

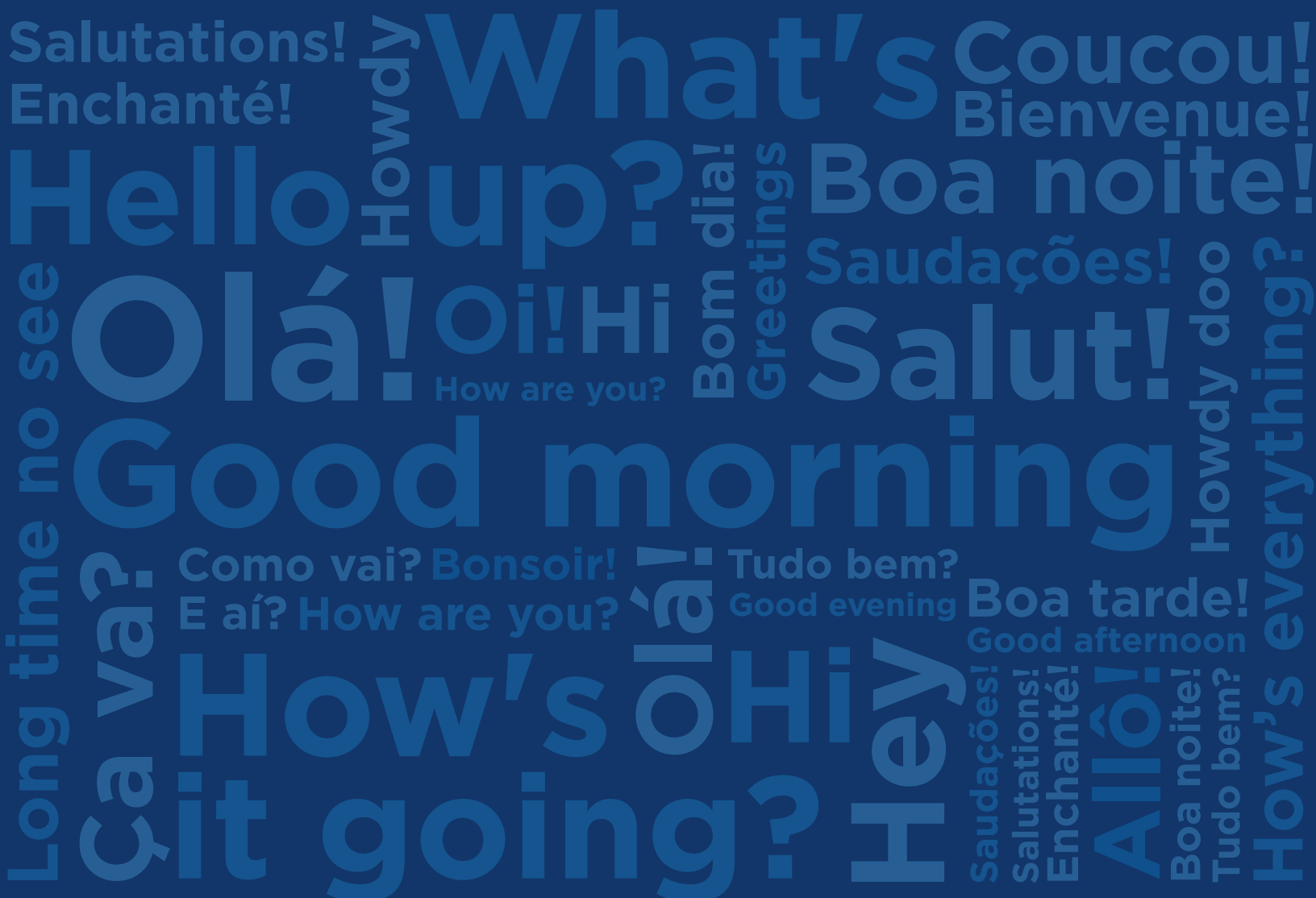


UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA  
de Colombia  
Vigilada Mineducación

