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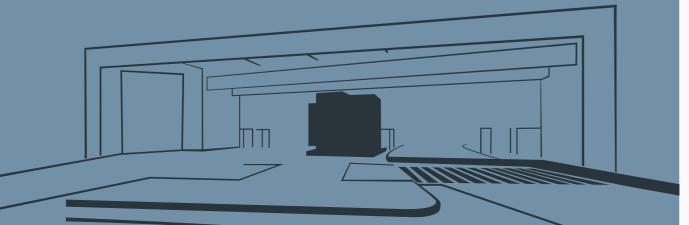
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### A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

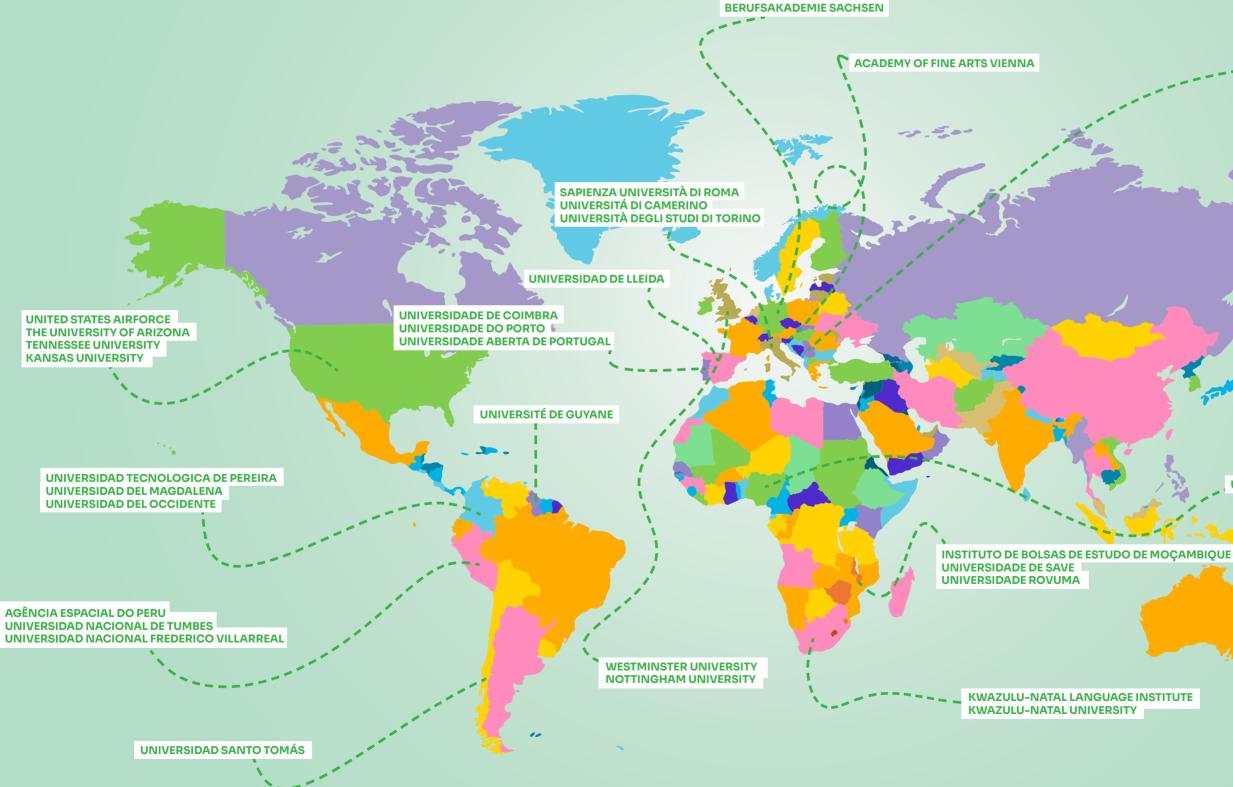
't is with great enthusiasm that we present the fifth edition of UEMA News, the annual magazine of the Superintendency of International Relations at the Maranhão State University (UEMA). This edition reflects our ongoing commitment expanding academic frontiers and strengthening international cooperation. to In 2024, we took significant steps to enhance UEMA's internationalization. From new foreign partnerships to mobility programs, our efforts aim to establish UEMA as a global reference. The signing of cooperation agreements, participation in global academic networks, and welcoming international students and researchers demonstrate our strong belief in the transformative power of international engagement. A testament to this is our institution's improvement in international rankings published throughout the year. As we move forward, we encourage our academic community to take advantage of the available opportunities—whether through mobility programs, collaborative research, or linguistic initiatives. Internationalization is not just about crossing borders; it is about broadening horizons, fostering dialogue, and contributing to a more interconnected world. We invite everyone to explore this edition and join us on this boundless academic journey.





