

## Paraná among the states that produce most science and innovation

The academic production of the members of APIESP is one of the pillars for Paraná being among the Brazilian states that produce the most science and innovation, becoming an important vector to increase the scientific production of the country. The seven State Universities altogether have 75,606 undergraduate students, in 388 courses distributed in all regions, capital and county-side of Paraná; 198 masters and 92 doctorates available and, in the last two years, concluded 5,735 master's dissertations and doctoral thesis, which represents a robust academic production. The impact of this academic production was evidenced in detail in the latest report "Research in Brazil", produced by Clarivate Analytics analyst team for federal Higher Education Improvement Coordination (CAPES). Today, Brazil is the 13th largest producer of research publications (articles), highlighting areas such as environment, psychiatry, psychology and mathematics. Other data that corroborates the importance of the members of APIESP to the higher education in Brazil is the "Investment Map" of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), linked to the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications. The data shows that Paraná has a large participation in the public funding for scientific and technological research in the various areas of knowledge, supporting the granting of scholarships, the publication of scientific articles and the promotion of research groups. According to this map, Paraná has 1744 Scientific Initiation Fellowships (6.04%) and 377 Technological and Industrial Initiation Fellowships, 10.89%

of the total incentives granted throughout the country and 951 Technological Research Productivity Fellowships, which represent 6,09% of the national total. Support for scientific journals represents the dissemination of academic production in high-level specialized journals to the international scientific community. Publications of this kind are only possible when there is an institutionalized group, well evaluated by the funding agencies. Other data available on the map is related to support for research projects that directly benefit 741 researchers, corresponding to 6.6% of the total benefits granted throughout the country. This number reflects the volume of projects of national relevance, duly certified by CNPq, based on their quality and social and economic impact. The resources are for equipping highly complex laboratories, purchasing bibliographic material and for the participation of students and professors in congresses and scientific events. Paraná also appears prominently in the granting of scholarships for the various categories of researchers. The Scientific Initiation scholarships benefit 1,700 undergraduate students, leveraging the training of skilled labor, which can later be used in postgraduate programs. Another highlight is the 951 Research and Technology Productivity scholarships that serve international researchers of excellence. These are professors who generally lead research groups and graduate programs at Parana Universities and who have reached the top of their careers, feeding the scientific research and innovation chain with high productivity, including publications in leading journals around the world.

## Internationalization in network to foster global citizens

Internationalization is the way in which Universities seek to exchange experiences, technologies and innovative ideas. Internationalization is not characterized as a goal in itself, but its institutionalization certainly contributes to the formation of global citizens who are better prepared for the challenges of our times. For a long time, the internationalization process of Brazilian universities was promoted by research among researchers, which spontaneously occurred, encouraged by personal teaching efforts. More recently, the Science without Borders program has marked an increase in the student mobility of Brazilians by universities around the world. Based on the concept of comprehensive internationalization, the APIESP (Association of Public Higher Education Institutions of Paraná) aims to intensify partnerships between State Universities of Parana and universities around the world by a process called "Internationalization in Network". The network of Paraná State Universities is composed of more than

100,000 undergraduate and graduate students; there are 380 undergraduate courses; 83 doctorates, 186 master's degrees, and 304 specializations. We also have 5,120 doctors and masters distributed throughout the State of Paraná, in the unique process of capillarization and internalization of higher education, when compared to other Brazilian states. Why not use this intellectual asset strategically? Thus, APIESP intends to lead a comprehensive network internationalization process, aiming to increase the self-knowledge of the universities that compose the system, to show the world the potential of partnerships with Paraná State Universities.

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## Network strengthens the bonds with the UK



The seven universities members of APIESP were in October 2018, in the United Kingdom participating of an international mission developed from a British Council/ABRUEM/CONFAP/Araucária Foundation's funded project in network. This was the second part of the "leadership on internationalization" project, whose first phase took part in June 2018, in the city of Foz do Iguaçu. At the second phase, the APIESP network carried out negotiations around

cooperation agreements between Paraná institutions and the United Kingdom and strengthened internationalization efforts with focus on strategic areas for Paraná. The official schedule of the delegation was developed by the International Office from Birmingham City University, through Aboubakr Fathalla, and included workshops, presentations, technical meetings with representatives, authorities and officers from the Brazilian Embassy in London, among others; from the universities of London South Bank University, University of Birmingham, University of South Wales and the Birmingham City University. For the International Officers from Unioeste, Prof. Pery Shikida and Prof. Rafael Mattiello one of the most remarkable moments in the schedule was the meeting with the Unioeste's alumni from the undergraduate course of Dentistry, Rafaela Fernandes Zancan, who currently studies at the University of Birmingham. According to Mattiello: "the possibilities of strategic partnerships in network with the United Kingdom are an innovation in the internationalization actions of the Brazilian higher education institutions, having an extraordinary receptivity. In addition, having the opportunity to come across a former student from our university during the mission is formidable, once it strongly reverberates and reflects to our partners the quality of teaching, research, outreach and innovation practiced by Unioeste".

## Research shows evidence of the regional impact of the State Universities of Paraná

A research done by the State Universities of Paraná indicates that all the money invested in the whole superior education system, here represented by the members of APIESP returns multiplied by four to the local economy. Based in this research, the current USD 625 millions provided by the state government budget to the whole APIESP in 2019 returned to society USD 2.5 billions. In a short-term analysis, the research identified the immediate impact in the productive structure of Paraná. The support given to the members of APIESP induces the production, employment and income providing economic growth. Material purchase, hired services locally, and the salary of the collaborators of the institutions mean the injection of money in the market. When compared to other economy sections, the public superior education turns up to be a key of the economy, by multiplying production and assisting in the creation of workplaces. The city which has a State University promotes a spill-over effects to the municipalities around it. For example, the numbers in the public health area of the state would not be the same without the presence of the public hospitals of Paraná: the Western Paraná State University's Hospital serves annually about 70,000 people. It has 243 beds and it is a reference for 119 municipalities and the largest provider of the federal health system in Western and Southwestern Paraná, covering a population of about two million people; the State University of Maringá's Hospital serves around 60,000 people annually, covering patients from 115 municipalities of Paraná. Considering services provided in 2018, the State Universities' Hospitals have performed 310,000 medical procedures altogether. Other actions driven by Unioeste regarding public health is the Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Center that provides around 200 procedures daily to the community with highly specialized services for free. The universities also provide

outreach services to the whole community which is inserted. In short, all money invested in the public universities by the state government becomes a huge profit for society as a whole.



The WESTERN PARANÁ HERALD, established in 2016 as an Outreach Project by Prof. Rafael Mattiello, the current Associate International Officer of Unioeste, is the official publication of the International Office of the institution. This Herald is issued and aims to broadcast the latest news of Unioeste to the international community.

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