

An aerial photograph of the University of São Paulo (USP) campus, featuring a prominent clock tower with a large clock face and a circular plaza with a low wall inscribed with the motto "O CENTRO ESTÁ EM TODA PARTE". The image is overlaid with a teal color and the USP logo.

USP

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Introduction

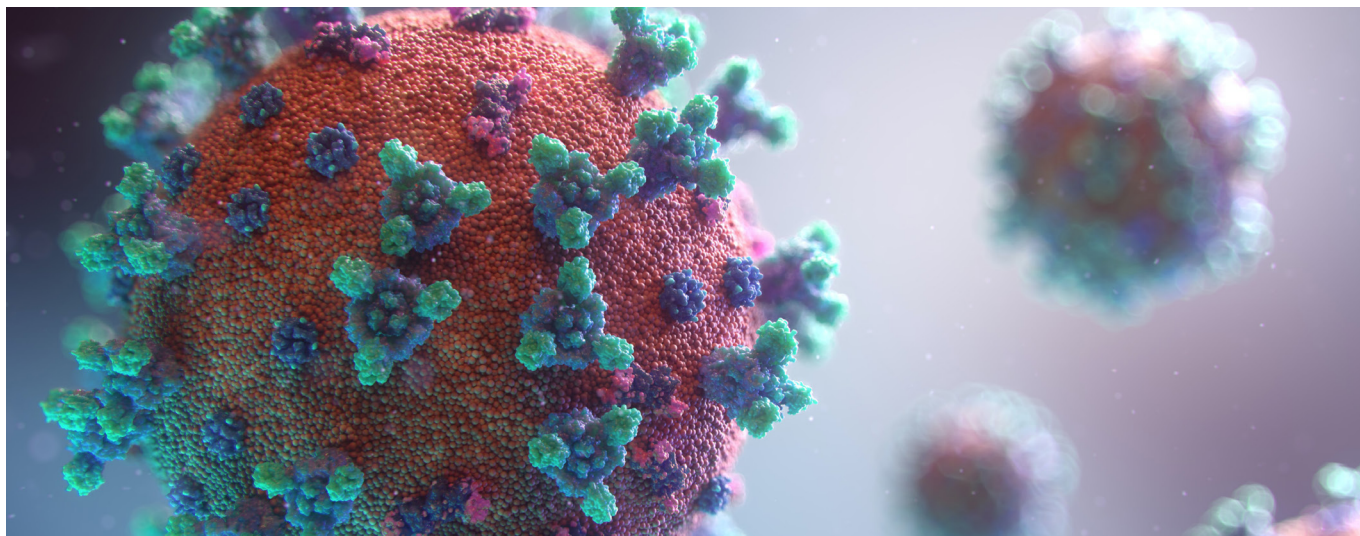
Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present topics from our newsletter in English in this issue of USP International Review. In accordance with USP's internationalization policy, we aim to increase the visibility of the main Brazilian university to all national and international academic partners and to foster international academic cooperation.

This issue features articles on USP's response to the pandemic, on international cooperation within the UGPN network, with Yale University and with students from all over the world through USP's virtual iFriends program. In addition, you will find articles about the remains of the Atlantic Forest on our campuses, the special anniversaries of the English graduate program and the ICMC institute at USP, as well as contents related to Lygia Fagundes Telles, one of Brazil's most important writers, and to the work of the Liaison Office in USP's international relations.

Check it out and enjoy your reading!

USP's COVID-19 response



From one of the fastest genome sequencing results to the creation of a nasal spray vaccine, USP has been a worldwide pioneer in research and discoveries regarding the coronavirus pandemic.

Over one year since the coronavirus outbreak was considered a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), the international community has suffered from an atypically difficult year. More than a million lives have been claimed by the virus, leaving a sentiment of collective grief. However, frontline workers, researchers and scientists have done so much during the pandemic that society has witnessed groundbreaking changes, such as the fast development of various types of efficient vaccines. Among many research institutions, USP has also contributed directly to the academic community and overall society in these troubling times.

According to data gathered by the vice-president research office at USP, which can be accessed in Portuguese [here](#), the university is responsible for more than 250 research projects on COVID-19. Among these, there are sustainable, economical and efficient devices for patients' ventilation assistance, new infection identification methods and health analysis tools based on Big Data.

On February 26th, 2020, Brazil confirmed its first coronavirus infection. Two days later, a group of USP's women scientists was enthusiastically praised for being able to sequence the SARS-COV-2 genome, while the worldwide average was about 15 days. Ester Sabino, former director of USP's Tropical Medicine Institute, and Jaqueline Góes de Jesus, research coordinator, represented their Institute in a joint work with Adolfo Lutz Institute and Oxford

University scientists through the [Cadde project](#), an initiative by both the São Paulo Research Foundation and the UK's Medical Research Center.

Ever since the genome sequencing, Sabino has been a protagonist in tracking the pandemic in Brazil and the world. Her influence has recently been recognized through a new prize established in her honour, called "Prêmio Ester Sabino para Mulheres Cientistas do Estado de São Paulo", which stands for rewarding women scientists from the state of São Paulo for their admirable work. Góes was also present at her virtual ceremony.

