



SuCCeSS

Strengthening Criminology Teaching
Fortaleciendo la Enseñanza en Criminología
Fortalecendo o Ensino da Criminologia



Findings of the learning mobilities of South American universities professors/researchers to European Universities

Outcomes of mobilities of teachers from
Universidade São Paulo and Universidade Federal Minas Gerais in Brasil
to University of Granada, University of Castilla-La Mancha, University Miguel
Hernandez, Porto University, Portuguese Catholic University University of Minho in
Spain and Portugal



Introduction

This e-brochure introduces the findings of the learning mobilities of South American Universities professors and researchers to European Universities, held in the framework of the SuCCESS project.

Professors and researchers from the Universidade São Paulo and Universidade Federal Minas Gerais had their learning mobilities between June and July 2022 to the University of Granada, University of Castilla-La Mancha, and University of Minho in Portugal and Spain.

This document is designed for professors, researchers, policymakers, and higher education enthusiasts interested in the evolution of criminology education. It is a reference to the findings of South American professors' learning mobility in European universities, to improve criminology education. In this document, you will discover:

Main Gains and Benefits:

Explore how mobility experiences enriched Brazilian criminology faculty academically, fostering a global perspective, and equipping professors with cutting-edge tools. This resulted in stronger professional profiles and worldwide collaborations promoting criminology education.

Lessons for Universities:

Extract valuable lessons to enhance Brazilian criminology programs, offering insights for curriculum design and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Impact on Criminology Programmes:

Examine the transformations, including improved curriculum development, an emphasis on research excellence, and innovative teaching approaches, preparing students for the modern Brazilian criminal justice system.

Innovation in Teaching and Learning:

Understand how mobility experiences elevated pedagogical and methodological approaches, inspiring innovative teaching tools, enriched curricula, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

New Criminology Insights:

Discover new perspectives on cybercrime, upgraded curricula, global research collaborations, innovative teaching methods, and educational resource sharing, contributing to a comprehensive, practical criminology education.

1. What were the main gains and benefits from the mobilities?

Main Gains and Benefits

Global Academic Enrichment: The mobility experiences enriched criminology faculty academically, fostering a global perspective through exchanges with Spain and Portugal. This exposure broadened horizons and infused international context into Brazilian criminology programs.

Strategic Program Enhancement: Insights from the educational systems of Spain and Portugal provided a strategic roadmap for aligning criminology master's programs with global standards, ensuring Brazilian graduates meet international benchmarks.

Collaborative Strengths and Profiling: Collaboration during mobility experiences identified teaching staff strengths, enhancing student training and strengthening the profile of criminology graduates. This collaborative approach opens avenues for program expansion and alliances.

Technological Advancements and Tools: Exposure to cutting-edge tools and technology for criminal analysis equipped professors to drive improvements in criminology programs. This technological insight ensures programs stay current with advancements.

Building International Alliances: Mobility experiences consolidated communication channels and alliances for international cooperative research. This networking enriches criminology programs with diverse perspectives and approaches.

Recommendations for other Higher Education Organizations

Prioritize Global Understanding: Universities should invest in initiatives that expose faculty and students to international systems, fostering a global perspective in program development.

Emphasize Research and Training: Fostering a culture of research and training ensures criminology programs remain dynamic and relevant, equipping graduates with skills for a rapidly evolving field.

Foster International Collaborations: Actively seeking international collaborations enhances program quality. Other universities should prioritize global connections for knowledge sharing and mutual growth.

Invest in Modern Tools and Methodologies: Embracing modern tools in criminology research ensures programs stay aligned with technological advancements, offering students a contemporary and practical education.

Strengthen Connections Between Academia and Industry: Strong ties between academia and industry, fostered through internships and real-world applications, ensure criminology programs align with job market needs, enhancing program relevance.

1.1 Lessons learned for other universities improve their criminology programmes

Strengthen Program Development

International Alignment: Collaborating with institutions globally, particularly those in countries known for excellence in criminology education, offers valuable insights. Understanding international standards ensures alignment with global educational benchmarks.

