

UFMG's massive participation in FAUBAI's 2023 Conference in Belo Horizonte - Brazil

The first Faubai, after the Pandemic, took place in Belo Horizonte - Brazil, and the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais played a key role in the event. The title "Building Knowledge with All Voices" included everyone. The pre-conference was held at UFMG, and the sessions took place in our Conservatory of Music, a historical building in the city center, and the opening ceremony was conducted by UFMG's folk group Sarandeiros which enchanted the audience with traditional dance from the state of Minas Gerais. The conference had as a guest plenary professor Peter Lennie, the Worldwide University Network (WUN) executive director. Dr. Lennie talked about International Cooperation and Research for a group of Brazilian university presidents. From an academic perspective, our Office of International Affairs had the opportunity to demonstrate its prominent role in the national and international scenario by presenting papers and interacting with partners from different parts of the world. Parallel to the FAUBAI, we also welcomed on our campus more than eighteen institutions, diplomatic delegations and three events (Campus France, USA Air Force and Canada Day). During these meetings, we strengthened partnerships and discussed projects that will contribute to the ongoing internationalization process of our university. We are certain that soon, we will be reaping the fruits of our active participation in this important event for international education.



UFMG features prominently in the sports arena. Luiz Arthur Caetano (UFMG's athlete) won a gold medal in this year's South American under-20 championship. The Tournament occurred in Bogota, Colombia, between 19 and 21 of May. He competed in 100, 400 and 1,500 meters, 110 meters hurdle, long jump, shot put, high jump, javelin and discus. The coordinator from UFMG's Sports Training Center, Professor Márcio Vianna Prudêncio, who teaches at the School of Physical Education, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, also joined the team participating in the tournament as the Brazilian coach. According to Professor Márcio Prudêncio, Luiz Arthur is disciplined and has an excellent technical quality for the sport. He has been training at UFMG's Sports Training Center since 2019, and to date, he is a two-time Brazilian champion in the South American Athleticism Tournament (under-18 and 20) and is considered one of the best in America according to the Pan American ranking.



UFMG at 2023's NAFSA

On May 30th in Washington, it happened the 75th NAFSA Conference on International Education with the theme "Inspiring an Inclusive Future". The program included conferences, workshops, and seminars, and addressing the challenge of inclusiveness in the internationalization of third-level education was at the center of the discussions. Participating in this kind of event is an important opportunity that can lead to collaborations and partnerships. In addition, networking with fellow educators and experts in international education can open doors to joint projects, research opportunities and cross-cultural initiatives. UFMG's Deputy Dean for International affairs, Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanò, represented our institution, participating in a number of events. She met with more than 22 institutions to discuss ongoing partnerships, scientific cooperation, and current mobility agreements. UFMG has also engaged with new potential academic partners in strategic areas, guaranteeing opportunities for its academic community. During the event, Professor Bárbara Orfanò also attended meetings with diplomats from Germany, Ireland, France, Argentina, the United States and Brazil, strengthening our relationship with the world.



Photo: Personal Archive

SciBioSus

During June 4-7, our university organized the II International Congress on Science, Biodiversity and Sustainability. The event had more than 500 participants and received researchers from more than 15 institutions from different parts of the world who participated in round tables covering a variety of themes. The main topics were the protection of biomes and threatened peoples, maintenance of ecosystem services, environmental catastrophes, the richness of natural products, the use of biodiversity as food, people and traditional knowledge, green technologies, science communication and innovation. Professor Jacqueline Takahashi from the Chemistry Department is the coordinator of the event, and according to her, the SciBioSus was initially created to integrate the universities participating in the Association of the Montevideo Group of Universities, but currently, the event collaborates to integrate several disciplines of knowledge at UFMG. She adds that the university is a reference in South America, and the conference is part of the internationalization mechanisms that reaffirm its prominent position in the international scenario.