Gilas Nogueira de Melo

# **MAP OF COOPERATION AGREEMENTS**



**UNIVERZITET U BEOGRADU** 

**UNIVERSITY DE ILORIN** 

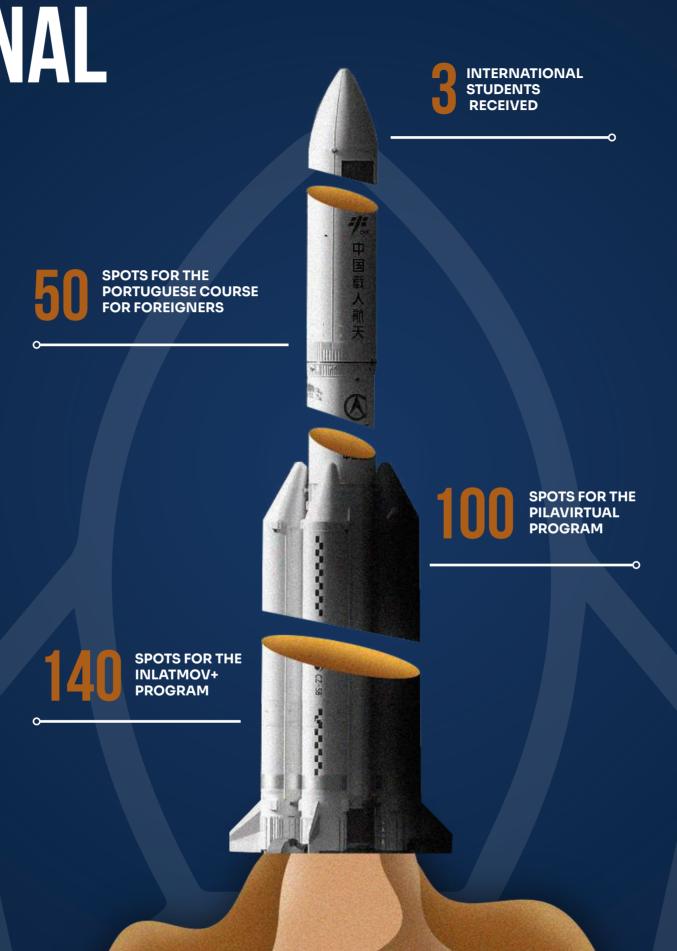
# INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

In 2024, our focus was to diversify academic opportunities at UEMA.

n 2024, UEMA's International Mobility program made significant progress, establishing itself as an opportunity for students and researchers to expand their academic and cultural experiences.

We welcomed three international students to UEMA. Two of them arrived through the GCUB International Mobility Program, promoted by the Brazilian Universities International Cooperation Group. Antónia Maria, from Angola, joined the Master's program in Education, while António Pedro Fernandes, also from Angola, began his PhD in History. The third student, Francisco Kibonda, also from Angola, was admitted through the Federal Government's Student-Agreement Program (PEC-G) to pursue a degree in Architecture and Urbanism.

In partnership with PROEXAE and faculty from the Department of Languages, we offered 50 spots across two classes for the Portuguese and Brazilian Culture Course for Foreigners. The course aims to encourage foreign students to join UEMA and integrate into the Brazilian socio-cultural context by promoting Portuguese language learning and a deeper understanding of national traditions.



In the virtual mobility modality, we made 140 spots available for the Latin American Initiative for the Internationalization of Higher Education (INLATmov+) and 100 spots for the Latin American Academic Exchange Program. Both programs allow students to take courses remotely at Latin American universities.

