

## Summer School on Portuguese as an Additional Language at UFMG

On January 19, the 3rd edition of the UFMG Summer Course in Portuguese as an Additional Language (PLA) took place, offering students from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile an international academic and cultural experience at our university. Over the course of two weeks, UC Chile students attended Portuguese as an Additional Language (PLA) classes taught by Ana Clara Teixeira and Tiago Braga, under the coordination of Professor Henrique Leroy (FALE/UFMG). The program also provided learning opportunities related to the history, society, and culture of Minas Gerais and Brazil through lectures and cultural visits, including Inhotim and the historic city of Ouro Preto, among other activities. This initiative is promoted by the Proficiency Department of the International Relations Office (DRI) at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, coordinated by Marcos Araújo and Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanò, Deputy Vice Provost for International Affairs.



Photo: Comunica/DRI

## International Orientation Week

During the 24th and 27th of February, we welcomed our international students to our campus. This semester, UFMG received 133 international students and researchers from more than 20 countries, including undergraduate and graduate students, as well as participants from programs such as PEC-G, PEC-PLE, GCUB, Fulbright and Instituto Confúcio. Among them, 70 are undergraduate exchange students and 11 are graduate students and researchers.

Students came from countries such as Colombia, Germany, Argentina, Russia, France, the United States, Mexico, Chile, China, Peru, Nigeria and many others, representing a wide range of academic backgrounds including Veterinary Medicine, Administration, Architecture and Urbanism, Arts, Economics, Medicine, Psychology, Engineering, Linguistics and Political Science.

During the Orientation Week, students had the opportunity to meet staff members, professors and their buddies from the International Office Buddy Program. They also attended workshops on topics such as How to Study at UFMG, Portuguese as a Foreign Language, Getting Around the Campus and other practical information regarding student life in Belo Horizonte and at UFMG.

For many students, studying at UFMG represents both an academic and cultural opportunity. Aracido Só, from Cabo Verde, a PEC-G student in Psychology, highlights: "I chose Brazil because it has the best federal universities in Latin America, and UFMG is one of the best in the country." Meanwhile, Eloïse Lavalée, a French exchange student in Public Relations, points out her interest in learning Portuguese and experiencing Brazilian culture firsthand.

It is always inspiring to see students from so many nationalities and disciplines choosing UFMG as their academic destination. We hope they have a meaningful academic and cultural experience during their semester with us.



Photo: Comunica/DRI

## UFMG receives the Yamanashi Province in its Campus

On January 13, the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) had the honor of welcoming a delegation from the Yamanashi Province, Japan, which was visiting Belo Horizonte at the invitation of the State of Minas Gerais' Chief of Staff Office. The visit aimed to strengthen institutional, academic, and technological ties with both the state and the University.

The Japanese delegation included Yumi Saito, Chief Secretary of the Department for the Promotion of New Value Creation and Regional Development; Atsuya Nakagomi, Senior Staff member of the Division for the Promotion of International Strategy and the Green Metropolitan Area; and Dionei Ribeiro, International Relations Coordinator of the same division. The group was also joined by Yukari Hamada, representing the Honorary Consulate of Japan in Belo Horizonte.

The delegation was received by Professor Aziz Saliba, Director of International Relations, along with researchers from the School of Engineering, including Professor Maurício Bagatini from the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering and Carla Pereira, a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Program in Nuclear Science and Techniques. The meeting provided an opportunity to present the University's strategic areas of activity and to engage in discussions on potential avenues for academic, scientific, and technological cooperation. Yamanashi Province is widely recognized for its investments in innovation, sustainability, and energy transition, particularly for the development of advanced and pioneering technologies in Japan for green hydrogen production. The engagement with the University highlights a shared interest in building partnerships focused on applied research, academic training, and the development of sustainable solutions.



Photo: DRI/UFMG

## Capex Global Edu: UFMG coordinates consortium for internationalization

The Inter-Nós Network: Interconnected Knowledge Research, Innovation and Inclusion in Addressing Global Challenges, coordinated by the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, is one of 23 proposals nationwide pre-selected under the CAPES Global.edu Program, an initiative of Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior. The program aims to foster collaboration among Brazilian institutions to advance strategic research and graduate education activities through international cooperation. The network brings together four additional institutions the Federal Universities of Alfenas, Rio Grande do Norte, and Health Sciences of Porto Alegre, as well as the State University of Amazonas encompassing a total of 170 graduate programs. Within this framework, internationalization extends beyond individual academic mobility to include a collaborative model of “internationalization at home.”

Conceived as a collaborative ecosystem, the network integrates complementary expertise from public universities across different regions of Brazil, promoting a multidisciplinary approach to developing innovative solutions. It also emphasizes scientific and geographic inclusion by engaging institutions and researchers with historically limited access to international collaboration, contributing to the decentralization of academic excellence and the reduction of regional inequalities. Among its key initiatives are academic mobility opportunities both national and international as well as strategies to expand access to intercultural training without the need for travel. These include the development of bilingual

courses, virtual international seminars, and collaborative research platforms, broadening participation in internationalization processes, particularly for underrepresented groups.

