

WORK PLAN

FROM SUN TO SUN ACADEMIC MOBILITY PROGRAM

This Work Plan is part of the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement with the objective of establishing an Academic Mobility Program, signed between Soka University, Japan, and the Federal Universities of the Northeast Region.

1. Program Name: *From Sun to Sun*

The name repeats a Brazilian expression that designates a constant, tireless activity. Within the scope of this cooperation, the repetition of the word “sun” has, equally, a double meaning, making reference to the sun that punishes, but also gives life to the Northeastern culture, on one hand, and, on the other hand, to the sun that symbolizes the Japanese nation, present in its flag. *From Sun to Sun* also represents the great step taken by the institutions involved in this program, strengthening the ties between two antipodean and friendly nations.

2. Participating Universities

This is the first Work Plan established under this Agreement and, as determined by Paragraph fourth of its First Clause, the Brazilian Federal Universities are not all obliged to take part in this pilot activity. The Term of Acceptance will be valid for a period of five years. Any modifications and amendments to the terms and conditions of this Term will occur after extended negotiations and mutual agreement between all parties. The following Universities will sign the Term of Acceptance:

- Soka University
- Federal University of Alagoas;
- Federal University of Bahia;
- Federal University of Western Bahia;
- Federal University of Recôncavo da Bahia;
- Federal University of Southern Bahia;
- Federal University of Cariri;
- University of International Integration of Afro-Brazilian Lusophony;
- Federal University of Maranhão;
- Federal University of Campina Grande;
- Federal University of Paraíba;
- Federal University of Pernambuco;
- Rural Federal University of Pernambuco;
- Federal University of San Francisco Valley;
- Federal University of the Agreste of Pernambuco;
- Federal University of Piauí;
- Federal University of the Delta of Parnaíba;
- Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte;
- Federal University of Sergipe;

3. Reciprocity

The Brazilian Federal Universities that adhere to this Work Plan undertake to receive Japanese students in equivalent conditions to those offered by Soka University to the Brazilian students in mobility in Japan.

4. Coordination

Soka University and the Brazilian Federal Universities in the Northeast Region will designate the Coordinators responsible for the Program in both countries. The Brazilian Coordinator should be, preferably, one of those responsible for International Relations at the aforementioned Brazilian institutions. For this first moment of mobility, Prof. Henry Iure Paiva Silva, PhD, from the Federal University of Paraíba, will take over the academic coordination of RENE. The academic coordination of mobility in Japan will be under the responsibility of Prof. Masahiko Tobita, managing director of international affairs at Soka University.

5. Program Phases

The implementation of the *From Sun to Sun* Academic Mobility Program will take place in two phases: The preparation Phase and the Implementation Phase.

The Preparation Phase, which will precede the pilot experience of the *From Sun to Sun* Academic Mobility Program, will provide the learning of the language and culture of each country with the objective of promoting mutual understanding of both parties and its content will not be limited only to participants of the program. The appropriate environment for carrying out the program must also be pre-established in the Preparation Phase.

The Implementation Phase refers to the execution of the program.

Each one of them must comply with the corresponding steps, as described below:

5.1 PREPARATION PHASE

Objective: To create, in both countries, the appropriate conditions for the development of the Program.

Steps:

1. Awareness of the various academic communities of the participating institutions regarding the culture of the partner country. To that end, the Universities must prepare promotional material that will be exchanged between the two countries and presented in activities with broad student participation.
2. Portuguese language online courses will be offered, by Brazilian Universities, as well as Japanese language online courses, by Soka University, to students interested in participating in the Program. The participating Brazilian Federal Universities must declare their ability and availability to offer an online course in Portuguese as a Foreign Language, developed, preferably, in a consortium of more than one university.
3. Definition of criteria for participation in the Program, both for the institutions and for the students involved, in a process conducted by the Coordinators of each country, with consensus among the participants, according to the steps defined for the Implementation Phase.
4. Definition of Program duration, as well as workload, number of students, and study methods.

