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INTERNATIONALIZATION



UFPel is strategically thinking its internationalization

By International Office of UFPel

The Federal University of Pelotas (Universidade Federal de Pelotas -UFPel) is located in the southern border of Brazil. The institution provides world-class higher education at bachelor, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral degrees. It also encourages the creation of new knowledge, ideas and technologies, drives innovation, and is concerned with the regional development. While nationally and internationally acknowledged for its leadership role in higher education and research, UFPel has yet to fully leverage the benefit of the opportunities of internationalization for enhancing the academic experience of its students both here and abroad, adding to their competencies within and beyond the normal curricula as well as opening a world of opportunities to the region, the institution, its faculty members and staff.

Strategic Plan

To this end, UFPel's approach to internationalization is aligned with its International Strategic Plan, which covers policies for teaching and learning, research strategies, public engagement and its special obligation to the people of Pelotas and region. In this spirit, the community of UFPel

has worked for 12 months to build up and to largely discuss with the main stakeholders its first Strategic Internationalization Plan (SIP). After several round of debates, UFPel's SIP 2018-2022 proposes seven goals to strengthen its internationalization efforts and sets the stage for a wide range of ambitious international and intercultural initiatives. These Goals are followed by specific objectives, and for each one of them several strategies and key performance indicators were aligned to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the SIP. The goals and objectives within the SIP were designed to be synergistic and mutually supportive, in order to achieve outcomes that will have a transformative impact on the quality of UFPel's activities. Last but not least, such goals and objectives are also expected to enhance the future and reputation of the institution, promoting more opportunities for the future of the people of Pelotas and region. The time has come for UFPel to act in order to reach its strategic objectives, achieve its vision, and to increase its impact on the future of the people from Pelotas and region. Internationalization is one of the tools on which the university is relying to improve its academic skills and its impact for the future.

Expanding, Dialoguing and integrating

By Prof. Francisca Michelon

University extension in Brazil is guided by principles that define its educational function and its goal of transforming the society. It is the dimension that reinforces the social function of knowledge and projects the university as an institution that is committed with the struggles of a diverse society, facing conflicts caused by serious and chronic issues of a huge country. It is also the dimension that educates



the students in a context of innovative experiments, interdisciplinary knowledge that associates research and teaching in concrete experiences lived inside the realities of the communities involved. The Vice Presidency for Extension and Culture (PREC) is the structure inside UFPel responsible for incentivizing and motivating interchange actions and the qualification of human resources in a process of dialogue and interaction with the society. To reach its aims, it is governed by councils that gather extension agents who make the decisions regarding this dimension. Their broader decisions include: The Extension Council, The Extension Social Forum and the Museum Network. These councils propose new programs and strategic projects mainly intended to the external community. One of them, which combines all the extension guidelines, is the Social Development Strategic

Program for the Southern Municipalities. It articulates projects from all areas of extension with teaching and research. The selection of municipalities takes into consideration schooling, health and employment indicators. Thus, the program fosters joint action aiming the community well-being, resulting in actions about planning for the municipalities in the region and, at the same time, incentivizing technical and scientific qualification of UFPel undergraduate students to meet the needs of these municipalities. In addition, the incentive given to the cultural production is based on the development of an editorial line in extension, with the Journal *Expressa Extensão* (Extension Express) and the Collection *Extensão e Sociedade* (Extension and Society), which promote artistic and cultural activities and the development of a policy for the museums linked to the institution.

Knowledge, Exchange & Innovation

By The Vice Presidency for Graduate Studies, Research and Innovation

We are currently facing a world full of social, industrial and environmental challenges. In this context, universities not only play an important role in developing research that can address fundamental questions, but they should also be prepared to deliver results with economic and social impact through transnational research and innovation. Through actions of the Vice Presidency for Research, Graduate Studies and Innovation (PRPPGI), UFPel is committed to achieving research quality and impact at world-leading level in several areas of expertise by supporting multidisciplinary and inter-disciplinary research across graduate programs and research projects. Along the years, UFPel researchers have established several partnerships with research groups and companies around the world, working on projects involved with new technologies. Recently, the university has commercialized a technology that was developed in our Biotechnology Graduate Program. The results of the research “Industrial Production of Clostridium spp Toxins in Escherichia Coli for application in Veterinary Vaccines” were transferred to a company based in São Paulo, which will produce vaccines to be used against diseases such as botulism and enterotoxemia. This is just one example among several patents that are registered either in the National Institute for Industrial Property (INPI) or in the International Patent Systems (PCT). UFPel wants to extend the reach, scale and reputation of its research by establishing deep international partnerships.



ABOUT STUDENTS

The Vice Presidency for Undergraduate Studies and the role of a public university of quality for all

By Maria de Fatima Cossio

The Vice Presidency for Undergraduate Studies (PRE) has been working with its four offices: Teaching and Curriculum, Academic Records, University Pedagogy, and Distance Education Programs in the perspective of reaffirming the foundation of a public university for all with high quality education as one of its guiding principles. Thus, we reiterate the educational role of the institution in its different manifestations and spaces; we value university teaching and, in this sense, we propose discussions that allow the construction/reconstruction of diverse teaching identities aligned with different areas of knowledge; we guide the formulation and updating of the Pedagogical Projects of the Undergraduate Programs, seeking to make the curriculum less rigid and open to; we accompany and support the undergraduate programs coordinators through periodic meetings and guiding materials, expanding the democratic spaces by creating representative commissions and forums to assist in the formulation of policies for undergraduate studies; we follow the academic life of



students from the moment they join the university to when they graduate, seeking alternatives, along with the program coordinators and through the "Stay-in and Academic Quality Program" in order to increase academic achievement rates. Additionally, we encourage student participation in teaching/learning projects by offering studentships (monitoring, teaching and strategic programs) or by the programs on Tutorial Education (PET) and Introduction to Teaching (PIBID). We stimulate the qualification and expansion of distance learning via the creation of on-site programs whose timetable of courses can offer up to 20% of their credit hours online. Finally, PRE values the debate, the differences and the sense of belonging in search of an inclusive university project.

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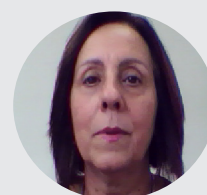
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