# Opening borders and embracing diversity through internationalization and languages



Portfolio of second language activities that promote **comprehensive internationalization**



## Global Campus Affairs & International Cooperation

### Asuntos globales para el Campus & Cooperación Internacional

#### Training Program: Global English-Mediated Classrooms

This international collaborative project is led by Universidad Católica Colombia and the consortium is formed by Universidad Católica de Manizales, UNIVA (Mexico) and Dalhousie University (Canada). It is a training program for teachers to strengthen their capacities for content and language integrated learning (CLIL) in multicultural environments mediated by English as a medium of instruction (EMI).



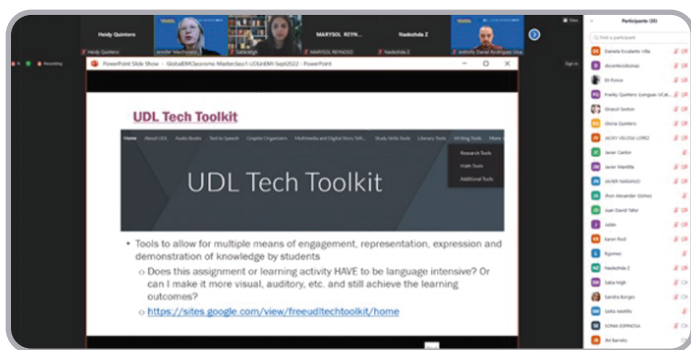
It takes place over two years, with the first two phases conducted in 2023, from September 1 to December 11:

→ Open MOOC in Foundations of English-mediated Global Classrooms.

→ Three synchronous joint Colombia-Mexico binational teacher training modules in English-mediated global classrooms with four virtual masterclasses open to the entire teaching community of the three participating universities and led by Dalhousie University.

→ 3 masterclasses offered by Dalhousie University. Those masterclasses were opened to external public interested in learning or strengthening knowledge on EMI. During the three masterclasses, we had more than 97 participants from different institutions (Universidad Antonio Nariño, UNINPAHU, Universidad Santo Tomas, Wisdom Learning, Universidad Agustiniiana, Fundacion Universitaria Compensar).



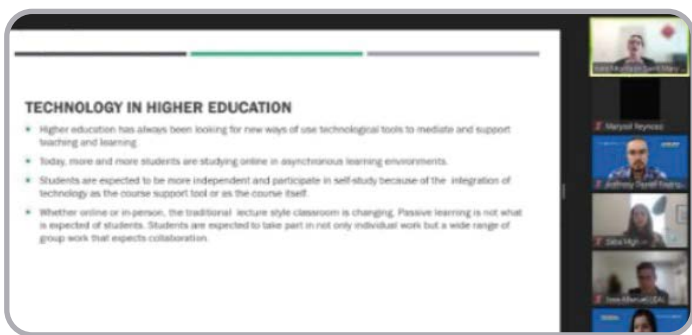


1st

First masterclass  
**“supporting linguistic diversity via UDL in EMI contexts”**

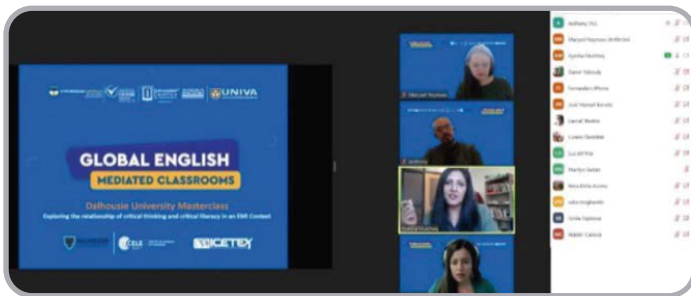
2nd

Second masterclass  
**“using apps in your instruction purposely to enhance language learning in an EMI context”**



3rd

Third masterclass  
**“exploring the relationship of critical thinking and critical literacy in an EMI context”**



**This course certified 20 professors from the four institutions.**

From Universidad Católica de Colombia, 2 professors from Psychology, 1 from Law and 2 from Engineering received certification.

