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UFRGS signs pioneer contract with foreign visiting professors



Kathryn Dominique Lum and Tommy Kenneth Mikael Persson were the first to sign the contract. Overall, nine professors were selected

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The president of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul), Rui Vicente Oppermann, signed, last December, 2019, the contracts of the foreign visiting professors Kathryn Dominique Lum and Tommy Kenneth Mikael Persson. The act took place at the Executive Conference Center and had the presence of the coordinators of the postgraduation programs of Pedagogy (PPGEDU) and Water and Environmental Management (PPGRHSA), besides university committee members.

The selection of the professors happened through a call for applications in accordance to an official notice released in 2018. The aim of this action is having the hired professionals to work in supporting the development and qualitative improvement of the postgraduation programs, assisting the academic units in strategic development planning. Besides, the new professors will contribute to the enhancement of teaching, researching, community outreach and innovation activities, also collaborating in teaching training programs and aiding the exchange with foreign institutions.

"This work was developed from an ideal of this University, which aims at the progressive internationalization. I am thankful to everybody for the initiative of searching for academics willing to stay with us and work in strategic areas for the University and for Brazil," said UFRGS' President. Jane Fraga Tutikian, the UFRGS' Vice President, welcomed the professors and restated the significance of planning the university through actions of internationalization.

Professor Kathryn came from England and will be working in the teaching and researching areas, continuing on the topic of access, permanence and culture of students who enter the university through affirmative actions. "I am feeling accepted by the University and the city. We will be making progress in the studies about selective admissions, considering that I also conducted comparative researches in England and India."

Tommy is from Sweden and works with water management, being able to contribute to projects and activities dealing with sanitation. "Water is a social and economic concern, given that we rely on it for everything we need. We must make the access to water easier, starting with engagement and reaching responsible and efficient use of this resource."

The Public Notice No. 16/2018 is a pioneer initiative at UFRGS and it is the first one to grant 10 vacancies for foreign visiting professors. Nine professionals were hired in 2019, and it is expected for all the contracts to be signed by 2020. The selection of visiting professors reinforces the process of internationalization of the University, which is a constituent part of the Institutional Development Program. The effects of the selection conducted under the Public Notice No. 16/2018 will be valid for two years.

Translated into English by Gabriel da Fonseca Mayer, under the supervision and translation revision of Elizamari R. Becker (P.h.D.) – IL/UFRGS.