In March 2020, the Biomedical Sciences Institute of USP started distributing inactivated viruses for laboratories throughout Brazil in order to enable them to make [PCR COVID-19 tests and carry out new research](#). The project counted with an associated effort from the institute, the national mailing service and the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

As the virus started to spread throughout the entire country, USP united with other 2 institutions, the São Paulo State University (Unesp) and the Federal University of ABC, (UFABC), to gather trustworthy data that could explain the dynamics of COVID-19. Using data from the Brazilian Health Ministry and math tools, the so-called [COVID-19 observatory](#) generated charts analyzing the disease from many angles, such as the efficiency of social isolation and the speed with which the virus spreads.

Still in March, USP also started a project to [distribute low-cost masks to hospital personnel](#). When the pandemic started, Brazil suffered from a shortage of face mask offers, even to health professionals, as a result of its high demand. The project, coordinated by professors from the Physics Institute as well as from the Polytechnic School, produced a million masks while using alternative technology and materials, and served as a source of income for professionals, sewing shops and the supply chain. The masks, which consisted of the N95/PFF2 type that is recommended to health workers, were distributed to hospitals linked to USP.

In April, the School of Architecture and Urbanism (FAU) developed a project that would promote the production of [face shields](#) to complement the use of masks by healthcare workers. As a response to the high demand on the product, the project created a plastic face shield 3D model that could be 3D printed on large scale and which mobilized collaborators from industry representatives to ordinary people.

In May, the Polytechnic School made an agreement with the Clinics Hospital (HC), a teaching hospital of USP, to develop [a new type of cushion to aid patients severely affected by COVID-19](#). These cushions protect those patients by avoiding skin ulcerations and orthopedic injuries, helping them recover from the disease. The demand came from the HC doctors as they requested the Polytechnic's business partnerships. The cushions were donated to the hospital by companies engaged in the project.

The Polytechnic School was also responsible for a national project to produce [low-cost mechanical ventilators](#) that could be produced fast and on a large scale. The equipment is fundamental for chronic cases of respiratory deficiency, which is one of the most dangerous symptoms of the virus. Several units of this equipment have been donated to hospitals throughout 2020 and 2021.

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Another project aimed to use UV-C light to decontaminate surfaces from the SARS-COV-2 virus. The radiation from the light disrupts the protein capsid on the virus and its genetic material, destroying it completely. Created by the Physics Institute of São Carlos (IFSC), the equipment was lent to USP health facilities and a hospital in the city of São Carlos.

USP has also implanted five COVID-19 [testing centers](#) using molecular diagnosis in São Paulo State: two in the capital, one in Ribeirão Preto, one in Pirassununga and one in Bauru. The tests use PCR reaction for the detection of the virus.

USP's innovative efforts have made possible different methods of COVID-19 detection, such as

the [System of Precocious Detection of Respiratory Insufficiency through Audio analysis](#) (SPIRA) and a simple and economical test that analyzes human saliva. The SPIRA is a tool of telemedicine which helps in the screening of COVID-19 patients by detecting signs of Respiratory Insufficiency through the analysis of the patient's voice variation. The mechanism uses artificial intelligence and machine learning as its basis. The saliva test works as an alternative to the PCR test and uses the molecular technique of RT-LAMP (Reverse Transcription Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification). The test has stood out because of its low cost and easiness with which samples are collected, allowing anyone to collect their secretion themselves.

In May 2020, a [transporting robot](#) was under test at USP's University Hospital (HU). The machine that weighs 20 kilos and moves among 4 to 5 km/h receives commands by a mobile app and can work uninterruptedly for 8 hours. A project by both the Polytechnic School, the School of Architecture and Urbanism and the HU, the robot was created to promote social distancing in hospitals and health centers, lowering the risk of infection on healthcare workers.

The Public Health School (FSP) and its [Lab of Big Data and Predictive Analysis in Health](#) (LABDAPS) started a project translated as Artificial Intelligence for COVID-19 in Brazil (IACOV-BR), which uses algorithms to predict diagnosis and prognosis of COVID-19 in all regions of Brazil. The initiative has helped prevent the worsening of conditions in the country's healthcare system. By providing this information, it assists doctors and healthcare workers in making difficult decisions regarding the usage of scarce resources.

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, in late 2019, USP had developed a new method of autopsy that is minimally invasive. With the family's approval, the autopsy is guided by ultrasound exams that expose the conditions necessary to make as little impact on the body as possible during the operation. Practiced by the Department of Pathologies of the School of Medicine (FM), the procedure has been able to help researchers collect and evaluate samples of lung tissue, as well as other organs, in order to gather useful information for the treatment of severe cases of COVID-19.

USP has also been trialing possible medical treatments to COVID-19, as well as exposing false claims. In July 2020, the Biomedical Sciences Institute released a research on the effectiveness of some drugs against COVID-19 in which a largely distributed vermifuge called ivermectin was considered ineffective towards the disease.

Also, around July, USP's Ribeirão Preto Campus developed an app able to diagnose COVID-19 by

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analyzing patients' lungs' radiography. The app was named [Marie](#), in honor of the great late women physicist and chemist Marie Curie, pioneer in studies of radioactivity. Marie had an upgrade in the last months of 2020 and now it is able to identify other diseases through radiography, such as tuberculosis and H1N1.

In January 2021, a research by USP's scientists discovered that a natural hormone produced by the lungs was able to give protection against COVID-19. The hormone, which is named melatonin, acts as a barrier against SARS-COV-2, preventing the virus from infecting epithelial cells of the patient's body. Avoiding the infection of these cells is important because infecting them protects the virus from the activation of the immune system and the production of antibodies.

In the same month, the institution also developed a brand new, quick and efficient COVID-19 testing device. Researchers from the São Carlos Chemistry Institute (IQSC) produced a [biosensor](#) that is able to diagnose COVID-19 and tell the patient if his immune system has already developed antibodies from the COVID-19 vaccine. The sensor uses nanoparticle technology to analyze blood samples.

In February 2021, a nasal spray vaccine research, which started in April 2020, got to the final stages of its preclinical tests. The project is national and counts on a simple production method. The spray is one of [seven different vaccine projects](#) that are being fabricated from scratch at USP. It is distinct however, because it has a painless application method, which is useful for children, pregnant people and the elderly.

USP and UGPN: a decade of research and international cooperation



With the mission to create a foundation for international collaboration enabling academics and students to work together on issues of global

This year, the University Global Partnership Network's (UGPN) annual conference had to go online. On a four day schedule that lasted from the 22nd to the 25th of March, UGPN Virtual Conference 2021 involved activities from workshops on the importance of resilience to plenaries that discussed sustainability. The event sought to promote and facilitate innovative collaborations in research and education. Topics on Higher Education and key research areas for the network were addressed and heavily debated by senior academics and professional service staff through the platform. Recordings from the event can be accessed on the link: <https://www.livestreamevent.co.uk/ugpn/resources/>.

Founded in 2011 by the University of São Paulo (USP), North Carolina State University and University of Surrey, the University Global Partnership Network has been promoting international cooperation for a whole decade. In 2016, the network expanded with the addition of the Australian university University of Wollongong. Hundreds of students have been able to enjoy the facilitated mobility and exchange among the institutions from the academic network.

UGPN has its values stated under the acronym ICARE: Innovation, Collaboration, Ambition, Relevance and Excellence. To foster such a vision between its member institutions, the network has its own research fund called The UGPN Research Collaboration Fund (RCF). With an annual investment of 240 thousand dollars, the fund has supported 64 research projects, among these 18 were trilateral and 6 were quadrilateral projects. These projects are from a range of topics such as genetics, international relations, mathematical models and neuroscience.

Among the institutions of the network, University of São Paulo is the only institution that isn't anglophone and that comes from a Latin country. Being a representative of both Latin American and Brazilian knowledge inside the network, USP provides unique exchange opportunities to its fellow members.

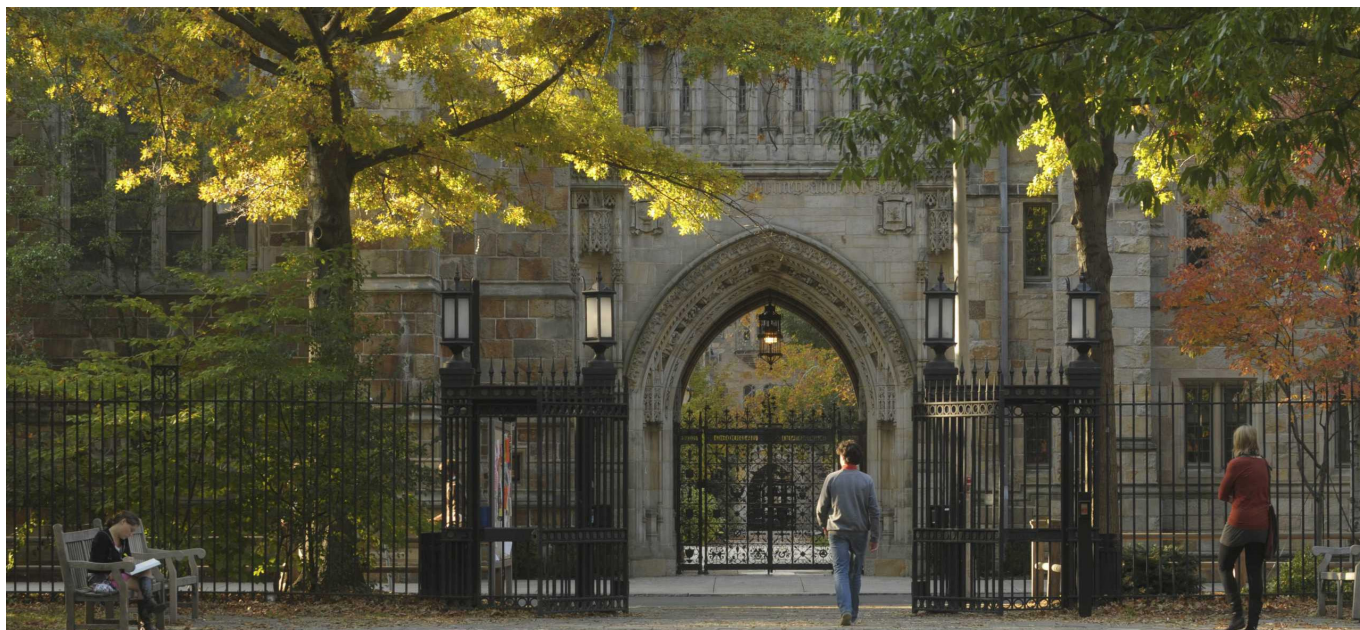
One example is the summer school program known as the Brazilian Business & Culture program, which is held at the USP's Ribeirão Preto campus. The program focuses on introducing its students to Brazilian economy and agribusiness, as well as highlighting a strong cultural management aspect. Classes are held entirely in English, but there are also Portuguese classes to enable students to have a better understanding of Brazilian culture.

International Cooperation

UGPN is a key element of USP's international strategy. For that reason, in 2019, the institution hosted a workshop with representatives from the network's member institutions to stimulate research collaborations and PhD mobility with its partners. The event included meetings, visits, and conversations. There were also governmental agencies involved, such as the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) and the Brazilian Federal Funding Agency (CAPES).

This year, UGPN has started the process of the tenth call to joint research. According to the information available on UGPN's website, it is expected an investment of 10 thousand dollars per institution for each conjunct research project inside the network. This edition will prioritize ideas that are related to worldwide sustainability and industries of the future as well as those that are multidisciplinares in math, technology, sciences, engineering, humanities, and social sciences.

USP's faculty participate in Yale and Brazil initiative



In 2020, Yale University released a series of webinars directed to Brazilian students. The institution's objective is to foster career opportunities in scientific areas and promote connections between these students and researchers from their renowned university. Learn more about it and access the website of the webinar [here](#).

In 2020, Yale University released a series of webinars directed to Brazilian students. The institution's objective is to foster career opportunities in scientific areas and promote connections between these students and researchers from their renowned university. The webinar series, named "Supporting Future Science Research", took place in three different dates: December 16th, 2020, February 23rd, 2021, and May 6th, 2021. The events were attended by USP's faculty.

The webinars were organized by Marcelo Dietrich, a Brazilian associate professor at Yale School of Medicine, who has been offering annual workshops about biomedical sciences for many years. Dietrich and Mariana Nigro, former researcher of Yale School of Medicine, launched a virtual mentorship program for undergraduate and graduate Brazilian students at Yale. The focus of the program is to inspire young talents in the sciences in Brazil. The program was the theme of the first webinar of the series, which was called "Supporting Future Science Research".

The second webinar was a discussion panel on new ways of strengthening the bond between academic institutions. With an analysis of the partnership between Yale School of Medicine and USP's Ribeirão Preto Medical School, the discussion was moderated by Michael Cappello, professor of pediatrics, microbial pathogenesis and public health at Yale, and counted on the participation of Benedito Antonio Lopes da Fonseca, USP's associate professor.

The last event was a webinar on improving lines of research. Moderated by Albert Ko, Yale School of Medicine professor and Head of the Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases department, the event welcomed Luís Carlos de Souza Ferreira, Dean of the Biomedical Sciences Institute at the University of São Paulo (USP). A detailed summary of the meeting can be accessed through this [link](#) of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation.

Access the website of the webinars to watch USP's faculty on the events [here](#).

To have access to the Yale and Brazil initiatives, access the Mentorship Program Iniciativa PROXIMA website [here](#).

USP's virtual iFriends program is renewed for a new season of connection and exchange

USP iFriends is a semi-annual volunteer program of cultural and language exchange at University of São Paulo. The program is based on volunteer local students helping exchange students with their questions regarding their time studying at USP. Learn more about iFriends here.

USP iFriends is a collaborative volunteer program directed primarily towards higher education students. Its first edition dates back to 2011. The program is based on the well-known Buddy System, in which volunteer local students assist exchange students with their questions and issues concerning their new lives in a different country. At the time, the program only counted officially with on-campus activities. Lasting six months per edition, the method was a success until the second half of 2019.

With the start of the coronavirus pandemic, higher education institutions in Brazil cancelled most of their in-person activities. This unplanned major disruption is still up, having full impact on programs such as iFriends. As a consequence of the pandemic, academic mobility at USP has been suspended and the institution isn't receiving new international students. Consequently, the program had to be renewed under this new context, relying on a different arrangement, different objectives and a new target audience.

According to Rafael Dall'olio, iFriends coordinator, the virtual edition of the program has the main objective of finding a way to maintain cooperation among students in a year without any mobility, national or international. With that in mind, the profile of the program was modified and it distanced itself from the Buddy System model to become a lighthearted program that aims at sharing academic knowledge and maintaining language practice. "The nature of USP virtual iFriends is carefree. There are no evaluations or grades, it is only supposed to be an open space for conversation and exchange", said the coordinator of the project in an interview in Portuguese.

Nowadays, the program accepts students, professors and general university professionals from every higher education institution in Brazil. The first virtual edition took place in the second half of 2020 and both virtual editions maintained an average of hundreds of applicants. The program has open conversation environments in Portuguese, French, Spanish, English and German.

Ever since its adaptation to the digital world, iFriends has been experimenting with different methods of connection and communication.



In this edition, the program is based on conversational meetings through video call software with a maximum of thirty individuals per meeting, meanwhile other activities use emails as their communication tool.

Dall'olio mentions that he has witnessed significant changes in the public of the program's second virtual edition. With the adaptation to remote activities and the opening to other academic institutions, this edition of USP virtual iFriends has an expressive number of national participants. The program has also helped USP integrate their campuses that are spread throughout the São Paulo state. "Today, iFriends has become a significant platform where mainly undergraduates from all over the country [Brazil] can share knowledge and maintain contact". The program has been connecting people from north to south of Brazil, a continental-size country, all of that in the middle of a pandemic.

