

Duty trip report Brazil SP

from 8 - 14 September 2019

*"SCIENTIA VINCES"*¹

(“English: “through knowledge you will conquer”)

Introduction

Brazil is in the centre of discussions; just after the MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) – EU free trade agreement, the fires in the amazon are lightning up.....

France and Ireland are not happy with the free trade on beef as Brazil is producing beef in an unsustainable way. Besides, only 1% of Brazilian slaughterhouses are approved for export to EU. Although it is suggested that main beef producing areas are in southern Brazil (not the amazon) this might not completely hold true as the cattle is fattened in the south but young cattle and calves are sources from smaller farmers in the amazon².

In Brazil a huge discussion is going on regarding the fires in the amazon as some days even the city of Sao Paulo turned dark because of the smoke from the amazon coming over. The relatively ‘dry’ rainy season left the forest drier and more sensitive to fire than normal but it is also a fact that the Minister of Environment, Ricardo Salles cut budget of crucial agencies as INPE and IBAMA and therefor control on the ground on illegal deforestation has weakened. The minister recognizes that more and better communication and coordination between federal and states government as well as with municipalities is needed to fight the deforestation and reduce the fires. Invaders of national/indigenous territories recognized being incentivized by Bolsonaro’s declarations of scaling back protections for the rainforest and indigenous territories.

Some states are acting and protecting as recently in the State of Rondônia the military police pulled out invaders/forest dweller out of Floresta Nacional do Bom Futuro.

Objective of my trip:

The objective of my trip is to participate (on invitation) in the first workshop of USP on Internationalization Program PrInt. The program will address the internationalization strategy of USP Graduate Programs and its available modalities (scholarships, visiting professorships, mission and training). As nobody of the graduate schools was able/available to join and considering USP as WUR’s mayor academic partners in Latin America, WUR participation was considered strategic and important.



¹ Motto of the Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP), a public university in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo. It is de largest university of Brazil and best University in Latin America. Wageningen UR has a general agreement with the agriculture faculty of this university (ESALQ) since approx. 2001.

² <https://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/wurpubs/fulltext/495347>

Other activities during the trip: to meet the Innovation attaché of the Dutch Embassy in Sao Paulo (Petra Smid en Ernst-Jan Bakker) and to have a joint meeting with Innovation attaché, TU Twente and FAPESP regarding possibility to organise the 'FAPESP week' in the Netherlands (hosted by TU Twente y WUR). Finally I wanted to meet Joyce Brandao, programme manager Solidaridad Brasil to discuss the follow up on the '*Sustainable livestock farming in the Amazon*' study/project.

1st Workshop of USP on Internationalization PrInt.

The Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP) has 7 campus, 97.982 students, 5631 profs and 13.717 administrative staff. In several international rankings USP is placed as the best university of Latin America & the Caribbean. The agriculture faculty (ESALQ) of USP is a strategic partner for WUR in Brazil. ESALQ is part of the A5 consortium.

Under the PrInt call of CAPES, USP presented end 2018 an Internationalization program. The program was approved and offers now scholarships, visiting professorships, missions and trainings to USP (academic) staff and students the possibilities to interact with universities and academics abroad. In a first call already 2170 scholarships were granted; still another 16.000 scholarships to be granted from 2020 onwards. Scholarships do not cover bench fees. Mobility for visiting profs cover 400 USD per day (per diem) and the air ticket. The duration for the implementation of the PrInt program was extended from 4 to 5 years. USP is looking for agreements with excellent universities abroad. Example of general agreements on 1) co-tutelar, 2) Double Degree and Joint Degree. Besides Double Degree also Multiple degree (with three or more universities) is possible. Specific agreements are designed for one student only (see slides in annex).

The program focusses on 5 Thematic Areas being:

1) Translational Plant and Animal Sciences (TPAS)

Brazil presents the most developed system of research and training of human resources in the area of tropical agriculture. Agricultural research practically started the Brazilian Graduate Programs, allowing unprecedented advances in both the production system and the veterinary sciences and system sustainability.

2) Health and Diseases (HAD)

USP congregates 88 PPGs in this thematic area, comprising 17.1% programs grade 4, 44.3% grades 5 and 38.6% Proex excellence programs Grades 6 and 7). The programs seek to understand the pathophysiological phenomena of the main diseases and health problems, to study and propose public policies for society, as well as to create diagnostic tools and treatment.

3) Earth and Space (EAS)

The consolidated competence in these program allows addressing challenges ranging from the understanding of phenomena at the subatomic scale up to scale of the universe. Of special interest are terrestrial processes that affect the balance and sustainability of our planet in the basic and natural sciences, such as astronomy physics, geosciences, mathematics and chemistry, there is a significant participation of USP in projects organized in vast international networks which are currently underway.

4) Arts and Humanities (AAH)

USP has 50 programs in the area of "Arts and Humanities", representing 29% of the total of Graduate Program in our university. This thematic area the proposal is divided into three major

topics: social sciences, language studies and arts. It involves the formation of human resources with solid and updated theoretical and practical bases, critical thinking and autonomy.