Regular Curriculum Updates: Establishing mechanisms for continuous improvement allows for the regular review and update of course content. Integrating the latest research, technologies, and methodologies ensures program relevance and responsiveness to emerging trends.

Foster Critical Thinking: Designing courses that challenge students to analyze real-world criminal phenomena promotes critical thinking. Encouraging effective problem-solving skills prepares graduates for the complexities of the field.

Promote Interdisciplinarity

Cross-Faculty Collaboration: Facilitating collaboration between different faculties or departments creates interdisciplinary criminology programs. Incorporating insights from law, psychology, sociology, and relevant disciplines ensures a comprehensive understanding of the field.

Guest Lecturers: Inviting experts from various fields, such as law enforcement, psychology, and sociology, for guest lectures exposes students to diverse perspectives. This approach enriches their educational experience and prepares them for multifaceted challenges.

Invest in Faculty Development

Continuous Training: Supporting faculty members in their professional development through workshops, seminars, and training programs is crucial. Equipping them with the latest teaching methodologies and technologies ensures high-quality education.

Encourage Research: Promoting a culture of research among faculty members contributes to program objectives. Engaging them in research projects related to criminology ensures expertise alignment with program goals.

International Collaboration: Encouraging faculty members to participate in international academic mobility programs broadens their perspectives. These experiences enrich their teaching methods, fostering a global outlook.

Explore Advanced Tools

Technology Integration: Investing in modern technologies and software tools for criminal analysis enhances the curriculum. Integrating these tools into coursework provides students with practical, hands-on experience.

Practical Training: Incorporating field visits to criminal justice institutions, forensic laboratories, and relevant facilities exposes students to real-world applications of criminological concepts. Practical experiences bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Case Studies: Developing a library of case studies and simulations challenges students to apply their knowledge to solve complex criminal cases. These exercises contribute to a deeper understanding of criminology in practical contexts.

2. Impact on the design of new or improved Criminology Programmes

Advanced Curriculum Development
The mobility experiences have propelled the evolution of Brazilian Criminology Programs into advanced, globally aligned curricula. These curricula, adhering to international standards, offer students a comprehensive, up-to-date education focused on Brazil's unique criminological landscape. Faculty members are now well-equipped to deliver cutting-edge content.
Research Excellence
Mobility experiences have elevated the emphasis on research within Brazilian Criminology Programs, empowering students to contribute significantly to the expansion of criminological knowledge. Collaborative research initiatives with international partners enhance critical thinking and analytical skills, solidifying Brazilian institutions as hubs for criminological research.
Interdisciplinary Focus Prioritization
Brazilian Criminology Programs now prioritize interdisciplinary education, equipping graduates with a broader skill set tailored to address multifaceted criminological challenges in Brazil. Cross-disciplinary collaboration among faculty members fosters a collaborative mindset.
Practical Orientation
Mobility experiences underscored the importance of practical orientation in Brazilian Criminology Programs. Graduates emerge with practical skills through field visits and simulations, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

2.1. Lessons learned for other universities improve their criminology programmes

Build Global Networks
Establishing global academic alliances is crucial for Brazilian universities to enhance their Criminology programs, offering collaborative research opportunities and enriching the educational experience for students.
Update Research Methodologies
Brazilian universities should invest in faculty development, offering training in contemporary research methodologies to ensure faculty competence and high-quality education.
Adopt Worldwide Perspectives
Brazilian Criminology programs should incorporate a global perspective, preparing students for a comprehensive understanding of criminology issues beyond regional boundaries.
Encourage Collaboration
Actively seeking collaboration with foreign institutions is essential for Brazilian universities to improve their Criminology programs. Partnerships with foreign universities contribute to the exchange of best practices and resources, advancing Criminology education in Brazil.

3. Innovation on methodological and pedagogical aspects

Elevated Criminal Procedure Courses

Mobility programs significantly influenced the thematic and methodological design of Criminal Procedure courses in Brazil. Integration of knowledge from mobility experiences enhanced learning, incorporating novel concepts like therapeutic justice and gender analysis.

Enriched Faculties

Beyond individual courses, the impact extended to entire faculties in Brazil, fostering collaboration between different disciplines. Professors collaborated to develop comprehensive programs, preparing students to analyze criminal phenomena from multiple angles.

Innovative Teaching Methodologies

Inspired by mobility experiences, Brazil introduced innovative teaching methodologies, moving beyond traditional lecture-based approaches. Active learning strategies, advanced tools, and technology became cornerstones of pedagogy, engaging students in dynamic and interactive learning environments.

Collaborative Research Initiatives

The enriched faculties not only impacted teaching but also research initiatives in Brazil. Professors collaborated on research projects transcending disciplinary boundaries, broadening the scope of inquiry and providing innovative solutions for complex criminological issues.

3.1. Suggestions to find innovative aspects to improve methodological and pedagogical approaches

Enrich Course Content

In Brazil, criminology programs can innovate by enriching their course content to encompass a broader range of relevant topics. Embracing emerging areas within criminology, such as cybercrime or environmental criminology, reflects contemporary challenges.

Incorporate Practical Learning

To enhance methodological and pedagogical approaches, Brazil can blend active learning strategies with real-world applications. Incorporate case studies, simulations, and hands-on exercises that challenge students to analyze and solve authentic criminological problems.

Promote Cross-Faculty Collaboration

Emphasize the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration between criminology departments and related disciplines in Brazil. Encourage joint projects, courses, or research initiatives that bring together faculty and students from diverse backgrounds.

Diversify Your Resources

To foster innovation, Brazilian universities should offer access to a diverse set of learning tools and materials. Leverage technology for virtual labs, simulations, and data analysis tools relevant to criminology, promoting interactive and engaging learning experiences.

4. New contents and educational materials

Enriched Cybercrime Insights
Mobility experiences in Brazil provided valuable insights into the realm of Brazilian cybercrime. Professors gained a deeper understanding of unique challenges, serving as a foundation for developing specialized courses or modules within the criminology program.
Enhanced Curricula
Insights gained from mobility programs played a pivotal role in enhancing the overall curricula of criminology programs in Brazil. Specifically, curricula were refined to incorporate cybercrime-related content, ensuring graduates are well-equipped to combat cyber threats in today's digital age.
Global Research Collaborations
The mobility experiences facilitated interdisciplinary research collaborations in Brazil, extending to the field of cybercrime. Collaborations with experts in cybersecurity, computer science, and law enforcement paved the way for cutting-edge research on cybercrime trends and prevention strategies.
Innovative Teaching Tools
To effectively teach cybercrime-related topics in Brazil, new learning tools and assessment rubrics were developed. Virtual labs for hands-on experience in digital forensics, cybersecurity simulations, and interactive case studies engage students in the complexities of cybercrime investigations and prevention.

4.1. How to improve courses contents and educational materials

Research and Insights

Brazilian criminology programs can enhance course content by actively participating in research projects related to criminology issues. Encouraging faculty and students to publish findings in reputable journals contributes to a comprehensive education.

Adapt Curricula to Address New Challenges

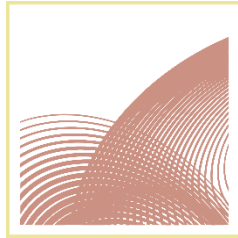
Ensure curricula are flexible and responsive to emerging criminology challenges in Brazil, including cybercrime. Foster a culture of continuous improvement by regularly reviewing and updating course content to remain relevant.

Encourage Collaborative Research

Foster collaboration between criminology professionals, academics, and practitioners in Brazil to enrich course content with practical insights. Implement active learning methods and techniques to engage students and bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Continuous Improvement

Establish clear assessment criteria aligned with course objectives in Brazil to measure students' understanding and application of criminology concepts. Gather feedback for informed curriculum updates, ensuring ongoing improvement.



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