This initiative was the winner of the ICETEX 2023 Project Grants, in the category of Multilingualism: Second Language Teaching Program for Teachers. The project has a total estimated investment cost of **194,310,000**, **51% financed by ICETEX** and 16% by the Universidad Católica de Colombia, with the remaining amount to be provided by the other partners. In 2024, collaborative projects will be implemented among certified teachers and a face-to-face mobility to Dalhousie University will be carried out.



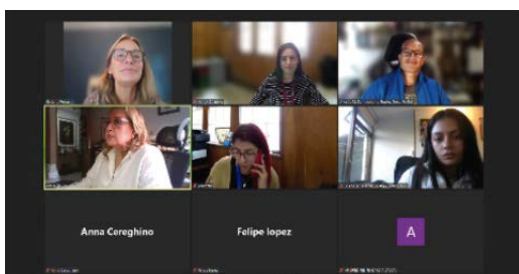


These activities strengthen the global citizenship, intercultural and linguistic competencies of students, faculty and administrators to have more international classrooms and a more diverse campus. They are the result of projects selected in cooperation grants.

## Português para a Vida: Abordagem à cultura e costumes brasileiros

Este é um curso que formará os participantes no nível A2 de português para que sejam capazes de compreender e usar expressões quotidianas de uso muito frequente, bem como frases simples para necessidades imediatas. Destina-se a professores, estudantes, pessoal administrativo da Universidade Católica da Colômbia, **tendo sido abertas algumas vagas para instituições de ensino superior de Bogotá.**

O objetivo é ter cada vez mais pessoas interessadas e com competências linguísticas para aceder a oportunidades de internacionalização com países de língua não espanhola, e particularmente com o Brasil. Por isso, este curso é oferecido em parceria com a Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul.



Tem uma duração de 180 horas de formação e é realizado entre 12 de dezembro de 2023 e 4 de abril de 2024 em modo híbrido. Em 2023, o curso começou com 26 participantes, incluindo 1 aluno externo (ECCI University), 6 professores (5 da Faculdade de Design e 1 da Faculdade de Psicologia), 12 alunos

(3 da Faculdade de Psicologia, 4 da Faculdade de Design, 2 da Faculdade de Direito, 2 da Faculdade de Engenharia e 1 da Faculdade de Ciências Econômicas e Administrativas) e 7 funcionários administrativos (1 da Faculdade de Direito, 1 da Faculdade de Psicologia, 1 do Escritório de Serviços Gerais, 2 do Escritório do Decano Acadêmico e 2 do Escritório de Relações Internacionais).



Este é um projeto vencedor do convite à apresentação de propostas Icetex sobre proteção linguística, na categoria de bolsas para a mobilidade de entrada de especialistas em ensino de línguas estrangeiras. Tem um valor de investimento de 49.580.000 pesos colombianos, 68% financiados pela PUCRS, 27% pelo Icetex e o restante pela Universidade Católica da Colômbia.



Esta é uma actividades que complementa a relação com o Brasil. Atualmente, estamos a trabalhar com as seguintes universidades em matéria de ensino, investigação e intercâmbio de estudantes: Universidade Católica de Santos, Universidade Federal de Goiás, Universidad de Brasília, Universidade de Passo Fundo, Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto e Fundação Getúlio Vargas.

## Language Tables, a multicultural experience to live languages



The Language Institute and the Office of International and Interinstitutional Relations (ORII) of Universidad Católica de Colombia carried out an exciting activity called "Language Tables" in which students and participants were able to learn about the culture of other countries and practice French, Italian, English and German.

This was an opportunity to experience internationalization at home

through an authentic conversation experience with native guests from each of the participating countries. Students and guests shared their knowledge, cultures and traditions, providing a highly enriching and educational event for all present.

