UFMG goes global

UFMG Welcomes International Students for the 9th Summer School on Brazilian Studies



On July 13, UFMG launched the ninth edition of its Summer School on Brazilian Studies (SSBS 2026), bringing together around 70 students from 16 countries and 26 international universities for an immersive academic and cultural experience focused on Brazilian studies.

The opening session featured Ambassador Marco Antonio Nakata, who delivered the lecture "Brazilian Cultural Diplomacy: A Historical Perspective." Also attending were UFMG Director of International Affairs Professor Aziz Tuffi Saliba, Deputy Director of International Affairs Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanò, and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Professor Sueli Coelho.

UFMG's Summer School on Brazilian Studies is a strategic internationalization initiative that strengthens exchange programs while showcasing the excellence and diversity of the University's academic community. Lectures offer participants a multifaceted view of Brazil through perspectives from fields including history, economics, culture, law, and politics. The program also offers students a valuable opportunity to expand their international academic and professional networks. Alongside lectures delivered by UFMG faculty and invited guests, participants take part in cultural activities, including a Brazilian film session and visits to the Inhotim museum and the historic city of Ouro Preto. The program also includes Portuguese as an Additional Language classes taught by Tiago Braga, João Pedro Marques, Alexandra Moura, and Bárbara Vieira, under the pedagogical coordination of Professor Bárbara Mano de Faria (FALE-UFMG). SSBS is organized by UFMG's Office of International Affairs (DRI), under the academic supervision of Professor Bárbara Malveira Orfanò.

BRICS Legal Studies School Strengthens Internationalization at Home

Conceived by UFMG's Office of International Affairs (DRI), the BRICS Legal Studies School was launched in 2024 as a Brazil–China initiative and later expanded to include the other original members of the network. According to UFMG Director of International Affairs Professor Aziz Saliba, the initiative introduces participants to the legal systems of the founding BRICS countries while fostering cultural understanding and cooperation in research and teaching. Professor Lucas Lima, from UFMG's School of Law, described the program as one of the University's leading *Internationalization at Home* initiatives. He noted that the School provides an opportunity to understand different realities, legal developments in other parts of the world, and current transformations in global and legal governance. Professor Salem Nasser, from Fundação Getulio Vargas, situated the meeting within a broader international context in which the BRICS are increasingly discussed as an alternative to the hegemonic Western order. This year, the BRICS Legal Studies School brought together UFMG and representatives from 17 other institutions, including Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) in China, Moscow State Linguistics University (MSLU) in Russia, the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.



UFMG Professor Presents Research at Toyo University in Japan



Professor Marco Antônio Peliky Fontes, from the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at UFMG's Institute of Biological Sciences and a researcher with Brazil's National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), presented research developed at UFMG with support from FAPEMIG and CNPq during a visit to Toyo University in Japan.

His research focuses on an experimental model of insular stroke developed at UFMG's Hypertension Laboratory. In the future, the model may help develop therapeutic alternatives to mitigate the consequences of stroke. During his visit, Professor Fontes delivered three seminars at Toyo University as part of the institution's International Science Week.

UFMG PhD Candidate Receives FLE Alumni Award



Adriana Fernandes Carajá, a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology at UFMG, received the FLE Alumni Award during the closing ceremony of France Alumni Days 2026 at the French Embassy in Brasília. The award recognizes alumni of French higher education whose academic and professional trajectories stand out for their contribution to society and for strengthening academic and scientific cooperation between Brazil and France.

The ceremony brought together representatives of the French Embassy, Campus France Brasil, the France Alumni network, and CAPES under the theme "Talents scientifiques au service de l'environnement" ("Scientific Talent Serving the Environment"). Between 2023 and 2024, Adriana undertook an academic mobility period at Université Paris 8 through the Guatá Program, a joint initiative of CAPES and the French Embassy in Brazil that supports international academic mobility for Brazilian Indigenous doctoral students at French universities. She thanked UFMG's Office of International Affairs (DRI) for its support throughout the process, noting that she first learned about the Guatá Program call through DRI and also participated in the University's intensive French-language course, which played a decisive role in preparing her for this academic mobility. Adriana further emphasized that Indigenous researchers' participation strengthens internationalization by enabling the circulation of different epistemologies, experiences, and ways

of understanding and producing knowledge, reaffirming the public university's role in promoting diversity and dialogue among different forms of knowledge.