As part of our efforts, we joined new programs such as Move La America, which aims to complement the internationalization efforts of Brazilian Higher Education Institutions by attracting students from Latin American and Caribbean universities. We also joined GCUB Palestine for Refugees, an initiative designed to provide higher education opportunities for Palestinian students, contributing to educational inclusion and human development.

For 2025, our goal is to continue expanding mobility opportunities for our academic community. We plan to restructure our remote mobility program to make it more transparent and accessible, ensuring that our students can fully benefit from it. We will continue investing in UEMA's internationalization, reaffirming our commitment to academic excellence and the global development of our students.

# UEMA IN COLOMBIA

Rector and Superintendent Strengthened International Partnerships on ABRUEM Mission

The Maranhão State University (UEMA) participated, from December 14 to 19, in the International Mission of the Brazilian Association of Rectors of State and Municipal Universities (ABRUEM). Held in Colombia, the participating delegation was composed of 25 members. UEMA was represented by the Rector, Prof. Dr. Walter Canales Sant'Ana, and the Superintendent of International Relations, Prof. Dr. Silas Nogueira de Melo. The visited citieswereBogotá,Cartagena,andBarranquilla.

In Bogotá, the program included a meeting at Ascun (Association of Colombian Universities), where new avenues of cooperation between higher education institutions in both countries were explored. The second meeting of the day was held at the Brazilian Embassy in Bogotá, at the Brazil-Colombia Cultural Institute (Ibraco).

The institution visited in the city was the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNAL), where the delegation was received by the rector Leopoldo Munera Ruiz, who was honored with a medal from ABRUEM. The delegation also participated in the meeting of the Project Diagnosis of SDGs at Latin American HEIs.



While in Bogotá, the Rector and the Superintendent held a meeting with Alejandro Ramirez Hernandez from Universidad LaSalle Colombia, with which UEMA has an active agreement. Professor Walter also welcomed Isabel Cristina Restrepo Carvajal, who will undertake a sandwich PhD at UEMA through the Move La América Program. Also present was Prof. Dr. Swanni T. Alvarado, who works as a supervisor and co-supervisor in UEMA's PPGEO (Postgraduate Program in Geography) and PPGCIAG (Postgraduate Program in Agricultural Sciences).

In the cities of Cartagena and Barranquilla, the delegation visited two institutions: Universidad de Cartagena and Universidad del Atlántico, where they were able to see the facilities in person and learn





a bit about each institution's history. The Rector and the Superintendent also held discussions with professors from these institutions regarding potential partnerships. UEMA's participation in the mission

is part of an ongoing effort to increase the university's internationalization through strategic partnerships with higher education institutions from other countries, with a primary focus on the Global South.

# EDUCATION USA AND APPLICATION CLUB

The project gained expansion in 2024

The English Club was created through a partnership between the Universidade Estadual do Maranhão(UEMA) and EducationUSA, a global network of U.S. Department of State's EducationUSA Centers. The project was designed to combine the interests of the institutions, offering a space focused on practicing English conversation and guiding students through the application processes for foreign universities.

In the first edition (2024.1), we invited Ms. Kathleen M. Joyce, Assistant Dean for Student Recruitment at the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Syracuse University in New York, USA, to lead a special class. With her experience and knowledge, Kathleen Joyce discussed the application process for U.S. universities, answered students' questions, and facilitated a relaxed conversation in English.

Her presence motivated the students, reinforcing the project's commitment to connecting participants with academic opportunities in the United States. The meeting was held remotely via Google Meet and included a dynamic in which each participant chose a symbolic item for their "exchange suitcase" and explained its significance in their academic journey. In the second edition (2024.2), itbecame clear that the project needed to expand its reach to include students from the interior campuses and extend the duration of the meetings. Feedback indicated a growing interest among participants in international academic opportunities

OF AMERICA

memories

and practical activities. As a result, the Application Club was created, a program designed to prepare students for applications to academic opportunities abroad. The project covers topics such as where to find these opportunities and what are the main requirements for the selection processes, including creating resumes, personal statements, and recommendation letters. To



ensure participation from students at different campuses, the program was structured in a hybrid format. One of the Application Club's meetings featured a special guest, Professor Leonardo Ruivo from UEMA's Department of Letters and Pedagogy, who shared his experience after being accepted for the Fulbright Junior Faculty Member Award. He explained his application process for research activities at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, USA. During his talk, he covered all stages of the process, from registration to the required documentation, clearing up students' doubts and demonstrating the possibilities of accessing international programs.

