition of the Summer School on Brazilian Studies. The program offers international students a consistent understanding of key aspects of Brazil such as politics, history, foreign relations, geography, law, economy, arts and culture, providing solid background on the topic, with lectures held in English. Students and professionals who wish to acquire a wide and multifaceted view of Brazil should send their CV, a letter of motivation, a letter of recommendation and certification of English proficiency to summerschool@dri.ufmg.br until February 5, 2019. The result of the selection process will be disclosed on February 28, 2019. Participants are due to disburse USD 1,000, which will cover participation fee, accommodation at the University Housing and three daily meals served on campus restaurants.



International delegations visit UFMG

On November 20 and 21, the Office of International Affairs received the visit of fourteen representatives from New Zealand universities and a group of twenty representatives from partner institutions in Europe, North America and Australia, who were at UFMG attending the seminar Building Partnerships for Strengthening International Cooperation, organized by the Office of Graduate Studies, the Office of Research and the Office of International Affairs.

Professor Aziz Saliba, Dean for International Affairs, and Professor Dawisson Lopes, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, hosted the two meetings and discussed the institutional aspects of the relations between UFMG and the visiting institutions, as well as forthcoming actions to deepen existing collaborations and foster new initiatives based on areas of common interest.

The first meeting was attended by representatives from Auckland University of Technology, Lincoln University, Massey University, University of Auckland, University of Canterbury, University of Otago, Victoria University of Wellington and Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence. Currently, UFMG has a cooperation agreement already signed with Victoria University of Wellington, and in the meeting the participants discussed actions to expand existing collaborations.

On November 21, another meeting was held with representatives of the Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg, Universität Münster and RWTH Aachen, from Germany; University of Queensland and University of Technology Sydney, from Australia; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, from Belgium; University of Alberta, from Canada; Universidad de Sevilla, from Spain; Université de Lille and Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, from France; Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata", from Italy; University of Southampton, University of Glasgow, University of Warwick, Queen Mary University of London, University of Leeds and University of Sheffield, from United Kingdom; and Zurich University of Applied Sciences, from Switzerland.

In addition to the discussions to align international cooperation initiatives, researchers and institutional representatives of visiting universities, along with members of UFMG graduate programs, have participated in thematic panels to debate joint actions for promoting the expansion of teaching, research and extra-mural activities at UFMG.

Inevitable (and imperfect) portraits

Global university rankings offer opportunities for reflection on academic policies, but run into the difficulty of capturing local specificities

Rankings are an inescapable reality and, despite their conceptual biases and the many criticisms, they are tools that contribute to the understanding of the state of education and research around the world. This view is sometimes reflected in the academic governance of some higher education institutions, which begin to consider aspects of these classifications when designing their own policies.

Almost ten years ago, the mathematician Philippe Vincke, professor at the University of Brussels, anticipated that the rankings would become a benchmark for institutional policy-making by universities. In the international scenario, some of these classifications have been consolidated and now occupy a prominent place – the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), by Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, the QS World University Ranking, by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the British Times Higher

Education (THE) and, in Brazil, the Ranking Universitário Folha (RUF) which reached its seventh edition this year.

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