5) Technology(TEC)

Each sector of economic activity depends partly on continuous technological development, which, in turn feeds on science, engineering and the demand of society. The use of each new technological wave by a country presupposes the existence of professionals with specific training and high critical capacity. The "Technology" area includes, in this proposal, the Graduate Programs of Biotechnology, Geology, engineering.

As the "*Translational Plant and animal Sciences (TPAS)*" thematic area matches most with the research of WUR knowledge departments, I focussed on exchange with academic staff and students doing research in topics under this thematic area. Therefore I had conversations and meetings with the following persons:

- Marcio de Castro Silva Filho, deputy provost of Graduate Studies and coordinator of the TPAS PrInt program
- Carlos G. Carlotti Jr, Provost of Graduate Studies
- Kavita Miadaira Hamza, professor of Marketing & Sustainability and coordinator of the International Office
- Niels Olsen, Prof Lab for Transplantation Immunology and member of International Office
- Valmor Tricoli, Provost for International cooperation (AUCANI)
- Marcio Lobo Netto, associate director for Mobility
- Adriana Pinheiros Martellini, professor at CENA/ESALQ.

Most important conclusions of the presentations and meetings during the workshop are:

- USP is eager to have a stronger joint research program with WUR (words of Carlos Carlotti) and would be happy to seek a reciprocal program on one or more topics mentioned in the TPAS thematic area. Therefore I promised to share [the description of the 12 topics under the TPAS program](#) with professors and researchers of related areas at WUR to ask their interest in collaborating in a joint program with USP. I will follow up with Marcio de Castro and Adriana Pinheiros (both ESALQ) on their side and with Janneke Peters and Ingrid Vleghels on WUR side (approaching groups who could be interested in intensifying research with USP).
- Regarding other faculties of USP interested in a collaboration/agreement with WUR: according to Prof. Valmor Tricoli only a 'central/corporate' agreement with USP would be useful if 4 or more faculties of USP would seek an agreement with USP. In the case of WUR we maintain relations with only 3: ESALQ (agriculture and forestry), FZEA (zootechnic and food) and FEA (economics, business and accounting).
- Individual PhD candidates (and potential candidates) and professors came to me for more information. I will connect each one with the corresponding person/prof/group at WUR to consider a period of guest researcher or a sandwich or full PhD at WUR or a visiting professorship.

For professors and researchers at WUR interested in (more) collaboration with USP; the 12 topics under the *Translational Plant and Animal Sciences* (TPAS) program are:

- 1) Integrative research on Biodiversity
- 2) Strategies for increasing the efficiency of animal production
- 3) CEPID Food Research
- 4) Translational Plant Sciences – connecting basic research to the agricultural production system
- 5) Production systems
- 6) Biodiversity evolution, ecology, conservation and sustainable use, functional attributes and education
- 7) Biological systems
- 8) Environmental conservation and preservation
- 9) Biotechnology and animal
- 10) Food Sciences
- 11) Emerging diseases
- 12) Consolidation of the international structure of interdisciplinary projects concerning the conservation of ecosystems in coexistence with sustainable human societies.
- 13) New challenges for a moving world

You can find a full description of the 12 topics here: <https://sites.usp.br/print/description-projetcts-tpas/>

The **meeting/dinner with the Innovation team of the Dutch Embassy** consisted of an update on their activities. Recently they launched a report on nanotechnology innovation in Brazil (see report [here](#)) and another one on 5G in Brazil – the state of affairs (read [here](#)). The end of September both (Petra and Ernst-Jan) will be in the Netherlands among others to prepare a mission to Brazil on Big Data in Life Sciences & Health Care.

I informed Petra and Ernst-Jan on the submission of a proposal on the joint (NWO-FAPESP) [Healthy Ageing call](#) by Lisette de Groot en Ondine van de Rest (Human Nutrition & Health) together with researchers of USP/ESALQ and UNICAMP. We talked about the visit of Edgar van der Grift (animal ecology) to Bello Horizonte and the Brazilian PhD student Fernanda Abra as a finalist in the Dutch [Future for Nature awards 2019](#) (for her work on protection of endangered species).

