

Summer School on Portuguese Language and Culture

Between January 22nd and February 2nd, our university welcomed fifteen students from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile for the Summer School on Portuguese Language and Culture. This two-week program was designed to offer intensive Portuguese language instruction in an immersive and context-rich format, allowing participants to deepen their linguistic skills while gaining a nuanced understanding of Brazilian culture.

To complement the academic component, the program included guided field trips to culturally and historically significant sites. The visit to Ouro Preto provided students with a direct encounter with Brazil's colonial heritage, Baroque art, and the socio-political history of Minas Gerais. The excursion to Inhotim, a world-renowned center for contemporary art and environmental preservation, provided an opportunity for critical reflection on the intersection between art, nature, and sustainability in the Brazilian context.

Beyond fostering language acquisition, the course also created a space for intercultural dialogue and meaningful interaction between visiting students and members of the UFMG community. Several local students participated as language partners and cultural mediators, contributing to a truly collaborative and enriching experience. In this sense, the initiative stands as a valuable example of Internationalisation at Home, promoting the internationalisation of our campus by integrating global perspectives into local academic life. It also reinforces our university's commitment to strengthening ties with Latin American partners and enhancing the international visibility of Portuguese as a pluricentric and globally relevant language.



UFMG takes part in the first Brazil-Japan Rector's Meeting

The Federal University of Minas Gerais participated in the 1st Brasil-Japan Rector's Meeting, which took place on January 31st at the University of São Paulo in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. In total, twenty universities attended the event, which also included university presidents, representatives from the Coordination for Higher Education Staff Development (CAPES), the National Council for Scientific Research (CNPq), and personnel responsible for the universities' International Offices. Professor Sandra Goulart Almeida, UFMG's president, and Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanò, deputy vice-provost for International Affairs, represented UFMG at the event. On this occasion, UFMG signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Tsukuba, expanding the scope of its collaboration with universities in the region and providing our community, as well as our partners, with more options for mobility and scientific cooperation.



UFMG stands out once again in the Webometrics global ranking

In the latest edition of the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities, UFMG maintained its strong performance from previous years, ranking 1st among Brazil's federal universities, 3rd among all Brazilian institutions, and 4th in Latin America. Globally, UFMG is ranked 286th, ahead of other major federal institutions such as UFRJ and UFRGS. The University of São Paulo (USP) and the University of Campinas (Unicamp) remain the top-ranked Brazilian universities overall. Webometrics, developed in 2004 by the Cybermetrics Lab of Spain's National Research Council (CSIC), evaluates institutions primarily based on web visibility (50%), academic excellence (40%), and transparency (10%). Academic excellence is measured through citation impact using data from Scopus and Google Scholar, while web presence is assessed via metrics from the company Majestic. UFMG also performed well among BRICS nations, ranking 12th, following six Chinese universities, three Russian institutions, and the two top state universities from São Paulo. Rector Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida highlighted that Webometrics captures an emerging dimension of higher education and research—institutional visibility, which is not yet fully integrated into traditional international evaluations. She acknowledged its relevance but cautioned that such rankings should not be the sole guide for educational policy. Dawisson Belém Lopes, UFMG's Director for Institutional Data Governance, emphasized that the university's strong online presence, also noted in last year's QS World University Ranking, reflects strategic investment in digital communication, particularly through the work of UFMG's Communication Center (Cedecom). He emphasized the importance of gaining a deeper understanding of

the methodologies behind visibility-focused rankings, as they are playing an increasingly significant role in supporting the university's broader social mission.



Summer School on Human Rights

This year, the 5th School on Human Rights was organised by UFMG in partnership with the Association of Universities from the Montivideo Group (AUGM). The week started with the lecture “ The public policy cycle on human rights within the scope of Mercosur, delivered by Patricia Gainza, Director of Research at the Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights of Mercosur (IPPDH). UFMG’s president, Professor Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida, emphasized the importance of the Summer School for the University and for Latin American societies. She highlighted the role of the institutions that comprise the Montevideo Group (AUGM) — a network established in 1991 — in promoting the fifth edition of the course in partnership with UFMG. According to her, AUGM has established itself as one of the most important university associations in the Americas. The group comprises public institutions that share the concept of education as a right, not a commodity, committed to their respective states and nations. Employing a transdisciplinary approach, the program aimed to cover a wider spectrum of topics related to the theme, drawing on expertise from both academia and the social sphere. This was evidenced by this year’s coordinator, Maria Guiomar Frota. Professor Guiomar explains that the program’s diversity and richness are responsible for the success of the five editions of the school.