#### Texto: Andreza Sousa





# WORKSHOPS WITH IFMA

Series of meetings aimed at encouraging interaction in foreign languages

uring June and July 2024, the Federal Institute of Maranhão (IFMA) and the Maranhão State University (UEMA) held four workshops focused on the use of foreign languages. The events were organized by the International Relations Directorate (DIRI-IFMA), UEMA's Language Center (NUCLIN), and the Superintendency of International Relations (SRI-UEMA). The goal was to provide participants with the opportunity to interact with experienced instructors, engage in practical activities, and participate in group dynamics. Each meeting was designed to address different aspects of language learning, from methodologies to conversation and listening comprehension.

The first meeting took place on June 19 at the auditorium of the Caixeiral Center, UEMA's building for International Relations and Law. Titled "South-South Cooperation and Spanish Language Teaching-Learning in Focus," the event featured lectures by Eduardo Trucco, Director of SET Idiomas, and Silvina Morales, Coordinator of SET Idiomas. During the lecture "Exploring Audiovisual Resources in Foreign Language Teaching: Why, What for, and How?", Eduardo Trucco discussed technological tools and how to integrate audiovisual resources into education. Another lecture focused

on the "know-how" in Spanish, discussing the teaching of Spanish to Portuguese speakers and the importance of developing communicative and intercultural skills.

On June 28, the second meeting took place, focused on English. The workshop "Linguistic Immersion in English Language Classes: A Communicative Approach" was led by Professor Fredrik Myhren Heby from the University of Oslo (Norway) at the smart methodologies room of the Center for Education, Exact and Natural Sciences (CECEN). The event discussed practices and challenges in English teaching, highlighting activities based on real communication

On July 5, the cycle continued with



Finally, on July 12, the workshop series concluded with a special session titled "For an Antiracist Education in Language Teaching-Learning: Highlighting the History of Africa-Brazil Relations." Led by Cameroonian researcher Sylvain Mbohou, the session provided a deep and critical analysis of the intersection between racism, education, and language teaching. The last two meetings were held at the Innovation Factory, IFMA Campus Monte Castelo.



In April, we hosted a delegation of European Union ambassadors in Brazil. On this occasion, UEMA and other higher education institutions from Maranhão had the opportunity to present their teaching ecosystems and discuss the possibility of establishing partnerships.



In May, we welcomed the visit of the Consul General of China in Brazil, Mrs. Lan Heping, who came to personally visit UEMA and discuss ways to strengthen the ties between Maranhão and China.





In May, Professor Camila Nobre, with funding from the British Council, held a workshop on Mycorrhizal Fungi, with the participation of 12 researchers from the United Kingdom.

## VISITORS FROM ABROAD WE RECEIVED IN 2024



In November, we hosted a delegation of professors from the School of Life Sciences at Hubei University, China. The objective was to discuss the potential development of joint scientific research projects between the institutions.



In September, we welcomed Professor Kyle Gustafson, a researcher from the United States Navy, to explore funding opportunities for academic research developed by the university. The visit included meetings and inspections of UEMA's laboratories.

In May, we also welcomed Mrs. Carla Caomba and Mrs. Rachida Mamade from the Mozambique Institute. Scholarship who came to Maranhão to sign a cooperation agreement with **UEMA.** This agreement will allow us to welcome new students from Mozambique into our Postgraduate courses in 2025. The signing took place at the Rector's office and marks UEMA's ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with **Global South countries.** 



In July, we hosted two researchers from the University College of Estate Management (UCEM) for a workshop on Gender Equality, titled Equal UK-BR. The project, funded by the British Council, is part of a long-standing partnership between Professors Fernando Bezerra (UEMA) and Muhammad Qasim Rana (UCEM).

# MOZAMBIQUE Agreement

Partnership with the Scholarship Institute to Bring Professors from the Country to Pursue Postgraduate Studies at UEMA

n April 16, 2024, the Maranhão State University (UEMA) signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Mozambique Scholarship Institute, a public institution (IBE, IP), at the Rector's office, aiming to promote scientific and academic cooperation between the Mozambican and Brazilian peoples, granting access to quality higher education for students recommended by the Institute in the context of UEMA's postgraduate programs.