This new perspective of national cooperation has made the institution consider adapting the iFriends model when academic mobility is back. The idea of officialising a hybrid version has been growing stronger, as a result of it being able to help international students with its Buddy System basis, but at the same time make a national welcoming point of academic exchange, enabling national cooperation and knowledge sharing. "USP Virtual iFriends now has the objective to draw USP closer to society as a whole and to other higher education institutions in Brazil as well".

Within USP's area, the greenery of the Atlantic Forest



The Atlantic Forest is one of the most biodiverse biomes in the world. And it is also located at USP's biggest campus, which preserves more than 360 botanic species in the middle São Paulo city. Learn more about it [here](#).

The Atlantic Forest, known in Brazil as Mata Atlântica, is one of the most biodiverse biomes in the world. And it is also located at USP's biggest campus, Cidade Universitária Armando de Salles Oliveira, which preserves more than 360 botanic species in the middle São Paulo city, the most populous city in Brazil. Its presence not only creates an impressive natural landscape, but also enables students and researchers to expand their knowledge about the Atlantic Forest at the same time as it guarantees its protection.

The Brazilian Atlantic Forest once stretched throughout almost the entirety of the country's 7,500 km coastline, as well as a considerable amount of continental ground. However, as a result of hundreds of years of colonization, urban sprawl and agriculture, it has been deforested as no other tropical ecosystem. For that reason, it is quite impressive to discover that it is still present at the University City Campus of University of São Paulo (USP), located in Brazil's most populated city.

According to Marcos Buckeridge, postdoctoral researcher and Dean of the Biosciences Institute, the forest patch located in University City is a secondary type of forest, which means that it appeared as a result of reforestation. Before the arrival of the university in 1968, the place where the Campus is located used to be a sugar plantation farm and its surroundings were a rural area. The farm still had some parts of the Atlantic Forest vegetation, which now has a variety of native species in commonplace with invasive species, such as a well-known Australian palm tree.

Considered an international biodiversity hotspot, the Atlantic Forest has a huge quantity of endemic species. The forest's extent at University City has over 360 varieties of plants and a considerable diversity of birds, reptiles and primates. Most of the forest's patches are located at the Biosciences Institute, which conducts research on the forest's animal and botanic life. Buckeridge also mentions that the University City has another kind of vegetation as well, which is similar to the savanna vegetation pattern, known in Brazil as Cerrado.

The professor points out that the place has been subjected to such diversity that it has become more of a unique urban forest kind rather than Atlantic Forest in its pure form. Regarding the research activities and protective actions in the forest, Buckeridge expresses the Biosciences Institute's profound interest in continuing and expanding these activities and actions. He also mentions a series of projects conducted in the area by the Institute. Among them, the [Urban Forest Integration Project](#) has been created to integrate and facilitate research, visitation and teaching at the forest. Uniting the efforts of the Institute to other professionals such as architects and biologists, the project aims to promote biodiversity protection and environmental preservation. He also mentions a complete project, made in a partnership with USP's Polytechnic School, which scanned the area and made a 3D model of its topology, as you can see in the video [here](#).

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To Buckeridge, it is very relevant that the forest is open and accessible to everyone, especially researchers. And by that he means from all of USP's departments, from medical sciences to humanities related projects, as well as researchers from other universities and research centers as well. "Our idea is that the forest is so well studied that it serves as a model not only for the study of other parts of the Atlantic Forest, but also as a reference for studies on the effects of urban forestation", said the researcher in an interview in Portuguese.

There is also another Atlantic Forest conservation site under USP's care. It is located at the Parque de Ciência e Tecnologia (CienTec), which can be translated as the Science and Technology Park. Also based in the city of São Paulo, only some miles away from the University City, CienTec can be found inside the state park that protects the springs of the Tietê river and that has the largest quantity of protected Atlantic Forest in the capital. Both the state of São Paulo and USP work together to guarantee CienTec's environmental protection.

CienTec used to be the site of USP's Institute of Astronomy, Geophysics and Atmospheric Sciences (IAG) until the 1990's. For that reason, today, the state park where it is located also includes the São Paulo Observatory and a planetarium. The Zoological Garden and Botanical Garden are also present in the state park. Open to visitation, CienTec possesses more than a thousand acres of Atlantic Forest and has a wide array of possible recreational activities. It is specially engaging for middle and high schoolers, welcoming many school tours under normal circumstances. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the park's activities have been suspended, but you can still see pictures and educational texts in Portuguese on its website, which can be accessed [here](#).

Flavio Berchez, CienTec's director and PhD professor, declares that the park used to receive from a hundred to two hundred children visits per day. He mentions that there are physics experiments, foot trails and a lot of environmentally conscious content for children and teenagers. Berchez points out that one of the main focuses of these activities is uniting ludic transdisciplinarity to ethic views regarding the environment.

Additionally, Berchez emphasizes that international cooperation has always been an important aspect of research at the park, mentioning, for example, the exchange of information between USP and the Chilean University of Magallanes. They have a mutual interest in knowledge that involves the Chilean environmental reserve known as Parque Omora, making the exchange enlightening for both institutions.

The forest's natural resources are a timeless patrimonium, and the maintenance of this natural area is important for USP's students, the academic community, and the overall society. By committing itself to the preservation of the Atlantic Forest, USP safeguards the specificities of what this rich biome has become today, contributing globally to environmental consciousness and scientific research.