UFMG signs cooperation agreement with French Agricultural Research Center

In the first semester of 2025, our university signed a cooperation agreement with the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD). The university maintains a long-standing partnership with French institutions, encompassing teaching, research, and outreach programs. Professor Sandra Goulart de Almeida received Pierre Marraccini, Director and Representative of the Institut national de la recherche agronomique (INRA) and Agreenium for Brazil and the countries of the Southern Cone. Professor Aziz Tuffi Saliba, Vice-Provost for International Affairs, Professor Bárbara Orfanò, Deputy Vice-Provost for International Affairs, and the French Cultural Attaché, Vincent Nédélec, also participated in the meeting. The Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement plan to increase students and scholar mobility, research cooperation and joint initiatives involving other spheres.



Researchers from UFMG developed a method for synthesizing a novel molecule containing boron

Researchers from the Department of Chemistry at UFMG's Institute of Exact Sciences (ICEx) have developed a one-step method for synthesizing a new type of molecule containing boron, an element found in pharmaceuticals and compounds with diverse applications. The discovery, led by Professor Eufrânio da Silva Júnior and conducted in collaboration with universities in the UK and Germany, was featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, a leading journal in the field. Although the molecule's specific application is not yet known, it has high potential. The study advances knowledge of boron's chemical reactivity using unconventional methods and spans multiple disciplines, including organic, inorganic, and physical chemistry. The team successfully synthesized borirenes—three-membered rings containing boron—by combining boron with benzene and other compounds. The breakthrough was partly serendipitous, as postdoctoral researcher Marieli Rodrigues discovered the reaction while studying alkynes. Fellow researchers Pedro Oliveira and Caren da Silva later refined and mastered the method. Professor Eufrânio highlighted the crucial role of international collaboration in advancing frontier research and noted the recognition he received in 2023 as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. The cover of the journal edition creatively illustrates the discovery, symbolizing the wonder of scientific exploration with a boron ring rising like a balloon, guided by a child—an image that, in Eufrânio's words, represents the joy and boundless curiosity that drive science.



UFMG's Art School Professor is Elected Vice President of Prestigious International Conservation Institute

Professor Luiz Antônio Cruz Souza, from the School of Fine Arts (EBA) at UFMG, has been elected Vice President of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC), based in the United Kingdom. He is the first Latin American to hold a leadership position at the Institute. In 2023, he had already received the Forbes Prize 2024, awarded by the same institution. A member of the IIC council since 2023, Professor Souza reflects on his first visit to the IIC office in 1987 as a graduate student, when he was interested in the intersection of science, technology, and cultural heritage conservation. In his leadership role, he now emphasizes his commitment to diversity and internationalization, aiming to make the IIC more inclusive and globally representative. Brazil currently offers four undergraduate programs in conservation and restoration, with UFMG leading the field, having established the country's first such degree. Professor Souza highlights Minas Gerais' national leadership in the field, which is also supported by technical and technological programs at institutions like IFMG and FAOP. A chemist by training, Luiz Souza holds a master's in Chemistry and Cultural Heritage Conservation, with work conducted in Belgium, a PhD from UFMG, and postdoctoral research in Italy. He currently coordinates the Lacicor conservation science lab at UFMG's CECOR and has led several academic and professional bodies in the field. His work focuses on risk analysis, preventive conservation, scientific analysis of artworks, and the management of heritage preservation. He is also a founding member and current president (2025–2028) of ANTECIPA, Brazil's national association for science and technology in heritage research. Notably, he contributed to assessing damage to artworks during the 2023 attacks on government buildings in Brasília and to the restoration of a crucified Christ statue returned to President Lula that same year.



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