

Press Release

Jamia Millia Islamia Welcomes Delegation from Brazil's Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)

New Delhi, 10 March 2026: Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) welcomed a distinguished academic delegation from Brazil's **Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)** to explore avenues for academic collaboration and strengthen educational ties between India and Brazil.

The visiting delegation comprised **Prof. Claudia Wassermann, Vice-Rector of Graduate Studies, UFRGS; Prof. Benito Bisso Schmidt, Director of International Relations, UFRGS and Prof. Fabiano Mielniczuk from the Department of Political Science at UFRGS.** The visit provided an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on academic cooperation, research collaboration and institutional partnerships.

The delegation was received by **Prof. Ushvinder Kaur Popli, Dean, International Relations, JMI,** who welcomed the guests and highlighted the university's commitment to fostering global academic engagement. She also conveyed gratitude to the **Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar of Jamia Millia Islamia** for their continued encouragement in promoting international collaborations. Among those present from Jamia were **Prof. Tanuja, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Ajay Darshan Behera, Director, Academy of International Studies; Prof. Abuzar Khairi, Honorary Director, Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution and Prof. Vivek Mishra from the Academy of International Studies.**

During the interaction, Prof. Popli briefly introduced **Jamia Millia Islamia**, noting its reputation for academic excellence, diversity and socially relevant research. The university is consistently ranked among the leading institutions in India by **NIRF** and is also recognized in global rankings such as **QS** and **Times Higher Education.** She highlighted Jamia's strong research ecosystem across disciplines, supported by dedicated faculty, talented students and several key research centres.

Discussions during the visit also focused on expanding **international collaboration through joint research initiatives, faculty & student exchanges and collaborative doctoral programmes.** Both sides expressed interest in strengthening academic engagement between Jamia Millia Islamia and UFRGS.

The Brazilian delegation also shared details of a **Brazilian initiative under the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) framework**, led by the **Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul and the Federal University of Paraná**, which have been designated by the Brazilian government to represent the **“BRICS Studies” International Thematic Group**. Jamia Millia Islamia has been invited to join this initiative at the BRICS NU level.

Several leading universities, including **Nankai University (China), MGIMO University (Russia), Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (India)**, have already confirmed their participation. The initiative aims to promote academic exchange and collaborative research on issues relevant to the BRICS countries.

The visit of delegation to Jamia Millia Islamia provided an opportunity to discuss potential areas of cooperation and explore the scope of the proposed BRICS Studies initiative.

Both sides expressed optimism that the interaction would pave the way for **long-term academic collaboration and meaningful engagement between the two institutions**.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer