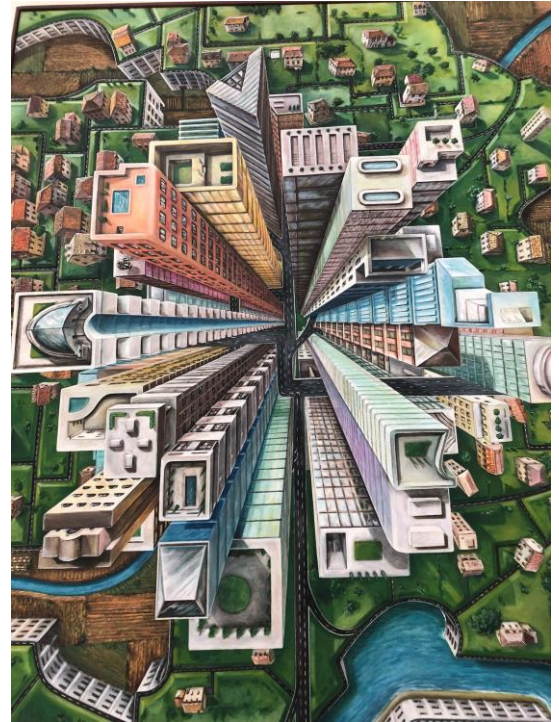
The **meeting at FAPESP** was a bit disappointing as we (Innovation attaché; Ernst-Jan Bakker, TU Twente; Jelle Ferwerda and me) thought that it was already decided in FAPESP that the 'FAPESP-week' in 2020 was planned in The Netherlands. Among NWO, TU Twente and WUR we agreed and shared a draft program and decided to host the event in Enschede and Wageningen. Nevertheless, a formal decision on where to go to has still to be taken (most probably end of October). Therefore Bruna Cersozimo Arenque Musa and her colleague Roberto Marcondes Cesar Jr. suggested to organize a formal letter from NWO, supported by the rectors of WUR and Twente and the Brazilian ambassador in the Netherlands to reinforce our interest to host the FAPESP week in the Netherlands in 2020.

Furthermore Bruna and Roberto gave interesting information on the FAPESP SPRINT mobility program to encourage and promote the advancement of scientific research through the cooperation of researchers affiliated with institutions in the State of Sao Paulo with research partners abroad. More info here: www.fapesp.br/en/8603

Also interesting: browse potential partners in a specific area of knowledge in the state of Sao Paulo including all the research that have been supported by FAPESP: bv.fapesp.br/en



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Anex: some pictures of slides:

Different types of agreements

- **Co-Tutelle:** students have one advisor from each institution, and usually make all in-class credits at the home university. The student spend a minimum of 6 months at the partner university, developing his/her research. Each institution issues it's own diploma for the student.
- **Double Degree:** students have one advisor from each institution. The student spend a minimum of 6 months at the partner university, marking credits and/or developing his/her research. Each institution issues it's own diploma for the student. This can also be a program designed specifically for this agreement.
- **Joint Degree:** students have one advisor from each institution. The student spend a minimum of 6 months at the partner university, marking credits and/or developing his/her research. Only one diploma is issued, with the logos from both universities. This can also be a program designed specifically for this agreement.

Different types of agreements

- The **Double Degree** is a partnership between USP, in the interest of a specific school, and a Higher Education Institution (HEI), through an International Academic Agreement that implies reciprocity.
- The **Multiple Degree**, on the other hand, involves more than two Higher Education Institution (HEI).

Double Degree **Multiple Degree**

Different types of agreements

Specific: designed for one student

General: designed for a group of students, from the same post-graduate program, during a 5-year period

In both cases, each student has to develop its own **Work Plan and Schedule** and get them approved at **USP**.

DOUBLE DEGREE
a pathway for two diplomas

All post graduate students can apply for a double degree*

Apply to all post graduation students who seek **complementary expertise** in research in foreign universities

It is different from sandwich fellowship, since in double degree you will receive a diploma from the foreign university

It strengthens the collaboration between universities with excellency. It allows an unique opportunity for personal and scientific growth, cultural enrichment and broader research network

IN 2018
800 USP POST GRADUATE STUDENTS were granted with international fellowships from CAPES and FAPESP

However, only **80** students were enrolled in a double degree program

Work Plan
It states the activities will be done in the partner university

- seminars
- lab bench
- field work
- disciplines

How to get the double degree here at USP?

- 1 Being a regular student in any of the **267** graduate program at USP
- 2 Find an international research group with complementarity with your work
You should discuss with your supervisor and get in contact with the partner university, and then, make an agreement
- 3 The proposal will be analyzed by the CPG Office at your unit
- 4 The agreement will be analyzed by the Graduate Office at USP
- 5 After that, the universities will sign the agreement and you can start the activities

3 months is the required time to have your proposal fully accepted.

BE ALERT!

Student's tasks

- ✓ Write down a **Work Plan** and a Time Schedule of future activities
- ✓ You might need to have two viva, or defend your thesis here in Brazil
- ✓ Look for health insurance, visa, housing, air ticket and other **specific tasks**
- ✓ Stay at least **6 month** at the partner university

The fellowship grant will be provided by funding agency such as CNPq, CAPES and FAPESP

MAIN DESTINY COUNTRIES

28,2%	France	5,8%	Italy
12%	Portugal	4,8%	England
11,1%	Spain	4,6%	Chile
8,4%	Belgium	3,8%	Germany
5,8%	Holand	2,5%	Canada

Types of agreement

SPECIFIC: created for just one student

GENERAL: allow the enrollment of several students throughout a maximum of 5 years

* In some foreign universities, the Master of Science has a different format from USP. It is important to check on that before the university accepts you!

More information about double degree and the necessary documents:
Site: <http://fe.usp.br/dg/> - Email: prpg-comentarios@usp.br