

Technical visit to universities as an international cooperation strategy

Vista técnica às universidades como estratégia de cooperação internacional
Visita técnica as universidades como estrategia de cooperación internacional

Sava, Anca;¹ Oliveira, Stefanie Griebeler²

This editorial is based on a technical visit made by Professor Stefanie Griebeler Oliveira from the Federal University of Pelotas, following an invitation from Professor Anca Sava of the Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Iași, Romania (Figure 1).

What is a technical visit? It is considered a short-term initiative, a technical visit¹ can serve as an opportunity to initiate cooperation between two universities through some form of agreement and/or partnership. These visits aim to expand or strengthen ties between researchers and professors, facilitating interactions among members of research groups.

A technical visit allows visitors to become acquainted with the academic structure and partner health services, enabling an assessment of the feasibility of cooperation between universities. For example, visitors can observe how classes are organized, how undergraduate and postgraduate programs function, and how academic mobility can be planned. Regarding partner health services, these visits are particularly valuable, as they provide insight into who is receiving care, how services are delivered, the structure of care facilities, and possibilities for research collaborations that may allow for cross-country comparisons.

Furthermore, these visits provide opportunities to meet researchers working on similar topics or using similar methodologies, fostering collaboration not only for the visiting scholar but also for their colleagues through newly established connections. Academic cooperation contributes significantly to the process of internationalization. A technical visit can include both university research/didactic facilities, and the affiliated university hospitals. Visiting several regional hospitals in Iasi ("Prof. Dr. N. Oblu" Emergency Clinical Hospital for Neurosurgery, Regional Institute of Oncology, "Saint Mary Emergency Children Hospital, "Dr. C. I. Parhon" Clinical Hospital for Renal Transplant and Nephrology and Clinical Rehabilitation Hospital Iasi) and one in Suceava ("Saint John the New" County Emergency Hospital Suceava) provided valuable clinical insights, especially from the point of view of the facilities an exchange student would benefit during an exchange program. Exchange students would benefit from the state-of-the-art treatment received by patients, with the Gamma Knife technology at the neurosurgery hospital. During the hospital visits, we established several connections with senior professionals, and the meeting with Professor Vladimir Poroh, MD, PhD, Head of the Palliative Clinic at the Regional Institute of Oncology Iasi, represents a good start for future nurses to specialize in palliative care.

It is important to mention the Erasmus+ Program (Erasmus+ Program in the European Union),² two organizations can expand their international reach, strengthen their management approaches, secure more funding and project opportunities, and offer more attractive prospects to their learners and staff.

How does a technical visit work? First, it starts with meeting a professor or researcher at an academic event. Afterwards, an invitation and an official program must be received. Finally, the plan must be approved by the home university.

¹ "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iasi. Iasi. Romania (RO). E-mail: dr.anca.sava.68@gmail.com ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-5398-2799>

² Federal University of Pelotas (UFPEL). Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul (RS). Brazil (BR). E-mail: stefaniegriebeleroliveira@gmail.com ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8672-6907>

The outcomes of this technical visit include here partnerships for writing abstracts for conferences, planning future scientific articles, a collaboration with a professor for a doctoral thesis on palliative care service viability, progress toward a cooperation agreement between the universities, and a planned future visit by the Romanian professor to the Federal University of Pelotas.

In conclusion, technical visits are strategic tools for establishing cooperation agreements between universities in different countries. Beyond learning about academic structures, they offer opportunities to experience the culture and history of the host country. Finally, we would mention the brief, but enjoyable trip in the Romanian Mountains, during the free weekend days we had.



Figure 1: Professors Anca Sava and Stefanie Griebler Oliveira during technical visit at Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Iași, Romania. The register was taken on the weekend during the trip through the mountain ranges of Romania
Source: professors' personal archives, 2025.

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- 2 Erasmus+ Program in the European Union. Available at: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>. Accessed on: 13 jul. 2025.

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