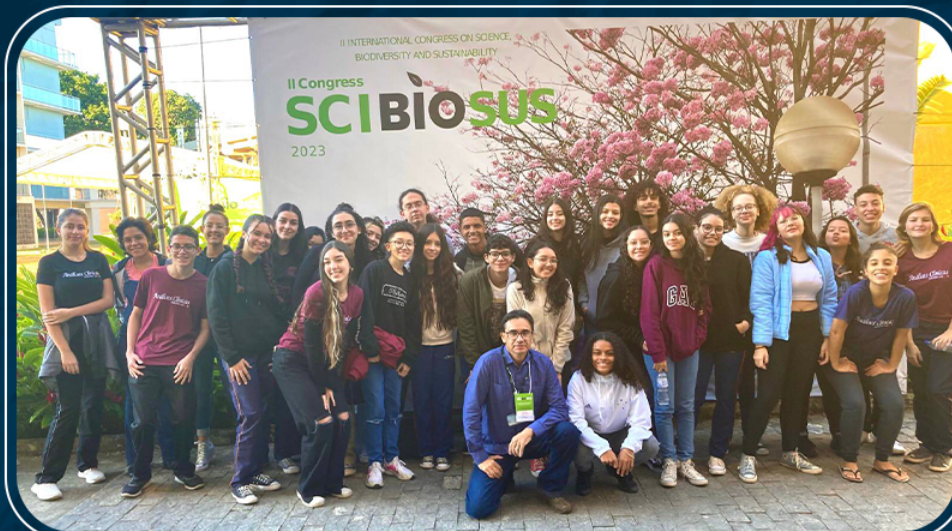


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University, Society and State: towards the CRES +5

Between 4-6 June, UFMG received rectors and representatives from South America to debate higher education as a human right. The seminar serves as a preliminary forum in which themes such as social development, regional integration and the role of universities are promoted by the Association of the Montevideo Group of Universities (AUGM). This event discussed the role of South American universities in paving the way to CRES+5, which will take place in Brasília next year. Professor Aziz Saliba, UFMG's Dean for International Affairs, explains that preparing for this conference is imperative due to its relevance in the region. Another important point was made by Professor Sandra Regina Goulart de Almeida, who called attention to the fact that, for the first time, the event had representatives from the Ministry of Education of Argentina, Brazil and Chile: Oscar Alpa, Secretary of the University Policies from Argentina, Rui Oppermann, director of International Affairs from the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes) and Victor Orellana, sub secretary of Higher Education from Chile. The program included four round tables convening academics, leaders from civil society and politicians who together debated the future of higher education and its transforming role in society.



Photo: Foca Lisboa/UFMG

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The 7th best University in South America

The Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais is among the seven best universities in South America, according to the Times Higher Education Ranking (THE). The university is among the five Brazilian universities and among the three from the federal system with the best scores, having performed remarkably well in teaching. UFMG's president, Professor Sandra Regina Goulart de Almeida, states that this result recognizes the consistent and cohesive work developed by our community, explaining that UFMG understands rankings as a consequence and not as an aim. The data needs to be analyzed in combination with the information gathered from different platforms. The Latin American Ranking uses the same methodology used by the Global Ranking; however, the indices are adjusted in an attempt to reflect the context of Latin America and the Caribbean, and they are: teaching (learning environment), research (productivity, result and reputation) citation (research influence), international performance (cooperation and exchange involving teachers and students) and industry (contribution to the generation of innovation and consultancy) are the benchmarks used as the assessment criteria. Looking forward, UFMG remains committed to its pursuit of excellence and continuous improvement, reaffirming its dedication to positively impacting society.



Photo: Foca Lisboa/UFMG

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Summer School

The second week of July marked the start of UFMG's Summer School on Brazilian Studies, organized by the Office for International Affairs. The program is on its 6th edition, and this year, it had 62 participants. We had 33 international students from 14 countries and 29 participants from our university. The program offered all the participants a unique opportunity to delve into the rich and complex history of the country, covering themes such as culture, arts, politics, economy, geography and the Brazilian legal system. The opening ceremony had Professor Mário Fernando Montenegro Campos as a keynote speaker from UFMG's Computer Science Department and former Research Dean. The title of his talk, Excellence in Research and Innovation, gave attendees an overview of the research being conducted at our university. Besides lectures covering the main issues about our country, students had Portuguese classes and various cultural activities, including typical dances like Forró, capoeira, movie sessions and cooking classes. They also had the opportunity to visit tourist places like Ouro Preto, Inhotim and explore the city of Belo Horizonte. For sure, after 14 days of experiencing the country, participants have a better understanding of Brazil and its place in the world.



Pictures: Comunicação DRI

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