

Rankings of international reach highlight UFRGS



The university was listed amongst the best universities of Latin America in the THE and amongst the best of the world in the QS World

In a new edition of the Times Higher Education (THE), the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul appears in the #11 position amongst the universities from Latin America and the Caribbean. The survey is made by Times Higher Education, a British magazine specialized in higher education. Amongst the Brazilian institutions, UFRGS occupies the seventh position. UFRGS' ratings can be detailed as: 92,1 in research; 83,3 in teaching; 78,6 in citations; 76,6 in industry income; and 33,1 in international outlook.

The THE assessed, in 2019, 150 universities from 12 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean. The performance indicators are the same as those applied in the world ranking of the THE, but with adjustments suited to better reflect the identity of the universities of a given region. Thirteen performance indicators are considered in five areas: teaching (learning environment); research (volume, income and reputation); citations (research impact); international outlook (personnel, students and research); and industry income (knowledge transfer).



Ranking places UFRGS amongst the 700 world's leading universities

The ranking of the best universities of the world, recently published by the QS World University Rankings, places UFRGS amongst the 651 and 700 best institutions. Among the ranked Brazilian universities, UFRGS occupies the 9th position and stands out as the best amongst the ones from the South of Brazil.

UFRGS also appears in the 18th position amongst the best of Latin America. There has been an improvement in the "citations" score, which was 14.7 in the last survey and now has reached 16.0. The score regarding the academic reputation has dropped compared to last year, but it still is the best indicator of UFRGS, placed in the 318th position.

The QS World University Rankings 2020 presents in first place the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), from the United States. The number one in Brazil according to QS is the University of São Paulo (USP). The initial survey includes 1,620 universities throughout the whole world, and 20 of them are Brazilian.

Analyses

UFRGS' President Rui Opperman evaluates UFRGS' ranking position as positive. "We occupy a prestigious position in an important ranking. It is a position that reflects our research structure. This ranking indicates a growth in citations, which means that, despite the budget restrictions that research and technology have been facing in the last couple of years, we have been able to maintain a quality work that is recognized by the international community," he points out.

One of the indicators that has suffered a decrease in the last years is the international outlook. To Opperman, "a lower international outlook score is the result of the end of the program Science without Borders (in Portuguese, Ciência Sem Fronteiras, CsF), which used to play a significant part in our funding capacity to send students and academics abroad. Consequently, our external visibility has also dropped." Recently, UFRGS was selected to take part

in the Institutional Program of Internationalization (CAPES-PRINT); according to President Opperman, this could be an alternative to improve UFRGS' score, even if this program does not reach as far as Science without Borders did.

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