The English Graduate Program celebrates its 50th Anniversary



The graduate program in Linguistic and Literary Studies in English was founded in 1971, and is one of the only graduate courses in Brazil completely devoted to the study of English. You can learn more about the program [here](#).

The graduate program in Linguistics and Literary Studies in English - widely known as — *Programa de Pós-graduação de Estudos Linguísticos e Literários em Inglês PPGELLI* — is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The PPGELLI was founded in 1971 and is dedicated to studying symbolic productions and ideological structures in the cultural context of the English language(s). The program is structured around three pillars: Linguistics, Literature and Translation Studies.

The PPGELLI is housed in the Department of Modern Languages, which is part of the Faculty of Philosophy, Languages and Humans Sciences (FFLCH). In its 50-year history, the program has been constantly reexamined by its members and in 2003 it was substantially reorganized in terms of research topics and theoretical production to become more inclusive. As of then, the program increased its scope from British and American language and literature to include new and other forms of literary creations and broader contexts in which English linguistics are applied.

One of the only postgraduate programs in Brazil completely dedicated to linguistics and literature in English, the PPGELLI emphasizes interdisciplinarity, through which the meanings of literature and linguistics are broadened.

According to Associate Professor and former program director, Elizabeth Harkot-de-La-Taille, the program's academic research agenda is wide-ranging and includes history, anthropology, sociology, education, media studies, semiotics and other forms of art, such as cinematographic and theatrical art. Professor Harkot-de-La-Taille also points out that the PPGELLI research also addresses new and innovative areas, such as videogaming. Moreover, she stresses the disruptive nature of the program's research and teaching activity, citing the case of courses and research projects on feminism and translation, and decolonial studies.

The program is organized around three main research areas — Linguistics, Literature and Translation — and structured in six lines of research: literary contacts; translation studies; cultural studies; language, education and society; literature and history; and foreign language and education.

The Masters program is 36 months long and the PhD program, 48. Students are selected once a year, and are expected to go through an English language proficiency test and a written examination based on a recommended reading list. Next, candidates submit their résumé and a research project, which will be discussed and assessed during an interview.

In the last 50 years, the program established itself and developed a strong reputation in preparing renowned researchers nationally and internationally. With more than 20 international cooperation partners, it has cultivated an extensive and active international network. [Worldwide literacy projects](#) and philosophical, sociological, semiotic and [decolonial](#) studies are among some examples of the range that PPGELLI productions have today.

The scientific production developed in PPGELLI is debated and studied in a wide array of educational and research contexts in Brazil as well. The program leads the national literacy project called [Projeto Nacional de Letramentos: Linguagem, Cultura, Educação e Tecnologia](#), translated as 'National Literacy Project: Language, Culture, Education and Technology'. In more than a decade of existence, this project has dozens of national higher education institutions as collaborators and has gone through three different stages. It also has organized more than 50 events, produced scores of masters and PhDs, and is one of the only projects in Brazil focused on basic education public school teacher development.

Professor Harkot-de-La-Taille stresses the social relevance of working with basic education teachers. "On a grand scale, our chance to disseminate critical and socially-aware knowledge is through education, especially basic education," said the coordinator in an interview in Portuguese. By studying and discovering the best ways to prepare education professionals, the graduate course spreads its roots in society. She also emphasizes that the program contributes to the academic community and society as a whole in many other forms. At the University of São Paulo, for instance, the PPGELLI, through the International Office (Aucani) provides expert advice and support to English language education programs across Schools for students and also faculty.

In the last four years, PPGELLI has awarded 34 MA and 49 PhD candidates. Today, Associate Professor Harkot-de-La-Taille says that there has been a growing interest on the part of graduate candidates in PPGELLI despite the pandemic scenario. PPGELLI was able to adapt itself to the new digital context and has been attracting more participants in its talks, courses, events, group studies, and activities than ever. "Today, because of the increase in online activities, students and researchers from many different geographies have been reaching out to the program more than we had ever expected. This has broadened the impact of our work and enabled us to fulfill the mission of higher public education, which is inclusion and the sharing of knowledge. I believe this will continue even when the pandemic is finally over."

50 years of excellence: the ICMC completes five decades of academic merit and international reference on technology and computer science.

In the year of 1971, the Instituto de Ciências Matemáticas e de Computação de São Carlos (ICMC), translated as Institute of Mathematics and Computer Sciences, was founded. The institute is a national and international reference on the development and promotion of knowledge regarding math and computer science. The story behind its creation and naming is deeply rooted in societal changes over the importance of computer science.

In the last 50 years, the field of computer science has expanded dramatically. With the popularization of the internet, personal computers and the variety of virtual related activities, computer science has become a central part of contemporary life, being also recognized as a professional research area of undeniable relevance. Mathematics, however, has been a central topic of knowledge development for centuries and is probably going to be for many more years to come. In that sense, the Instituto de Ciências Matemáticas e de Computação (ICMC), translated as Institute of Mathematics and Computer Sciences, has been a protagonist in these fields throughout its entire history.

In 1971, the ICMC was founded. ICMC has four departments and occupies an area of 18,000 square meters. It also has around 150 faculty members, all with at least PhD degrees, and 120 administrative staff members. It offers seven different bachelor degree programs, as well as four graduate programs, having around two thousand students in total.

