

UFMG Welcomes Students from 16 Countries for Its Summer School on Brazilian Studies

Around 50 students from 16 countries and 30 universities participated in an academic and cultural immersion at UFMG through a comprehensive program focused on Brazilian studies. Participants shared knowledge and experiences in lectures delivered by UFMG professors and guest speakers, as well as in cultural activities that include a Brazilian film session, visits to Inhotim Museum and the historic city of Ouro Preto, and a beach-style evening gathering – Luau. According to the Vice Provost of International Affairs, Professor Aziz Tuffi Saliba, “Our Summer School is a strategic instrument for UFMG’s internationalization. It brings together students from 16 countries and 30 universities who interact with our faculty and students. In addition to strengthening exchange programs and showcasing the excellence of our academic community, the course offers participants a unique opportunity to expand their academic and professional networks globally. The classes also provide a multifaceted view of Brazil through the perspectives of professors from different fields, such as history, economics, culture, law, and politics.” The international students also attended Portuguese as an Additional Language (PLA) classes, taught by PLA Teachers Ana Clara Teixeira, Tiago Braga, Ana Luísa Junqueira, and João Reis, under the coordination of Professor Luciane Corrêa Ferreira (FALE). The initiative was organised by UFMG’s Office of International Affairs (DRI), under the leadership of Professor Aziz Tuffi Saliba and Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanò.



UFMG Ranks Among Brazil’s Top Federal Universities in the 2025 Shanghai Ranking

UFMG has been recognized as one of the best federal universities in Brazil. This strong performance adds to UFMG's recent achievements in international rankings, including the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which measure universities' contributions to sustainability, and the QS World University Rankings 2026, both published in June. "The QS, THE, and ARWU rankings form the traditional triad of global academic rankings, and together they attest to our solid performance in international evaluations," stated UFMG's president, Professor Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida. "Of course, each has its limitations and may not fully account for aspects such as community outreach and extension, which are particularly significant in a country marked by deep inequalities. Nevertheless, they serve as robust indicators of our strong international presence." The five highest-ranked Brazilian universities in the 2025 Shanghai Ranking are:

- University of São Paulo (USP) – band 101-150
- São Paulo State University (Unesp) and University of Campinas (Unicamp) – band 401-500
- Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) and Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) – band 501-600

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), also known as the Shanghai Ranking, is the oldest global university ranking. First published in 2003, it currently evaluates more than 2,500 higher education institutions worldwide, publishing the results of the top 1,000 each year. Originally developed by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the ranking has been managed since 2009 by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, an independent organization specializing in higher education analytics with no institutional or governmental ties. ARWU assesses universities according to several indicators, including Nobel Prize and Fields Medal winners among faculty and alumni; highly cited researchers (Clarivate); publications in Nature and Science; articles indexed in the SCIE and SSCI citation databases; and per capita academic performance.



UFMG Signs Cooperation Agreement with Italy's Gran Sasso Tech Foundation

UFMG has signed a cooperation agreement with the Gran Sasso Tech Foundation (GST), based in L'Aquila, Italy, to develop joint research projects, organize academic events, and promote the exchange of information and publications. The initiative, led by Professor Maria Cecília Pereira from UFMG's School of Engineering, was supported by the Office of International Affairs (DRI) to foster broad cooperation across the University.

Gran Sasso Tech partners with major space-sector industries, including Thales Alenia Space Italy, and sought collaborations in Latin America in astronautics—an area where UFMG has been active since 2010. GST President Fernando Ferroni described the foundation as a “natural candidate to lead cost-effective space missions by universities and research centers,” noting that GST offers the 2-MF/NIMBUS satellite architecture as open hardware to encourage innovation. Though centered on aerospace engineering, the agreement also opens possibilities in robotics, computer science, and modeling. According to Professor Pereira, the collaboration will leverage GST’s infrastructure to strengthen UFMG’s access to space-sector companies and enhance its aerospace development capacity.

The partnership was facilitated by the Italo-Latin American International Organization (IILA), which identified UFMG as a leading Brazilian university with strong aerospace initiatives and facilities such as the Center for Aerospace Studies. After an introductory meeting in late 2024, both institutions participated in the Spaceraise School in L’Aquila in May 2025. “For Gran Sasso Tech, already active internationally, this marks an important step toward deeper cooperation with Latin American countries in research and education,” said Ferroni. In October, a GST delegation will visit UFMG to tour facilities and meet faculty and students, whose training quality was praised by the foundation.



EU Ambassadors Visit UFMG to Discuss Cooperation and Sustainability

A delegation of European Union (EU) ambassadors visited UFMG on September 26 for a meeting with President Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida and representatives of other Minas Gerais universities. The group also learned about SeloVerde, a UFMG-developed platform that integrates public data and geospatial analyses to trace agricultural production and combat illegal deforestation. The delegation included EU Ambassador Marian Schuegraf and ambassadors from 17 member states, who also met with state and city officials.