Milhagem UFMG Builds Latin America's Most Efficient Electric Prototype for Second Consecutive Year



Milhagem UFMG, a student team from the School of Engineering, once again secured first place in two categories at Shell Eco-marathon Brazil, one of the world's leading energy-efficiency competitions. The event challenges teams to develop vehicles that can travel the farthest possible distance using the least energy. Competitors included teams from Mexico, Colombia, and Peru, as well as students from universities across Brazil.

At the ninth edition of the competition, held in Rio de Janeiro from August 24 to 27, Milhagem's vehicles achieved 401.4 km/kWh in the Battery Electric Prototype category and 65 km/l in the Urban Concept category. After becoming the first Latin American team to top the podium in the electric prototype category at the Shell Eco-marathon in the United States, Milhagem has become the team with the most titles in the Electric Prototype category in Brazil. The team also reclaimed the category's energy-efficiency record with 401.4 km/kWh, surpassing the 381 km/kWh mark set by team E3 in 2024. Milhagem now holds national Electric Prototype titles from 2018, 2022, 2023, 2025, and 2026. In the Internal Combustion Urban Concept category, it is also the only two-time champion and has held the record for two consecutive years. Milhagem UFMG brings together 30 students from programs including Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, and Control and Automation Engineering. The group aims to design and develop highly energy-efficient prototypes.

BH-TEC Resident Company Named Latin America's Deep Tech of the Year



FabNS, a scientific instrumentation company that originated in UFMG's Nano-Spectroscopy Laboratory and is now based at BH-TEC, has been named the 2026 Deep Tech of the Year after outperforming more than 400 competing startups from across Latin America.

The company first won the Industry, Technology and Infrastructure category and advanced to a final round among the seven sector winners. Following another presentation to the judging panel, FabNS secured first place overall and received a R$30,000 prize.

FabNS's trajectory began with scientific research conducted at UFMG and evolved into the development of instrumentation equipment and solutions. As a resident company at BH-TEC, it operates in an environment that facilitates interaction with other technology-based businesses, research centers, and potential partners. This pathway reflects the core concept of deep tech: companies built on advanced scientific knowledge, often involving longer development cycles and technologies designed to address complex challenges in industry and society.

The award considered criteria including scientific foundations, technological differentiation, maturity, impact potential, and the capacity to transform research into market-ready solutions. The Deep Tech Summit Startup Fair connects science-based companies with investors, corporations, and strategic partners. Eligible companies were formally registered in Latin American countries and active in areas including health, energy, agribusiness, new materials, advanced industry, mining, and technology.

"This recognition belongs to our entire team. Reaching this point demonstrates the strength of a company born from science and committed to transforming knowledge into technology," said Taiguara Tupinambás, CCO of FabNS.

UFMG Remains Brazil's Top Federal University in Shanghai Ranking



UFMG remains one of Brazil's highest-ranked federal higher education institutions, alongside the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS). The three universities share fourth place overall among Brazilian institutions in the 2026 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), widely known as the Shanghai Ranking. Published since 2003, ARWU is the oldest global university ranking. UFMG remains in the 501–600 band, the same position it held last year. The ranking assesses more than 2,500 universities worldwide each year and publishes results for the top 1,000. Over the past decade, UFMG has consistently ranked among Brazil's top five higher education institutions overall. The 2026 edition, managed by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, included 14 Brazilian institutions. UFMG also performed strongly in two other recently released international rankings: the U.S. News & World Report 2026–2027 ranking and the NTU World University Rankings 2026. In both, the University entered the world's top 500.

In the U.S. News & World Report ranking, which evaluates institutions in the United States and more than 100 other countries, UFMG rose to 494th place from 550th last year. This is the University's best result in the ranking since the number of institutions evaluated increased from 2,000 to 2,250 after the 2022–2023 cycle. UFMG ranks fifth in Brazil and ninth overall in Latin America.

In the 2026 NTU ranking, UFMG climbed from 512th place in 2025 to 435th, ranking fourth overall in Brazil. Professor Dawisson Belém Lopes, Director of UFMG's Office of Institutional Governance and Data (EGDI), highlighted three subject areas in which the University performed particularly well: Microbiology, ranked 197th worldwide; Immunology, 202nd; and Plant & Animal Science, 222nd. UFMG's rankings website provides results from the major international rankings over the past ten years. According to the University's institutional page, UFMG's strong performance across rankings reflects the consistent work of its community and the institution's continued development and commitment to remaining a leading university dedicated to contributing to societal progress.

Our mailing address is:
ufmggoesglobal@dri.ufmg.br

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Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - Office of International Affairs
Av. Antônio Carlos, 6627, 31270901 Belo Horizonte - Tel.: +553134095550

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