



UFMG among the Top 10 in the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Ranking

UFMG has made its debut in the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Ranking, which evaluates universities' capacity to foster interdisciplinary initiatives, allocate resources to cross-cutting research, and produce high-impact publications that span multiple fields. In the 2025 edition, UFMG was placed in the 201–250 band globally, ranked 9th in Latin America and 5th in Brazil, and 3rd among federal universities.

The ranking uses three indicators: process (institutional structures, goals, and incentives for interdisciplinary work), inputs (resources and funding dedicated to interdisciplinary research), and outputs (publication volume and quality, citation impact across fields, and global reputation).

Professor Sandra Goulart Almeida highlighted the importance of an assessment dedicated to interdisciplinarity, noting that “the future of science is inherently interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary” and that UFMG has made significant investments in this direction. She also emphasized that “a sustainable future depends on science capable of crossing disciplinary boundaries.”

Professor Dawisson Belém Lopes, Director of the Office for Institutional Data Governance, celebrated UFMG's inclusion among leading global institutions, noting that the University already operates with a strong transdisciplinary approach. This idea is further expanded by Professor Patrícia Kauark, Director of UFMG's Institute for Advanced Transdisciplinary Studies (IEAT), who stresses that contemporary challenges—such as climate change, inequality, democratic crises, technological impacts, and public health—require integrated knowledge and dialogue across academic and non-academic domains.

She adds that UFMG's commitment to transdisciplinarity is reflected in initiatives such as IEAT's international chairs, seminars, and research residencies; the University's transversal training programs; and institutional projects such as the UFMG Citizenship Formation Program in Defense of Democracy. These efforts underscore the University's role as a space that fosters knowledge integration and strengthens its public mission.



UFMG Hosts the 24th Tordesillas Rectors' Forum Focused on AI, Ethics, and Inclusion

From November 9 to 11, the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) hosted the 24th Tordesillas Rectors' Forum, bringing together leaders from a network dedicated to strengthening academic collaboration among universities in Brazil, Spain, and Portugal. The Tordesillas Group currently comprises 60 institutions—29 Brazilian, 20 Spanish, and 11 Portuguese.

Each year, university leaders convene to discuss key issues shaping higher education and to foster scientific cooperation among researchers from the three countries, particularly through their doctoral colleges. At each in-person meeting, participants share advances and results from ongoing research and outline future plans around a central theme.

This year's edition, held under the theme "AI, Ethics, and Inclusion," promoted critical reflection on the opportunities and challenges emerging at the intersection of these three areas. The discussions also examined the role of the university—and its future—amid rapid technological change, as highlighted by Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanó, Deputy Vice-Provost for International Affairs at UFMG.

"In a context of rapid technological transformation, artificial intelligence is reshaping teaching practices, scientific production, and university management, demanding robust ethical principles and institutional policies that ensure transparency, accountability, and equity," she noted. "At the same time, inclusion is central to preventing technological innovation from exacerbating social, linguistic, and cultural inequalities."

According to Orfanó, the event explored how universities can serve as spaces for ethical governance and digital inclusion, promoting critical education, diversity, and responsible international cooperation aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This purpose was reinforced in an invitation issued by UFMG's president, Professor Sandra Goulart Almeida, who, as President of the Tordesillas Group Coordinating Committee, called on participants to discuss the "university of the future and the future of the university" in light of the challenges posed by digital technologies. In her message, she emphasized the meeting's role in fostering dialogue and productive collaboration among member universities and in strengthening interaction among researchers across the network's ten doctoral colleges. "The meeting represents an important

opportunity to promote academic and scientific collaboration, reaffirming the relevance of the research produced by the universities that make up the network,” she stated.

The program featured cultural activities at the Espaço do Conhecimento and the Palácio da Liberdade, as well as a keynote lecture delivered by Professor Virgílio Almeida, from the Department of Computer Science, on the topic “Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the University: Why Do We Need Rules?” In addition, rectors participated in four roundtable discussions addressing themes such as AI’s role in knowledge production, the reconfiguration of skills and competencies for a more inclusive university, the ethical and social commitments of the university of the future, and opportunities for cooperation.