Attendees had the chance to practice their pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, and at the same time learn about the culture of the countries represented.





## Conversation Clubs in English

Throughout the year, several spaces were held as a means of practicing the English language, where participants were able to exercise their listening and speaking skills, while strengthening their knowledge through discussions and debates on intercultural and general interest topics moderated by the British English assistants. Through these sessions, not only was practice and advancement in these languages achieved, but also the development of skills and abilities of the global citizen, learning new knowledge of the world and the cultures represented. Free access organized face-to-face and virtual mode for easy access. In 2023, 54 persons attended those clubs.



## Clube de conversação em português



Essa atividade chamada **"Chegou a hora de falar português"** que ocorreu em novembro de 2023, foi liderada pela estudante brasileira María Luiza Ardoyan Machado, que atualmente está fazendo doutorado em Psicologia na Universidade Católica da Colômbia. O objetivo dessa atividade foi motivar os participantes a ousar explorar o mundo e expandir seus horizontes linguísticos falando português.

Durante 5 sessões, os participantes puderam adquirir e/ou aprofundar seus conhecimentos em diferentes níveis (básico, intermediário e avançado), por meio de diferentes temas focados na formalidade para conversas básicas; no conhecimento de bolsas e editais brasileiros para estudo e trabalho; na descoberta de "Gírias", ou seja, expressões idiomáticas e gírias; bem como na abordagem da diversidade cultural por meio de Fanzines.



## English and Internationalization workshops



led by the British English assistants, allowing the development of communicative, intercultural and personal skills and complemented with the participation of a representative of the international relations office, who shares information related to mobility and international opportunities for the academic community. In total, 689 students participated in both sessions.

At the beginning of each semester, with the support of the academic units, an English and Internationalization workshop took place, with the aim of raising awareness of the attendees about the importance of acquiring a second language, not only as a degree requirement, but also because of the positive impact it has in their professional future. The spaces included an ice-breaker session



## Coffee coworking



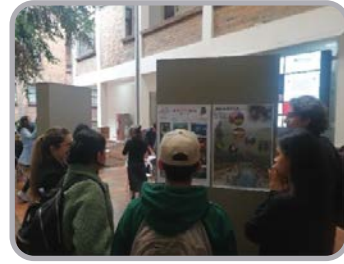
A **'Coffee & Coworking'** session was held every academic semester during the year 2023 aiming at learning and practicing English as a second language and at promoting and developing the collaborative, communicative and intercultural skills of students, professors and administrative staff participating in the English program.

During the development of this activity, the students of the English program demonstrated in a dynamic and interactive way their knowledge of the language through the presentation of the final projects of the course. This activity represented a great opportunity for our community to work collaboratively, exchange knowledge, and interact



with other members of the Catholic community and external guests, through English as a second language and the communicative skills and competencies of the global citizen.

Likewise, in this academic and interrelated space, the projects applied to daily situations and global challenges were shared, achieving an advance in the communicative and oral skills of its participants, demonstrating their knowledge in English through practice and problem solving in this language and the competencies of internationalization and interculturality.



**21 students participated in both spaces.**

## Interuniversity Spelling Bee Contest 2023



The Language Institute of Universidad Católica de Colombia hosted the Interuniversity Spelling Bee Contest 2023 with the support of National Geographic Learning and Wisdom SAS.

This event featured the active participation of students from Universidad Santo Tomás, Universidad Antonio Nariño, Universidad Agustiniiana,

Universidad Agraria, Universidad Militar, Fundación Universitaria Compensar and UNINPAHU. Around 40 students actively participated in the inter-university Spelling Bee Contest 2023, demonstrating their knowledge of English by spelling words at levels A2, B1 and B2.

