

UFMG's indigenous graduate student is selected to participate in an exchange program in France

Adriana Carajá is a PhD student in Social Anthropology in the Graduate Program in Archaeology and Anthropology, she was the only student from UFMG selected for an exchange program in France through the Guatá Mobility Program. The word Guatá means "to walk" in Tupi-Guarani, and it is an initiative that aims to strengthen the international dimension of Brazilian university institutions and French research by bringing students of diverse profiles to the country. She was approved with the thesis "Bate folhas: the presence of caboclas and caboclos in religious manifestations in the municipality of Jequié (BA)." The program is exclusive to indigenous graduate students. She hopes to "acquire knowledge, exchange experiences with people from other nationalities, improve her language proficiency, experience new cultural experiences, expand professional opportunities, and reinforce the struggle for visibility for indigenous peoples." UFMG's International Office in partnership with the Faculty of Letters promoted an intensive French preparatory proficiency course for international mobility to assist students before and during this experience. We are proud to be among the few institutions selected to participate in this program and we wish the best of luck to Adriana in her studies.



UFMG's Confucius Institute Celebrates 10 Years

Confucius Institute Anniversary was marked with presentations of Brazilian and Chinese art and culture and the signature of research agreements. Established in 2013, the CI is the result of a partnership between the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and the Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Hust), headquartered in the city of Wuhan. On November 24th, representatives of both institutions and members of the Institute's council gathered to learn about the achievements of this year and the plans for 2024. UFMG's president, Professor Sandra Goulart Almeida, and the vice-rector of Hust, Yao Zhang, signed a Memorandum of Understanding and a specific agreement in the area of Economics. The School of Architecture is also going to sign a research agreement with the university foreseeing academic mobility. In addition to offering language courses, the Confucius Institute (CI-UFMG) administers language proficiency tests, promotes cultural activities such as painting and calligraphy, Chinese instruments and cultural games, tai chi chuan, ping pong, and singing, fosters exchange in China, and contributes to strengthening scientific cooperation between UFMG and Hust. According to Professor Sandra Goulart de Almeida, UFMG's president, the Institute fulfills its role very well in "promoting intercultural understanding, which is so important for both institutions. (...) Today we celebrate not only the anniversary of the Confucius Institute but also the resilience and innovative spirit that guide its actions."



Source: UFMG's Confucius Institute

UFMG wins important award in Medical Innovation

After winning the Euro Health Innovation Award in October, the Calixcoca vaccine won the Veja Health & Oncoclínicas Medical Innovation Award in the category of Innovative Therapies and Treatments. The award ceremony took place on December 13, in São Paulo. Dr. Frederico Garcia, professor at the Faculty of Medicine- UFMG and coordinator of the studies, represented the team at the ceremony. The vaccine induces the immune system to produce antibodies that bind to cocaine in the bloodstream. This binding transforms the drug into a large molecule that does not pass through the blood-brain barrier. The project included preclinical stages, in which safety and efficacy for the treatment of crack and cocaine addiction, as well as for the prevention of obstetric and fetal consequences of drug exposure in pregnant animals, were observed. The award aims to publicize the advances and achievements of teams dedicated to finding innovative solutions to improve healthcare in Brazil. All the projects contemplated in the ceremony will be featured in the magazine, website, and social media of Veja Saúde and Oncoclínicas. So far, Calixcoca has been funded by the federal government and the state of Minas Gerais as well as with funds from the Brazilian Parliament. Looking for new financial support to guarantee the continuation of the study, UFMG's president, Professor Sandra Goulart Almeida and Professor Frederico Garcia presented the vaccine project to the Minister of Education, Camilo Santana. In another effort, UFMG, through the Coordination of Technology Transfer and Innovation (CTIT), undertook strategic work for national and international protection of the technology and is now seeking partners to license it.



Source: Veja Saúde and Oncoclínicas

The Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and the University of Seville sign important agreements to consolidate their partnership

In November, the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais welcomed the rector of the University of Seville, Miguel Ángel Castro Arroyo, to discuss opportunities to deepen collaborations with the Spanish university. During the visit, both presidents discussed the terms to soon inaugurate a joint graduate program in the field of History. A new cooperation agreement was signed - the fifth formal legal instrument between the institutions - through which the University of Seville will allocate a percentage of its Erasmus scholarships for UFMG mobility. The negotiations for the agreement were mediated by the Dean for International Affairs at UFMG, Aziz Tuffi Saliba, the Deputy Dean for International Affairs at UFMG, Bárbara Malveira Orfanò and the Vice-Rector for Institutional Relations and Internationalization of the University of Seville, Carmen Vargas Macías, who were also present at the meeting. The partnership between UFMG and the University of Seville is within the scope of the Tordesillas Group, a network aimed at promoting scientific, cultural, and educational cooperation among universities in Brazil, Portugal, and Spain - particularly collaboration in the fields of science, technology, and innovation.



Source: Rafaella Dias - UFMG

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UFMG visits Asian Universities: strengthening ties and building bridges

The Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais is expected to establish academic exchange agreements and scientific cooperation with universities in China, Hong Kong, and Turkey in 2024. Additionally, in collaboration with the Brazilian embassy in China, UFMG will organize a series of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the resumption of

diplomatic relations between Brazil and the Asian country. These are some of the outcomes of the visit undertaken by UFMG's president Professor Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida and Professor Aziz Tuffi Saliba (UFMG's Dean of International Affairs), to China and Hong Kong in December. Our president reflects positively on the journey through Asia stating that " we were able to establish, strengthen, and renew relationships with various global leaders, aiming at the scientific, technological, and social development of UFMG and Brazilian society through research, outreach programs, innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaborations". During the Presidents' Forum of Universities held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, UFMG's president participated in a panel discussion on the role of external partnerships in expanding the impact of research and education. "I addressed the importance of a close alignment between universities and local societies so that the constant transformations of both occur in relational harmony and for mutual benefit". Furthermore, in Hong Kong, she met with representatives from the South China University of Technology (China) and Koc University (Turkey) paving the way for future partnerships with UFMG in 2024. She also gave a talk at the World Summit of University Leadership, where she spoke on a panel addressing the strengthening of collaborations between universities in the Greater Bay Area of China and global institutions. During this particular event, the officials met with four UFMG students who are currently studying abroad at a Chinese university. This important international visit also included Renmin University (RUC), one of the top universities in the country. At Renmin, UFMG's delegation was received by the university's president, Lin ShangLi to discuss and establish parameters for the exchange of scientific groups in the areas of biodiversity, forests, food, governance, and rural revitalization. Renmin University and The Chinese University of Hong Kong are both affiliated with the World University Network (WUN), which is chaired by UFMG's president.



Source: University of Hong Kong

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