The network also seeks to strengthen ties with both Global North and Global South partners while training a new generation of researchers capable of working in multicultural and multi-institutional environments. Its activities are structured around six thematic areas: Culture, Arts and Traditional Knowledge; Education and Human Rights; Justice, Governance and Effective Institutions; Health and Well-being; Sustainability and Energy Transition; and Digital Transformation and New Technologies all aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Photo: Raphaella Dias/UFMG

## UFMG Research Wins International Award for Nuclear Policy Study

The article “Autonomy without Proliferation: Latin America’s Atomic Exceptionalism and the Brazilian Nuclear Programme”, authored by João Paulo Nicolini Gabriel, a PhD graduate from the Department of Political Science at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, and Professor Dawisson Belém Lopes, has been named the winner of the Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade Prize. The award is granted by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, an international organization dedicated to ensuring compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established Latin America and the Caribbean as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

The award-winning study examines the rationale behind Brazil’s nuclear strategy, focusing on how the country has historically balanced the pursuit of technological autonomy with a strong commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Rather than advancing policy prescriptions, the research seeks to understand the underlying logic that has positioned Brazil as both an advocate of autonomy and a consistent supporter of nuclear non-proliferation. As a founding member of OPANAL, Brazil has played a key role in maintaining the region as a zone of peace.

According to Professor Dawisson Lopes, the recognition reflected a long-term research agenda dedicated to understanding Brazil’s distinctive role within the global non-proliferation regime. The study adopts an interdisciplinary approach, combining international political economy, diplomatic history, science and technology studies, and international relations theory. It is based on extensive document analysis and in-depth interviews with policymakers, diplomats, and scientific actors, while also engaging with both Global South scholarship and institutionalist and legal perspectives. The

article argues that Brazil has consolidated a model of “autonomy without proliferation,” grounded in regional legal commitments, the development of domestic scientific and technological capacities, and an active diplomatic stance in favor of peaceful nuclear development. This experience challenges conventional assumptions that link nuclear autonomy to weapons acquisition and instead positions Latin America as a source of institutional innovation in a context marked by increasing strain on global arms control frameworks. The award-winning publication stems from João Paulo’s doctoral thesis conducted under a cotutelle and dual-degree arrangement between UFMG and the KU Leuven.



Photo: Personal Archive

## UFMG Researcher is granted Leloir Award

The Leloir Awards are granted to foreign scientists, researchers, and technologists whether residing in Argentina or abroad who have contributed to strengthening Argentina’s scientific and technological capacities. The ceremony was attended by the Secretary for Innovation, Science and Technology, Darío Genua, who, in welcoming the participants, stated that “international cooperation is not a complement; it is a strategic tool. It allows us to integrate capacities, share knowledge, train talent, and strengthen our scientific and technological system in continuous dialogue with the world.” He also congratulated the awardees, noting that “their trajectories and commitment are inspiring, demonstrating that science knows no borders, but shares a common purpose: to generate knowledge that improves people’s lives.”



Photo: UNCuyo

## UFMG has a new President

On the 19th of March, Professor Alessandro Fernandes Moreira, from the School of Engineering, assumed the position of president of the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. Alessandro Moreira and Alamanda Kfoury Pereira, who will lead the University until March 2030, headed the “UFMG Acolhedora” ticket, the only slate registered in the university-wide consultation held on October 21, in which they received 88.45% of the valid votes.

In a document outlining their platform, the candidates emphasized that their proposal is grounded in the belief that a public university should be a space for science, culture, and innovation, as well as for inclusion and care. Their program is structured around three key principles: innovation, inclusion, and care reflecting a commitment to a more democratic, diverse, and socially responsive university. They also acknowledged recent institutional progress while underscoring the need to further strengthen dialogue with society and expand access to knowledge as a public good.

Professor Moreira topped the shortlist submitted by the University Electoral Board to the Ministry of Education, and his appointment was officially published in the Federal Official Gazette on January 22. Alamanda Kfoury Pereira likewise led the shortlist for the position of Vice-president.

Professor Moreira previously served as Vice-president in the 2018–2022 and 2022–2026 administrations, as well as Director (2014–2018) and Deputy Director (2010–2014) of the School of Engineering. A full professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, he holds a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has extensive experience in electrical engineering, particularly in power electronics, electric machines, and industrial drives, as well as in engineering education with a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Professor Alamanda Kfoury Pereira is a full professor in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at UFMG. She holds a medical degree, as well as a master’s and PhD in Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine from UFMG. Her academic career integrates teaching, research, extension, and administration, with strong involvement in curriculum reform and leadership roles, including serving as Vice-Director (2018–2022) and subsequently Director of the Faculty of Medicine. We wish them every success as they begin this new chapter.



Photo: Jebs Lima/UFMG

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