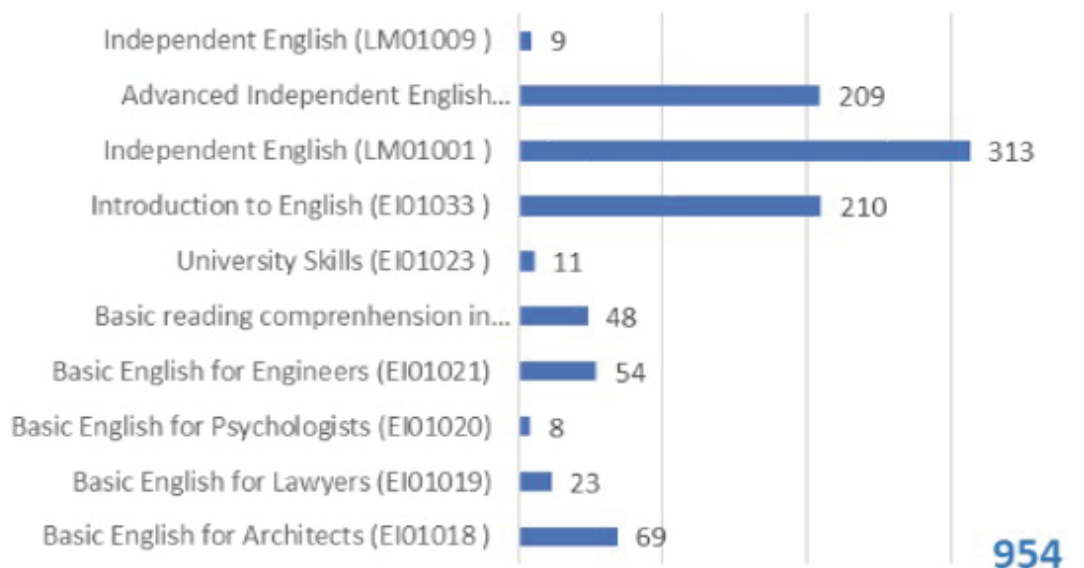
This space has been fundamental to establish connections with other classmates and teachers, which has allowed them to develop interrelation skills and promote global citizenship. **On behalf of Universidad Católica de Colombia, 7 students participated as competitors of a total of 40 competitors and 200 attendees.**





## Portfolio of second language courses

Number of students enrolled



**The Independent English and Advanced Independent English programs follow the guidelines established by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for level B1.**

Thus, the subjects are developed according to a social constructivist approach according to which language learning occurs when knowledge is constructed based on the student's previous knowledge, interests and aspirations; and through social interactions.

Therefore, the subjects include a methodology based on projects and guided tasks, which promotes the use of learning strategies, critical thinking and collaborative learning,

aspects that together with the qualitative assessment allow students to develop autonomy, critical thinking and use English effectively in various contexts of their academic and professional life.

The optional English courses are designed to help students develop their language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking focused on basic level in the study field. Based on a communicative approach and CLIL (Content Language Integrated Learning) methodology, these subjects have been developed to provide students with a meaningful learning environment, where they do not experience anxiety about demonstrating proficiency in English but are exposed to situations related to their

specialties in English. In addition, these can become an opportunity to become familiar with the programs and services offered by the Language Institute, such as schedules, tutoring, English clubs, etc. All of that facilitates students' achievement and

knowledge of their foreign language requirement for graduation. In addition to the previous courses, the School of Law and the School of Psychology, have an internal offer of courses in English, as follows:

Public International	<b>School of Law</b>
Public and peacebuilding	
New technologies and Law	
Sports Law	
Why do we do what we do?	<b>School of Psychology</b>
People and places	

## Strengthening English learning and discovering British culture

Aware of the importance of providing the academic community with the possibility of interacting directly with native English speakers, the Catholic University of Colombia has joined the ICETEX Language Assistants program from the United Kingdom, which favors the strengthening of linguistic skills in a second language and the discovering of the British culture. In 2023, **we received Alicja Chabowska and Anna Sweeney as language assistants.**

Alicja and Anna's main role has been to raise awareness of their country's worldview and culture; to help university students improving their English performance; and to foster the development of Intercultural Communicative Competence (ICC). This has been done through different activities such as class sessions; conversation clubs and individual



tutoring, all of them, according to the particular needs of each student.