Professor Sandra Goulart reaffirmed UFMG’s readiness to deepen cooperation with EU countries, highlighting ongoing exchanges and new partnership opportunities. Vice-Pro-Vost for International Affairs Professor Aziz Saliba noted that UFMG currently maintains 181 agreements with EU institutions and that 260 of 400 outbound students in 2024 studied in Europe.

Ambassador Schuegraf praised UFMG’s research and the SeloVerde project, saying “Europe is committed to ambitious sustainability goals and legislation for the coming decades and seeks ways to access scientifically based, highly reliable

data. SeloVerde has great potential to ensure that the meat and other products we import are not linked to deforestation.” The EU has supported several stages of the platform’s development. Dutch Ambassador Aldrik Gierveld stressed the need for scientific cooperation to counter misinformation on climate change, noting that the Dutch Embassy works to align agriculture and sustainability.

At UFMG’s Remote Sensing Center (CSR), the ambassadors learned how SeloVerde, initially developed with Pará and Minas Gerais, now operates in Espírito Santo and will expand to Acre, Tocantins, and Maranhão. Professor Raoni Rajão, from the School of Engineering, who leads the project, explained that the system provides transparent supply-chain tracking and “rewards responsible production.” The EU began funding its expansion in 2022, promoting data exchange between Brazilian researchers and European regulators.



UFMG Rector Participates in Mexico–Brazil University Meeting

During an official Andifes (National Association of Directors of Federal Institutions of Higher Education, Brazil) mission to Mexico, UFMG’s president, Sandra Regina Goulart de Almeida, took part in the Mexico–Brazil University Meeting, jointly organized by sister associations Anuiés (National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions, Mexico) and Andifes. The event aimed to strengthen academic ties between higher education institutions in both countries through dialogue and cooperation between the two associations. On this occasion, Anuiés and Andifes signed an agreement establishing the Brazil–Mexico Chair, consolidating an academic partnership that promises to expand the internationalization of universities in both nations.

Professor Sandra Goulart participated in the opening session in her role as president of Enlaces, the Latin American and Caribbean university network. She also joined the panel discussion “Mexico–Brazil Academic Cooperation: Strategies to Strengthen a Solidary Internationalization,” alongside Professor Luis Alberto Fierro Ramirez, General Coordinator for Academic Strengthening at Anuiés; Professor Diana Pereira, Chair of the Andifes International Relations Committee and Rector of Unila; and Professor León Aceves Díaz de León, Coordinator for Special Projects and Social Outreach. The session was moderated by Professor Julio Solano González of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

In her remarks, UFMG’s president highlighted synergies in academic production between Mexico and Brazil, noting areas where collaboration can deepen and that joint publications have been steadily increasing for nearly a decade. UFMG and

several Mexican universities have developed strong partnerships, particularly in medicine, biological sciences, and agriculture. She also underscored the importance of joint initiatives contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to Professor Sandra Almeida, internationalization and solidarity are key to developing talent, generating knowledge for sustainable development, and fostering regional integration across Latin America. Together with the Deputy Vice Provost for International Affairs, Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanò, Professor Sandra signed new cooperation agreements between UFMG and Mexican universities in the areas of vaccines, artificial intelligence, and aerospace engineering. These agreements will facilitate academic exchanges and collaborative research between the two countries.



UFMG Hosts BRICS Legal Studies School 2025 to Strengthen Legal Cooperation in a Multipolar World

UFMG hosted the BRICS Legal Studies School 2025: Strengthening Legal Cooperation for a Multipolar World, a course designed for international students that lays the groundwork for enhanced legal cooperation among BRICS nations in an increasingly multipolar global context. Targeting senior undergraduate and graduate students from BRICS universities, the program is held during Brazil's current presidency of the group, which emphasizes South–South cooperation and a more inclusive, sustainable global governance. About 25 foreign students, mainly from China, India, and Russia, have traveled to Brazil to participate in the course. They were joined by 17 Brazilian students from UFMG, who act as mentors and guides for their international peers throughout the academic and cultural activities. Organized by the UFMG Office for International Relations (DRI), this is the second edition of the initiative, following last year's Brazil–China Summer School on Legal Studies (SSLS).

The BRICS Legal Studies School 2025 featured lectures, discussion panels, case studies, and interactive workshops led by professors from South Africa, China, India, Ireland, and Russia, as well as by Brazilian diplomats and policymakers.

According to Professor Aziz Tuffi Saliba, UFMG's Vice-Provost for International Affairs, the BRICS Legal Studies School serves as a strategic instrument for the University's internationalization. "It promotes new collaborations and diversifies institutional partnerships," he said. "The program provides faculty and students from BRICS nations with the chance to deepen their understanding of the member countries' legal systems and to discuss key topics such as BRICS legal regulation, climate change, and artificial intelligence." According to Professor Aziz Saliba, "This course is devoted to

examining the legal systems of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, and to engaging in open and critical dialogue on shared global challenges—including climate change, artificial intelligence, and UN reform. Our goal is to learn from each other, question assumptions, deepen comparative understanding, and chart concrete paths toward a more inclusive and sustainable governance model—developing legal solutions worthy of the Global South and of the world we aspire to build together.”



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