Photo: Grupo Tordesillas

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56 UFMG Researchers Rank among the World’s Most Cited Scientists in 2024

Fifty-six researchers from the Federal University of Minas Gerais were listed among the world’s most cited scientists in a 2024 ranking that measures the visibility and impact of scientific output from institutions worldwide. The ranking is based on the composite indicator (c-score) developed by researchers at Stanford University, which assesses the impact of publications by more than 200,000 authors across 22 broad fields and 174 subfields of knowledge.

According to UFMG’s Vice-Provost for Research, Professor Fernando Reis, the result is a source of pride for the institution. “It is gratifying to see that UFMG produces high-quality science with global visibility and collaborates at a high level with leading scientific and technological institutions in Brazil and around the world,” he said. He also emphasized that the impact analysis method proposed by the Stanford team should be understood as complementary to other indicators and not used in isolation or as a tool for comparing universities and research centers. “The methodology does not take into account factors such as institutional size, the number of full-time researchers, or the proportion of research conducted in each field and subfield,” he explained.

Based on data from the Scopus database, the ranking considers metrics such as the h-index—which quantifies citations of an author’s most referenced articles, reflecting both productivity and impact—the hm-index, which adjusts the h-index according to the number of co-authors per article, and the number of citations by authorship position (single author, first author, and last author). These criteria are combined to calculate the composite indicator, known as the c-score, which excludes self-citations.

Updated annually, the list of influential researchers includes the 100,000 most cited scientists overall and the top 2% most cited in each subfield. “What sets the composite indicator apart from other measures of scientific impact is that it not only counts citations or relies solely on the h-index, but also weights authorship by the number of co-authors and assigns greater value to publications as a single author, first author—typically the research leader—and last author, often a senior researcher or supervisor,” Professor Reis explained.

In his view, the main value of the ranking lies in enabling researchers to understand their own composite indicator and compare it with the global distribution of peers within the same subfield. “For example, if a researcher’s composite index is 2.6 and the 90th percentile in their field is 2.5, that researcher is among the top 10% most impactful worldwide in 2024. Even those not included in the list can calculate their own index using the published formula,” he concluded.



UFMG's President Signs Cooperation Agreements and Participates in an Event in Rwanda

A mission by the Federal University of Minas Gerais to Rwanda, organized by UFMG's International Office with the support of the Brazilian Embassy in the East-Central African country, resulted in the signing of cooperation agreements with the University of Rwanda—the country's only public higher education institution—and with Kibogora Polytechnic. The mission also included the participation of Professor Sandra Goulart Almeida in the International Association of Universities Conference (IAU 2025).

The agenda took place from October 20 to 24. UFMG's president highlighted that the agreements formalized a shared commitment to strengthening partnerships from a Global South–South perspective, grounded in historical affinities. “This is an opportunity to deepen decolonial strategies, with scientific excellence and the social relevance of our research as guiding principles,” she stated. She also outlined priority areas for cooperation, noting that collaboration with Rwandan institutions could encompass climate emergency response, sustainable socioeconomic development, public security, technological and knowledge production, democratic governance, and the strengthening of public health systems.

UFMG's Deputy Vice-Provost for International Affairs, Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanó, who also took part in the mission, reported that the UFMG delegation was received at the Brazilian Embassy in Rwanda, where they met with Ambassador Irene Vida Gala. “During the meeting, we discussed possibilities for cooperation in strategic areas and exchange agreements involving undergraduate and graduate students, as well as researchers. We also explored ways to

promote joint activities involving our Center for African Studies, with the support of the Rwandan Embassy,” Orfanó explained.

From October 21 to 23, Professor Sandra Goulart Almeida and Professor Bárbara Orfanó participated in the IAU 2025 Conference, held at the University of Rwanda in Kigali, the country’s capital. The event brought together representatives from more than 200 universities across approximately 80 countries. As a member of the IAU Administrative Board, Rector Sandra Goulart Almeida chaired the opening plenary session, which addressed the theme “Trust and Distrust in an Age of Turbulence.” The session featured a keynote address by Jamil Salmi, a global expert in higher education, and contributions from Folasade Ogunsola, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos (Nigeria); Aishath Shehenaz Adam, Vice-Chancellor of Maldives National University; and Sondan Feyiz, Rector of Kadir Has University (Türkiye).