Located in the city of São Carlos, considered the "Capital of Science and Technology" in Brazil, the ICMC can count on the infrastructure of the USP campus in São Carlos, which offers facilities such as a restaurant,

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lodging, transportation between the campuses, medical and dental services, a day care center and a sports center. Its network of computers also includes 2,000 units and high-performance machines and clusters.

An important event for the foundation of ICMC dates back to 1953, when the Math Department of the São Carlos Engineering School (EESC) was founded by renowned Italian mathematicians and Brazilian professors. In 1970, another department, called the Computation Science and Statistics Department, was founded by professors from the Math Department and other departments of EESC. A year later, the Mathematics Science Institute of São Carlos, created by both the Math Department and the Computation Science and Statistics Department, was founded and made independent from EESC.



In November 1996 a process was started to request the inclusion of the term “Computer Sciences” in the name of the Institute. The idea came from the Computer Sciences Department. However, the request was also recognized by the academic society as a whole as valid and relevant. The addition of the term is able to highlight the relevance of computational science in contemporary society and the many research projects and activities that involve both math and computer science today in the world and inside the Institute itself. On March 22nd 1998, the Congregation of the old ICMSC and USP’s Academic Council decided to change the name of the unit to the one that it is known for today. Now, students are able to enjoy an up-to-date facility that also has an extensive green area. Equipped with 24-hour open educational laboratories, two auditoriums, a library containing approximately 140,000 volumes and 23,000 electronic journal titles, as well as a museum, the Professor Odelar Leite Linhares Computer Museum (which has a collection of more than two hundred pieces of numerical calculation), ICMC is a fundamental part of USP and the global academic community. You can learn more about ICMC on the video [here](#).

Lygia Fagundes Telles: one of Brazil's most important writers among USP's alumni



Born in the city of São Paulo in 1923, Lygia Fagundes Telles is recognized as one of the most influential writers of Brazilian literature.

Born in the city of São Paulo in 1923, Lygia Fagundes Telles is recognized as one of the most influential writers of Brazilian literature. Winner of national and international literary prizes and founder of the Brazilian Union of Writers (UBE), her works have been translated into English, French, Spanish, German, Swedish, Italian among other languages. She graduated from USP, where she developed important friendships and acquired knowledge that may have helped her become such a renowned personality. Learn more about her in the article.

Lygia Fagundes da Silva Telles is a Brazilian writer who was born in 1923. At the age of 98, Lygia is considered by some the most important Brazilian female writer alive. She is also a major personality among USP's alumni, with a life story that has strong ties to the university.

Acting professionally as a lawyer and writer, she has won many national literary prizes, such as the well known Jabuti prize four times. Internationally, she won the Portuguese prize Camões in 2005, an expression of her recognition among Portuguese speakers worldwide and, in 2016, she became the first Brazilian female writer nominated for the Nobel Literature Prize. Lygia is also one of the founders of the Brazilian Union of Writers (UBE) and a former-president of the Cinemateca Brasileira, an institution that is responsible for the preservation of Brazilian cinematographic production. Her works have been translated into English, French, Spanish, German, Swedish, Italian among other languages.

Lygia was born in the city of São Paulo, but spent most of her childhood in the countryside of São Paulo state. When she was eight years old, her family moved to Rio de Janeiro, where she lived for five years before coming back to São Paulo. Even in those early stages of her life, Lygia's interest in literature and linguistics had always accompanied her, to the point that she released her first book when she was only fifteen.

In 1939, she joined USP's School of Physical Education and Sports. She also began participating in literary debates, in which she met Oswald and Mário de Andrade, two well known Brazilian writers. In the same period, she started writing for newspapers and engaged in activities at the university's Languages Faculty.

Two years later, she enrolled at USP's Faculty of Law. Her father, who also graduated from USP's Faculty of Law, served as inspiration for her to become a lawyer. In an interview to the Brazilian newspaper O Estado de São Paulo, Lygia pointed out that she was one of only six women in a class of over a hundred students. There, she met poetist and writer Hilda Hilst, who would become a dear friend for many years to come. In 1944, while still an undergraduate student, she published her second short stories book.

Her third book would only come out five years later. The title, *O Cacto Vermelho* (The Red Cactus), received the Afonso Arinos Prize, given out by the Brazilian Academy of Letters. Up to this point, Lygia hadn't published a single novel. *Ciranda de Pedra*, published in English as *The Marble Dance* many years later, would be released in 1954, being a major production on her ascension to national recognition. Acclaimed by many Brazilian literary critics, the story is critical of bourgeois expectations and traditions surrounding women.

From this point on, Lygia's literary maturity would make her responsible for a number of well known and acclaimed books. Her second novel, *Verão no Aquário* (1963) whose title may be translated as *Summer in the Aquarius*, also won the Jabuti prize.