Along with these responsibilities, the British assistants have designed and implemented oral presentations on



various topics such as historical events, cultural festivals and sports. In this way, they have generated interest in the students to learn more about these topics.

They have also recorded audio programs on British and Colombian cultural differences as an additional activity so that students can continue their learning process and increase their sensitivity and proficiency in English. In addition, they have taken part in the revision and editing of

of exams designed for the institute and faculty program subjects.

Thanks to the constant interaction with Alicja and Anna in class and the participation in the different activities described above, the students have not only improved their understanding of the British English variety, they have also improved their intercultural sensitivity, increasing their confidence level as learners, their ability to perform and their motivation to learn.

## Proyectos colaborativos en línea en segunda lengua: COIL y clases espejo

During 2023, three COIL courses and a mirror class were carried out, as follows:

1

### Public International



This COIL course was led by professor Laura Gamarra (Faculty of Law) in collaboration with the Monterrey Institute of Technology (TEC de Monterrey), whose main objective was the deepening of knowledge of SDG and learning on how to do a policy paper, with focus on the goal 17th **“Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”**.

The course was attended by 38 students, from which 13 from the Universidad Católica de Colombia.

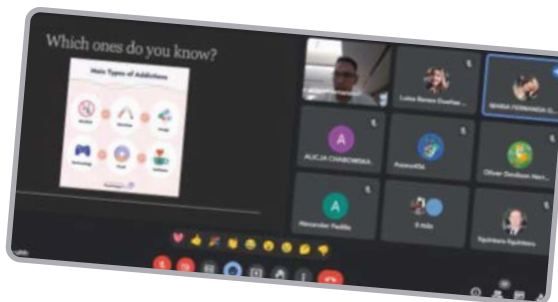
This COIL entitled “Solving current issues” was developed by professor Franky Quintero Riveros from the Languages Institute, in collaboration with the Polytechnic University of San Luis Potosí in Mexico, within the framework of the Advanced Independent English course. The purpose of this project is that students inquire and deepen into topics of their interest. Through making an infographic, students will be able to search and

2

### Advanced Independent English



reflect on different personal and academic issues. A total of 8 students from our institution (2 from the Faculty of Design, 2 from the Faculty of Law and 4 from the Faculty of Engineering) participated on the course and 14 Mexican students.



3

### Patrimônio e cidadania- Faculdade de Design

Esse curso COIL foi desenvolvido pela professora Elvia Casas, da Faculdade de Design, em colaboração com a Universidade Católica de Santos. Entre os principais tópicos abordados estavam a integração sul-americana e a integração de determinados conceitos, bem como a ética do patrimônio na sociedade contemporânea, a gestão do patrimônio, a visão do estrangeiro sobre o patrimônio e o paradigma das inferências indígenas aplicadas a territórios de interesse.

A colaboração foi realizada em espanhol e português, promovendo a compreensão desses idiomas como uma segunda língua, com a participação de 30 estudantes brasileiros e 20 colombianos.

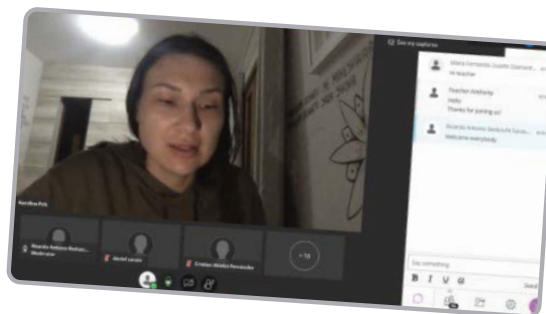


This mirror class, developed jointly by Professor Anthony Rodriguez of the Institute of Languages and a peer professor from UNIVALI (Brazil), was attended by 8 students from the Catholic University of Colombia, including 3 from the Faculty of Law and 5 from the Faculty of Engineering.