Photo: Personal Archive

Four UFMG Students Selected for the 2025 “Amefrican Pathways” South–South Exchange Program

Four undergraduate students from the Federal University of Minas Gerais were selected for the 2025 Amefrican Pathways Exchange Program, a South–South exchange mobility initiative focused on racial equity, intercultural dialogue, and inclusive internationalisation. The selected students are Lidia Nataly Santos Sousa, Bernardo Mendes de Souza (History), Ketson Lara da Silva Neres, and Camila Freitas Gomes (Education).

Developed in partnership with Brazil’s Ministry of Racial Equality and leading institutions in the Global South—the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Peru), Universidade Agostinho Neto (Angola), and FLACSO (Dominican Republic)—the program promotes short-term international exchanges that address racism through public policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the appreciation of African and African Diaspora histories and cultures. It also strengthens Ethnic-Racial Relations Education and expands access to international mobility through affirmative action.

For the students, the program represents both academic advancement and social impact. Camila Freitas Gomes highlighted the initiative’s inclusive design, noting that it enables mobility by recognizing students’ identities and trajectories, while offering a unique opportunity to engage with a Portuguese-speaking African context and deepen critical perspectives on Angolan history. Lidia Sousa emphasized the transformative nature of her first international experience, closely aligned with her research on ethnic-racial relations and made possible through sustained institutional support.

Ketson Neres described the exchange as a “historical and ancestral reconnection,” underscoring its role in strengthening South–South ties, decolonial thinking, and commitments to a more just and plural education. Bernardo Mendes de Souza connected the opportunity to his research on Africa, slavery, and Brazilian social structures, highlighting the importance of public policies that foster inclusive internationalisation and academic collaboration.

The students’ participation reflects UFMG’s commitment to inclusive internationalisation, South–South cooperation, and the integration of global engagement with social justice and academic excellence.



UFMG Brings Together Latin American Universities to Strengthen Extension, Communication, and Culture Networks

This November, UFMG hosted a major academic gathering that brought together universities, social movements, and government representatives from across South America to reflect on the role of higher education in social transformation, democracy, human rights, and sustainable development. The initiative attracted around 500 participants to the Pampulha campus and reinforced UFMG’s position as a regional hub for dialogue on public policies, teacher education, and knowledge dissemination.

At the core of the program was the 8th Extension Congress of the Montevideo Group of Universities (AUGM), which convened public universities from Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay. Held in a hybrid format, the congress focused on networks for the internationalisation of university extension, highlighting extension as a key dimension of international cooperation and social engagement. More than 800 academic contributions were submitted, addressing themes such as the institutionalisation of extension, artistic and cultural production, sustainable development, citizenship, human rights, inclusion, and communication networks.

The week also included the National Forum of Extension Provosts of Brazilian Public Universities (Forproex), which gathered senior university leaders to discuss university and community engagement in relation to public policies, democracy, and social justice. Discussions emphasized strategies to strengthen cooperation between universities and local governments and explored new institutional arrangements to support funding and sustainability for extension activities.

Complementing these debates, UFMG hosted a series of events dedicated to public and institutional communication, university media, and communication management. These activities underscored the close relationship between extension, communication, and culture in Latin America and highlighted shared challenges, such as the ethical use of artificial intelligence and the fight against misinformation. The events also fostered exchanges aimed at strengthening international and regional networks in these fields.

University leaders highlighted that, in the current Latin American scenario—marked by challenges to democracy and public higher education—internationalisation through academic networks is essential. Extension was repeatedly reaffirmed as a formative dimension inseparable from teaching and research, with a strong role in engagement with social movements, teacher education, and the implementation of public policies. The program also placed strong emphasis on culture and the arts, stressing their transversal role within universities and their importance for regional integration. Participants emphasized the growing institutionalisation of culture and arts policies in Brazilian and Latin American universities and the value of building shared agendas with neighboring countries.

Overall, the initiative strengthened South American academic cooperation and showcased how internationalised extension, communication, and culture can contribute to more inclusive, democratic, and socially engaged higher education systems.



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