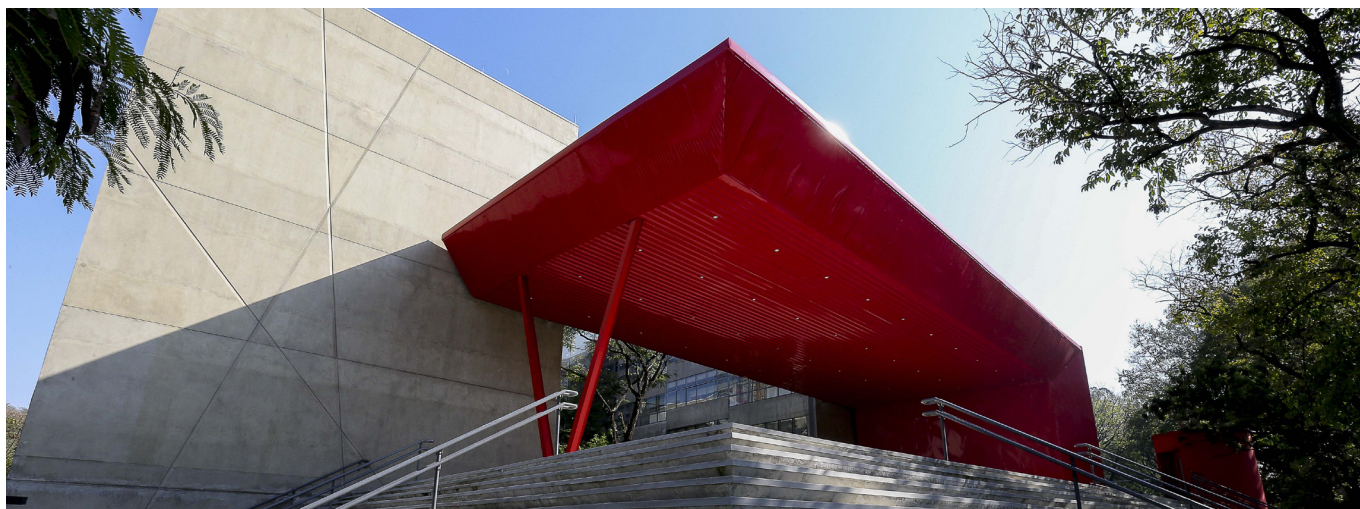
In 1964, Brazil suffered a military coup that lasted for 21 years. It was under this regime, in the seventies, that Lygia wrote some of her most well-known productions and obtained international recognition. Her short story book called *Antes do Baile Verde* (1970), roughly translated as *Before the Green Ball*, was awarded a prize in France. Three years later, she released her novel *As Meninas* (1973), which was published in New York in 1982 under the title *The Girl in the Photograph*.

In 1975, she started a project to create a museum of Brazilian literature, though the initiative would fall through two years later. That's because 1977 was a turbulent year for Telles. With the death of her husband, the movie critic and USP alumnus Paulo Emílio Salles Gomes, she became president of Cinemateca Brasileira. She then donated more than two hundred collected documents that would integrate the museum's collection to USP's Institute of Brazilian Studies. Also in 1977, she participated in a large protest with other intellectuals against censorship and authoritarian acts of the dictatorship.

It was in 1985 that Lygia was elected to a chair at the Brazilian Academy of Letters, one of the most honorable achievements a Brazilian writer can be granted. She had already written three novels, six short story books and a memoir. Two years later, she was only the third woman to be inaugurated as a part of the institution, occupying the sixteenth chair out of forty. Being already 64 years old at the time, she still had much to write, publishing a novel, another memoir and some short story books for the next couple of years. Today, her personal collection is under the ward of Instituto Moreira Salles, a cultural center and extension Institute founded in the nineties by Walther Moreira Salles, another USP's Faculty of Law alumnus.

About the Liaison Office at the USP International Cooperation Office

Responsible for welcoming the national and international delegations that visit the University of São Paulo (USP). Learn more about it here.



The Liaison Office at the USP International Cooperation Office was created in response to the demands that emerged from the dynamics of international academic relations. It is currently a part of the Academic Reception Office of AUCANI (acronym for the USP Agency for National and International Academic Cooperation, the USP International Cooperation Office), located at the International Diffusion Center, on the Butantã Campus. Although the visits are taking place only online at the moment, USP International Cooperation Office is the one responsible for welcoming the national and international delegations that visit the University of São Paulo (USP) with the aim of creating and promoting opportunities for academic cooperation.

The Liaison Office receives professors and researchers of the most diverse areas of knowledge from renowned universities around the world, as well as managers responsible for decision-making at the highest levels of the international and diplomatic academic universe. This brings new collaborations in research, as well as new mobility opportunities for teachers and students.

The goal is to establish strategies for academic relations between USP and institutions, whether foreign universities or other institutions, with the purpose of promoting cooperation in matters of teaching, research, culture and university extension, at the national and international levels.

It is important to note that the Liaison Office is one of the main entry points for academic cooperation.

Some of the attributions of the Liaison Office / Delegations are:

- To manage and organize visits to USP and USP missions abroad;
- To assist and consolidate the relationship between USP (Schools, Institutes, professors, international local offices, etc.) and universities, consulates, embassies, agencies, or others, whether from Brazil or abroad, enabling events, meetings, workshops and lectures;
- To collect data about national and international institutions and their academic exchanges with USP, as well as to control and update the data about these actions.

In general terms, the Liaison Office processes and maintains contact between representatives of institutions and representatives of the University of São Paulo, in order to create and develop opportunities for national and international cooperation. For this purpose, we kindly request that institutions interested in cooperating with USP fill in the visits form and send it to the email aucani.ara@usp.br, to make the meetings feasible.

USP International Cooperation Office

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