Its main objective was to Foster cross-cultural communication skills and creative process by interacting with students from different backgrounds.

4

### Independent English



## The Universidad Catolica de Colombia welcomes international professors!



During the past year 2023, the Universidad Catolica de Colombia experienced an outstanding presence of international professors from different countries such as Brazil, the United Kingdom, the United States, Holland and France, developing academic subjects in non-Spanish speaking languages.

The institution became a meeting point for recognized experts who actively participated in fairs, colloquiums and conferences, enriching the academic environment with their global perspective.

Events such as the IX International Congress on Innovation and Trends in Engineering, CONITTI event hosted by the School of Engineering, the Research Colloquium on Doctoral Training and the International Week organized by the School of Psychology, as well as the VII International Congress on the Sociology of Law sponsored by the School of Law, among others, were attended by international guests from institutions such as the University of Texas, the

University of Sao Paulo, Florida Institute and Technology, the National School of Architecture of Paris Beleville, among many other institutions, allowing students and academics to have access to different pedagogical approaches and academic visions in all areas of study. The interaction between the international faculty and the local university community fostered the exchange of ideas and the creation of collaborative networks, strengthening academic ties between the Catholic University of Colombia and educational institutions from around the world.





## Brasil: um parceiro estratégico para programas de mobilidade de curto e longo prazo



Nos últimos anos, a Universidade Católica da Colômbia tem experimentado um aumento notável nos intercâmbios acadêmicos por meio de **missões acadêmicas de curta duração e projetos colaborativos da aula com o Brasil**. No último ano, recebemos a visita de aproximadamente 70 estudantes e professores de destaque de instituições como a Universidade Católica de Santos, a Universidade de Passo Fundo e a Fundação Getúlio Vargas, entre outras, que vieram à nossa instituição para conhecer as perspectivas acadêmicas sobre a economia local, bem como **assuntos relacionados à paz e pós-conflito**.

Essas missões acadêmicas não apenas fortaleceram os laços interinstitucionais, mas também enriqueceram significativamente a mobilidade proveniente do Brasil, aprimorando os projetos de cooperação e a língua portuguesa.

Esse relacionamento ativo com diferentes instituições no Brasil nos identificou como um parceiro estratégico, demonstrando a qualidade de nossos programas educacionais. Também posicionou a Universidade Católica da Colômbia como uma referência a ser visitada.

Da mesma forma, a Universidade Católica da Colômbia enviou uma missão acadêmica de 20 alunos para realizar uma visita acadêmica de curta duração a instituições como a Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio, a Europharma e a Universidade Católica de Santos, com o objetivo de continuar a estreitar os laços e fortalecer a internacionalização e a língua portuguesa no Campus.



**Listen UCatólicos around the world!**,  
a space created to highlight the  
experiences of our students and  
professors abroad.



Mitacs

The experience of Melissa Rubiano, architecture student who received a Canadian government scholarship for a research stay at Ryerson University.

Discover more here 



CETEX

Our international language assistants tell us about their experience of visiting Latin America and working in Colombia.

Discover more here 

## International research cooperation Cooperación internacional para la investigación

### Proyectos de investigación en colaboración internacional

La investigación en la Universidad Católica de Colombia con pares internacionales se ha venido fortaleciendo a lo largo del tiempo, con el desarrollo de proyectos que incluyen principalmente pares de países hispanos, pero que más recientemente han venido generando nuevas sinergias de colaboración con instituciones en países no hispanohablantes.

Particularmente, durante el año 2023, las Facultades de Diseño, Derecho e Ingeniería desarrollaron en total 9 proyectos de investigación con 15 investigadores internacionales de países no hispanohablantes provenientes de Brasil, Italia y Estados Unidos.



