

UFRGS launches Institutional Program of Internationalization

Details on the CAPES-PRINT program were presented to faculty members and coordinators of UFRGS' graduate programs

In April, the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) held a meeting for the launch of the Institutional Program of Internationalization, CAPES-PRINT. Detailed information on the program was formally presented to an audience of faculty members and coordinators of graduate schools. According to the Executive Vice President for Graduate Studies, Celso Loureiro Chaves, even after the publication of notices, only now the activities will effectively start: "this is a program dedicated to the present, but that is also aimed at the future, using the large experience of an international institution that combines multiple expertise to obtain better results," he states.



CAPES' International Relations director, Concepta Margaret McManus Pimentel, has explained the criteria and the steps that guided CAPES for the selection of the projects. She highlighted that institutional commitment is a key factor for the success of PRINT and that "this project is not only dependent on the initiative of UFRGS' Central Administration but also on the whole university community," she said. For UFRGS' President Rui Vicente Oppermann, the University needs to get closer to society and to reassure its position as a knowledge-producer institution. "In this sense, the project PRINT is key, because it is the opportunity to create networks and partnerships," he said.

After the opening session, Hans-Ulrich Heiss, a professor of the Technical University of Berlin, gave a lecture. He talked about the challenges of internationalization, which, according to him, "depend more on interpersonal relationships than on interinstitutional ones." Heiss highlighted the need to also involve the undergraduate students in this process and the need to preserve the cooperation even with the upcoming of future academic generations. The professor presented the German Excellence Initiative, which is the internationalization initiative promoted by German universities.

UFRGS was one of the 25 institutions selected to take part in PRINT, which allocates R\$300 million yearly to internationalization projects, for a period of four years. The proposal submitted by UFRGS was designed by the Divisions of Graduate Studies and Research and by the Offices of International Affairs and Technological Development, with the participation of the graduate programs that were summoned to be a part of the project. Eight aggregating lines were defined: Sustainable Development; STEAM Integration (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math); the Future of Work and New Technologies; Health Sciences; Future Energy; Smart Cities; Food Chains; and Human Resources Formation.

In sum, 109 Brazilian institutions applied to the program. PRINT's main goal is to promote internationalization projects, to stimulate international research networks, to promote researchers' mobility and to transform the participant institutions into international environments.

The Secretary of Science, Technology and Innovation of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Luís da Cunha Lamb, and the Technic-Scientific Director of FAPERGS, Gervásio Annes Degrazia, also attended the launch of the program, held at UFRGS' Cultural Center.

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