5.2 IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

Objective: to put *From Sun to Sun Academic Mobility Program* into operation, taking care of its launch, and the evaluation of the results obtained. The stages of student selection, monitoring during mobility, and support post-mobility will be indicated below.

Program content:

The participating Brazilian Federal Universities and Soka University must follow the content indicated below as a basis and prepare specific projects to establish more details of the mobility program.

1 Recruitment

Students from Brazilian Federal Universities will be able to participate in academic lessons of each faculty (academic content lessons conducted in English or Japanese) at Soka University, as well as Japanese language and culture lessons at the Japan Studies Center.

Students from Soka University will be able to participate in lessons offered by the Brazilian Federal Universities participating in the program.

Start of mobility: September

- Duration of mobility: 1 or 2 semesters
- Number of participating students: maximum of 2 students from the Brazilian Federal Universities, and maximum of 2 students from Soka University.
 - Changes in the number of students will occur after negotiations between both parties.
 - The dynamics of student selection among the 18 Brazilian Federal Universities will be carried out by themselves and the result must be announced to Soka University before the beginning of the Implementation Phase.
- Requirements: Students from Brazilian Federal Universities who wish to study at Soka University must have a GPA above 3,0 (maximum scale of 4,0). Regarding language skills, the students must meet the following requirements:
 - Brazilian Federal Universities: Students from Soka University must have a level of fluency in English equivalent to or equal to the B1 level of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). There is no specific requirement for the level of fluency in Portuguese.
 - Soka University: Students from Brazilian Federal Universities must have a level of fluency in English equivalent to or equal to 71 points on the TOEFL-iBT, or a level of fluency in Japanese equivalent or equal to the N2 level of the JLPT Japanese proficiency test.
- Accommodation: Student accommodation will be provided free of charge by the host institution.
 - Brazilian Federal Universities will provide accommodation free of charge to the student from Soka University. If the accommodation cannot be offered, a stipend equivalent to the accommodation cost must be provided for the full period of mobility.
 - Soka University will provide accommodation free of charge to students from Brazilian Federal Universities.
- Financial Support: Students shall be exempt from tuition fees, administration fees, accommodation fees, as well as other university fees. Other expenses (traveling, extra-curricular courses, etc) will be under the student's charge. The same applies to personal expenses (food, transportation, etc).
- Establishments and facilities: Both universities must make available the use of all

establishments (library, gym, health center, etc), obeying the same conditions as regular students.

2 Student selection stages

- 2.1 Launch of public notices of selection of the Brazilian Federal Universities that offer conditions to participate in the program, and also of the students from these Universities, registered after the selection has been made. Public notices must consider, as basic criteria for the selection of Universities, the guarantee of reciprocity in the conditions offered to Japanese students in mobility in Brazil, which must be similar to those offered by Soka University to the Brazilian students in mobility in Japan; and, for student selection, the participation in activities closely linked to the SDGs and, preferably, proficiency in the Japanese language or, compulsorily, proficiency in the English language.
- 2.2 Definition of the dynamics of the selection process, involving, preferably, representatives of Brazilian Federal Universities that have not joined the Program, respecting the calendar of the institutions of both countries, and the schedule previously disclosed in the notices.
- 2.3 Preparation of selected students, with information about the culture from both countries, the topics they should address at the foreign university regarding the SDGs covered in their studies, and also with previous contacts with professors, researchers, and students from the university that will receive them.

3 Monitoring during mobility

- 3.1 Accompanying students on their arrival in the foreign country and supporting their acclimatization at the host institution, with the necessary information so that the students feel in harmony with foreign customs and can dedicate themselves to their studies without major concerns.
- 3.2 Permanent contact with the Coordinators of the Program in both countries, aiming at solving any possible problems or difficulties, and correcting any flaws that the public notices may have not foreseen.