## Facultad de Derecho


Proyecto	Socio(s) no hispanohablante	País
Libertad y justicia social en el pensamiento político	Università degli Studi di Palermo	
Nueva criminalidad y control 6	Università degli Studi di Salerno	
ELPIS: Análisis de datos para la toma de decisiones espaciales e inteligencia artificial para la administración	Universidade Católica de Santos University of Texas at Arlington	 

## Facultad de Diseño

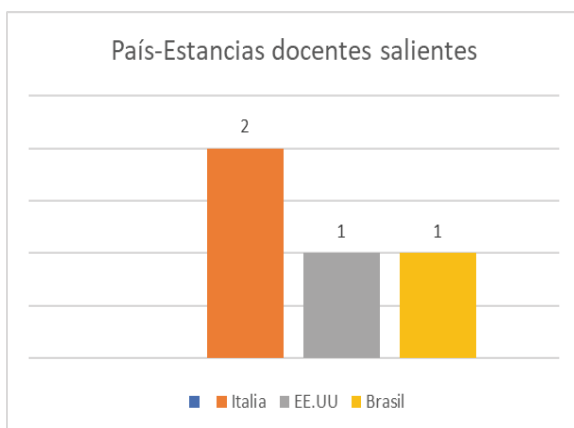
Proyecto	Socio(s) no hispanohablante	País
Modelo de fabricación digital de diseño sostenible para vivienda social	Escola Politécnica Atitus Educação	
Proceso de recualificación de las interacciones del Corredor Socio-Ambiental Los Nevados-Líbano Tolima desde la Ecología Humana- Fase 1	Universidade Católica de Santos	



## Facultad de Ingeniería

Proyecto	Socio (s) no hispanohablante	País
Degradación ambiental y el ciclo del carbono en ríos tropicales: perspectivas contemporáneas y paleolimnológicas- FASE II	Regina University University of California San Diego University of Nottingham	
Evaluación técnica y ambiental de materiales alternativos para capas de pavimentos	Universidade Federal de Goiás	
Modelación de la informalidad barrial en Latinoamérica a partir de indicadores de desarrollo urbano sustentable. Caso de estudio Yomasa, Bogotá-Colombia	Università degli Studi di Salerno	
Modelación física y numérica de estructuras geotécnico-hidráulicas (etapa 3)	Universidade de Brasília	

## Estancias de investigación



Las Facultades de Derecho, Ingeniería, Diseño y Psicología protagonizaron el desarrollo de estancias de investigación con socios no hispanohablantes, permitiendo consolidar lazos de colaboración con instituciones tanto en el continente americano como europeo.



## Clube de conversação em português



Estas colaboraciones son de gran importancia para la Universidad, por un lado, gracias al impacto positivo que estas generan en el fortalecimiento de nuestros procesos investigativos, a la consolidación del capital relacional de nuestro cuerpo docente y, por otro lado, a la visibilidad de nuestra institución en las instituciones a las cuales enviamos o de las cuales recibimos investigadores.

### Instituciones de destino

Università di Pisa (IT)

La Ántartida (USA)

Universidade Católica de Santos (BR)

Università degli Studi di Salerno (IT)

Durante el año 2023, se desarrollaron en total 4 estancias salientes de profesores (2 de la Facultad de Derecho, 1 de la Facultad de Diseño y 1 de la Facultad de Ingeniería) a países no hispanohablantes, 1 estancia saliente de estudiante doctoral (Facultad de Psicología) y una estancia entrante de profesor internacional (Facultad de Diseño), mostrando un incremento importante con respecto al año 2022, en el cual solo se registró una estancia saliente de estudiante del pregrado

en Arquitectura a un país no hispanohablante (Canadá).

Con respecto a la movilidad entrante, durante la vigencia del 2023, nuestra Facultad de Diseño registró la movilidad entrante de un investigador proveniente de la Universidad Católica de Santos (Brasil), llevada a cabo en el marco del proyecto de investigación Proceso de recualificación de las interacciones del Corredor Socio-Ambiental Los Nevados-Líbano Tolima desde la Ecología Humana- Fase 1.