The agreement, which offers 33 spots for Mozambican professors, focuses on supporting careers in higher education institutions that facilitate scientific and

technological research, organizing a system to attract students and researchers from Mozambique to pursue master's, doctoral, and post-doctoral degrees at UEMA.

As explained by Rector Walter Canales, UEMA has made significant progress in the last ten years regarding internationalization, starting with the creation of the International Relations Advisory, followed by the Superintendency of International Relations. "Today we are signing what I consider to be the largest internationalization agreement ever signed by UEMA, with the possibility of hosting up to 33 professors from Mozambican universities to pursue our Stricto Sensu postgraduate programs in various fields," said the rector.

According to Vice-Rector Paulo Catunda, this represents an extraordinary milestone for the internationalization of UEMA, emphasizing that this process is not something that happens overnight. He recalls that this progress began during Rector Gustavo Costa's administration and asserts that it is essential for the institution today, given the technological advancements. "The main goal is to globalize the institution's actions, looking





ahead to increasing the rankings of our postgraduate programs, which must pursue internationalization. This is a seed that has been planted, and we are now cultivating it to reap the rewards in the future," declared Catunda.

Professor Carla Maria Elias Caomba, General Director of IBE-IP, expressed her gratitude to UEMA for opening its doors to receive faculty from Mozambican public universities, who will join the institution's postgraduate programs starting in 2025. "For us, this is a landmark because we share the same history, the same culture. Maranhão is a reference in science and internationalization, especially in agricultural engineering research. This is the direction in which the Government of Mozambique, through the Scholarship Institute, intends to act to qualify professors from public universities," said Carla.

Professor Marcelo Cheche, Pro-Rector for Research and Postgraduate Studies, stated that the agreement with the Government of Mozambique, where UEMA commits to welcoming professors from the country for master's and doctoral programs, is a significant step for the internationalization of the university's postgraduate programs. For UEMA's Superintendant of International Relations, Professor Silas Nogueira de Melo, it is essential to consider new partners, particularly those from the Global South, countries that share many commonalities with Maranhão and are now receiving special attention, which naturally expands UEMA's internationalization. "With this agreement, we will receive up to 33 Mozambican professors for our postgraduate courses, but if all goes well, it may even be extended to undergraduate programs, who knows," believes Silas.

> Text: Alcindo Barros Photos: Rafael Carvalho



International Relations (IR) is a relatively recent field of study, with its first institutional record dating back to the 20th century, with the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Chair at Aberystwyth University in Wales. In Brazil, the first IR course was created in 1974 at the University of Brasília, during the civil-military dictatorship, under a developmentalist ideology.Thecreationofthecoursewasclosely tied to national and international dynamics, aligned with the country's national project.

Since then, the field has expanded, with the opening of new programs across Brazil and a growth in academic research, particularly from the 1990s onward, which Lessa (2005) refers to as the "densification of Brazilian thinking in International Relations." Despite this growth, it remained largely concentrated in the Southeast, South, and Central-West regions, areas where most of the country's IR courses are located. According to Taís Sandrim (2012), this reflects the distribution of wealth and the hierarchical political and economic structure across Brazilian states. In this context, the creation of the IR course

at the State University of Maranhão (UEMA) in the second half of 2020 marks a significant milestone, as it is the first and only IR course in Maranhão and the fourth in a public university in

the Northeast region. This course stands out for According to Professor Shiguenoli Myamoto (1999, 2003), the main weaknesses include a lack offering FAPEMA research scholarships, hosting of specialized faculty and libraries, as well as the the Contemporary World Observatory research group, having various academic leagues, and multidisciplinary nature of the curriculum, which establishing its own Junior Enterprise, called does not always lead to a clear professional profile. Jangada. UEMA IR students have also made their mark at events such as the National Meeting of In conclusion, the IR course at UEMA, International Relations Students (ENERI) and despite its challenges, represents a significant step the 7th Seminar of Graduate and Post-Graduate toward the institutionalization of the discipline in Studies in International Relations, organized by the the State of Maranhão and in the country, fostering Brazilian Association of International Relations, academic production and training professionals where the "Juca nas Escolas" project won second with a broad global perspective, attuned to both place in the National Scientific Initiation Contest. national and international dynamics.

However, the IR course faces challenges due to its recent establishment in Brazil.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** - Karina is a student of International Relations at the State University of Maranhão. She was part of the Academic League of Strategy and Defense and the editorial team of the Observatory of the Contemporary World. She also did voluntary internships at the Superintendency of International Relations.

### "In Brazil, the first International Relations course was created in 1974, a little over 50 years ago."

# LANGUAGE POLICY

**Regulation Encourages Linguistic Di**versity at the University

he State University of Maranhão (UEMA) established its Language Policy on September 18, 2024, through Resolution No. 1817/2024-CEPE/UEMA, approved during a meeting of the University Council (CONSUN). The document was signed by the rector, Prof. Dr. Walter Canales Sant'Ana, and aims to regulate the use and teaching of various languages at the university.

The Language Policy (PLI) is a set of guidelines and actions that guide the use, teaching, and appreciation of languages within an institution. At UEMA, this policy covers both foreign languages such as English and Spanish, as well as indigenous languages, languages of traditional communities, and Brazilian Sign Language (LIBRAS).

The document was drafted during the Language Policy Seminar, an online event promoted by the Superintendency of International Relations, which took place in February 2024 and included the participation of professors from the capital, the countryside, and invited guests from various sectors of UEMA (such as NAU and PROETNOS).

The aim of the seminar was to collaboratively build the text, through a working group, considering the opinions and perceptions of all participants.



Courses, events, and translations to strengthen linguistic diversity in research, teaching, and institutional communication.

> Creation of a commission to implement and monitor the language policy, ensuring its effectiveness.

The implementation of the PLI will be led by a temporary commission appointed by the rector, composed of representatives from various sectors of UEMA. This commission will be responsible for establishing partnerships, validating proficiency test results, and coordinating the language courses offered by the institution.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF REMOTE MOBILITY

Virtual Courses as a More Accessible Exchange Option

Virtual international mobility is an emerging form of academic interaction that doesn't involve physical relocation but still provides intercultural experience (Hans De Wit, 2008). Virtual mobility is an accessible alternative, especially when it comes to financial costs, offering a more inclusive, flexible, and democratic way of internationalizing education. Despite its opportunities, it is not without challenges. Here are some:

### CHALLENGE

Dependence on Acceptance by the Foreign Institution. The foreign higher education institution may refuse enrollment based on factors such as: the number of available spots, analysis of the academic record, letter of intent, and proficiency in the required language.

### OPPORTUNITY

Undertaking International Mobility at No Cost, with a Good University and Flexible Hours. Receiving certification from a highly-rated foreign university without having to travel for a semester and cover international expenses.

### CHALLENGE

Taking Courses or Classes in Another Language. It may seem like a challenge, but it's an opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and use this moment to gain experience. Later, you'll be more confident in attempting in-person mobility.

### OPPORTUNITY

Enhance your resume and network with foreign students and researchers studying similar topics. Connecting with people in the same field can open doors for work and study opportunities abroad.

#### OPPORTUNITY

Engaging with Different Cultures and Languages. Being in this constant dynamic during virtual classes helps with language practice and even the acquisition of a new language. For shy individuals, using ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) can be a facilitating tool to feel more secure when conversing in a nonnative language.

### CHALLENGE

Applying for remote mobility calls and being selected. The mobility calls from SRI/Uema are brief, with easyto-understand language, and are published every semester. They offer several spots, and the application is done through a Google Form with simple document requirements.



Text: Stefanie Monteiro





# **X INTERNATIONAL COFFEE**

Tenth Edition of the Event Celebrated the History of Internationalization at UEMA

The X International Coffee took place on November 28th at the auditorium of CECEN -Center of Education, Exact Sciences, and Natural Sciences at the State University of Maranhão (UEMA). The event was organized by the Superintendency of International Relations with the aim of celebrating the internationalization of the university.

The opening session started at 2:30 PM with the participation of Prof. Dr. Paulo Henrique Catunda, Vice-Rector of UEMA; Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo de Castro, Deputy Pro-Rector of Undergraduate Studies (PROG); Prof. Me. Mary Joice, Director of the Language Program; Prof. Dr. Regina Célia de Castro Pereira, Head of CECEN; and Fabiana Moura, International Affairs Advisor at the State Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation. 3:00 PM, the At lecture "Internationalization at UEMA: Past and Present" was presented by Prof. Dr. Thales Passos de Andrade, Director of the Laboratory for Crustacean Disease Diagnosis and former Superintendant of International Relations, and Prof. Dr. William da Silva Cardoso, Deputy Pro-Rector of Planning and Administration, and one of the pioneers in UEMA's internationalization. The speakers discussed their experiences in managing the university's internationalization, presenting projects developed and results achieved. The session was mediated by the current Superintendant of International

Relations, Prof. Dr. Silas Nogueira de Melo.

At 3:30 PM, the lecture "The Role of Nuclin in UEMA's Internationalization" was given by Prof. Dr. Jeanne Ferreira Sousa da Silva, who presented the workings of UEMA's Language Center (NUCLIN), her role as coordinator, and the importance of learning a secondlanguageduringundergraduatestudies.

At 4:00 PM, the lecture "Research and Internationalization: Experiences in the Academic Field" was led by Prof. Dr. Fábio Alonso Mazzei, Deputy Pro-Rector of Research and Post-Graduation, who shared academic experiences abroad and emphasized the importance of internationalization in curricula, especially for post-graduate studies.

The event included the launch of the Kerr Platform, a space on the Superintendency's website for registering international experiences of students and professors. The project was developed in



partnership with the Data Advisory. The closing featured a raffle of prizes and a coffee break.

On the morning of November 28th, the 5th International Session took place, where UEMA students had the opportunity to present their research in expanded abstract format in English. This year's edition had four presentation rooms and the collaboration of four professor mediators: Prof. Dr. Ricardo Yvan de La Cruz Cueva from the Department of Physics; Prof. Dr. Denise Pereira Maia from the Department of Languages; Prof. Dr. José Ailson from the Department of Languages -Balsas; and Prof. Dr. Ingrid Gomes Braga from the Department of Architecture and Urbanism. The presentations were conducted remotely via Google Meet.

# **FAPEMA** AGREEMENT

Foundation Will Invest Five Million Reais in Internationalization Over Four Years

The State University of Maranhão (Uema) and the Foundation for Support to Research and Technological and Scientific Development of Maranhão (Fapema) signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement to boost the internationalization of the university's Stricto Sensu Postgraduate Programs. The agreement, formalizedduringameetingofthePostgraduate Committee, involves an investment of more than R\$ 5 million over four years.



Uema's rector, Walter Canales, emphasized the importance of the partnership. "The university will gain a lot from this, logically students and professors. This fouryear agreement is essential to propel the internationalization of our postgraduate programs, connecting Maranhão's scientific production with the world," he said.

Fapema's president, Nordman Wall, highlighted the agreement's impact. "There is nothing better for our university to grow



research, and consequently, undergraduate and extension programs will follow. This cooperation will make our state grow, and our university as well," he emphasized.

Meanwhile, the Pro-Rector of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Marcelo Cheche, stressed the unprecedented nature of the initiative. "This is a first-of-its-kind agreement in Uema's history. It has a specific and strategic purpose, initially foreseeing four international movements: sandwich master's and doctoral programs, reception of foreign researchers, and reception of foreign doctoral students. Until now, there hasn't been a regular Fapema call to support such initiatives. We can celebrate this cooperation as the most important one between Uema and Fapema regarding the development postgraduate studies," he noted. of

The agreement foresees academic mobility and international scholarships, creating a flow of knowledge between Uema and research institutions worldwide. For Uema's Superintendant of International Relations, Silas Nogueira, "the PPG has played

a key role in this internationalization process. With this partnership, we have entered the top 10 in internationalization rankings, and the support of our state is crucial. This is just the beginning of many more initiatives."

With significant investment and collaboration between Uema and Fapema, Maranhão's science is making a strategic leap toward global development. The initiative is another important step for the formation of highly qualified researchers and for projecting Maranhão in the international academic arena.

After the signing of the agreement between Uema and Fapema, the meeting of Uema's Postgraduate Committee continued, with the presence of program managers.

> Text: Paula Lima Photos: Rafael Carvalho



### **Virtual Distribution**

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