4 Post-mobility Support

- 4.1 Reception of students returning from their mobility period in the foreign country, being obliged to present their experience in events organized by their University or by the other Universities participating in the Program.
- 4.2 Evaluation of the Program by the participants and dissemination of the results obtained in events or scientific journals.

5. Financing

The stages of the program will be financed by the participating Universities, with an indication, in a notice, of the items funded, as well as the origin of the resources, which may even be external to their budget. Investments in the Program must always be guided by balance, based on the reciprocity of counterparts. Any funding proposal by a participating University that does not comply with this principle can only be accepted with the full consent of the other participants.

Items to be covered are described below:

- 1) 02 scholarships in the amount of BRL 2.000,00 (for a period of 6 months,

totaling BRL 24.000,00), which will cover food and accommodation expenses for Japanese students from Soka University. Resources will be made available from the **20RK action**.

2) 02 airline tickets for students from RENE institutions who will go to Soka University, Japan, and health insurance (estimated value of the round trip ticket: BRL 15.000,00). Resources will be made available from the **20RK action**.

6. Documentation

Each Brazilian University must retain possession of the formal documentation of Soka University:

- a) Proof of the constitution and functioning of Soka University, Japan.
- b) Proof of competence of the legal representative of Soka University, Japan.

7. Continuity

At the end of the whole process of the pilot experience of the *From Sun to Sun Academic Mobility Program*, the participating Universities will meet to assess the results obtained and evaluate the relevance of continuing the Program. In this meeting, it will also be decided whether or not to present a new Work Plan, with the possibility of using the current Plan for the duration of the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement.

8. Soka University Proposal

If the Brazilian Federal Universities can receive more than two (2) students from Soka University, Soka University would like to propose a short-term course with the participation of approximately ten (10) students, in which the focus would be on cultural exchange, learning the Portuguese language and carrying out research related to the SDGs. This proposal will be deliberated after the end of the pilot experience *From Sun to Sun Academic Mobility Program* between the Brazilian Federal Universities.

March 16, 2023.

TERM OF ACCEPTANCE

By this term of acceptance, the federal universities listed below undertake to expressly adhere to the SOL A SOL Academic Mobility Program, which is part of the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement signed between Soka University, in Japan, and the Federal Universities of the Northeast Region, in Brazil, on March 16, 2023.

SOKA UNIVERSITY
Prof. Masashi Suzuki
President



**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
ALAGOAS**
Prof. Josealdo Tonholo
President



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF BAHIA
Prof. Paulo Cesar Miguez de Oliveira
President

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN BAHIA**
Prof. Jacques Antonio de Miranda



**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
RECÔNCAVO OF BAHIA**
Prof. Fábio Josué Souza dos Santos
President

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN BAHIA**
Prof. Joana Angélica Guimarães da Luz
President



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF CARIRI
Prof. Ricardo Luiz Lange Ness
President



**UNIVERSITY OF INTERNATIONAL
INTEGRATION OF AFRO-BRAZILIAN
LUSOPHONY**
Prof. Roque do Nascimento Albuquerque
President



**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
MARANHÃO**
Prof. Natalino Salgado Filho
President

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
CAMPINA GRANDE**
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**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
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President



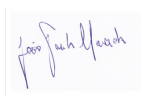
**RURAL FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
PERNAMBUCO**
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SAN FRANCISCO VALLEY**
Prof. Julianeli Tolentino de Lima
President


**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF THE AGRESTE
OF PERNAMBUCO**
Prof. Airon Aparecido Silva de Melo
President



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF PIAUÍ
Prof. Gildásio Guedes Fernandes
President



**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF THE DELTA OF
PARNAÍBA**
Prof. João Paulo Sales Macedo
President



**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
RIO GRANDE DO NORTE**
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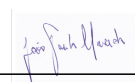
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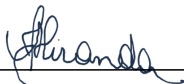


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