

Experience Report

Stay in Belo Horizonte as part of the Global Justice Clinic

As a fifth-semester student in International Relations at the University of Erfurt, I had the opportunity to spend one month (from 3rd to 27th November 2025) living and studying in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. As part of the Global Justice Clinic, I was able to attend seminars and lectures at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG). This academic stay proved to be a deeply enriching and formative experience, both intellectually and personally.

During my time at UFMG, I gained valuable insights into the Global Justice Program and its practical and interdisciplinary approach to issues of social and economic justice. I learned extensively about slave labour rights in Brazil, the legal and social mechanisms used to combat modern forms of exploitation, and the complex global interdependencies of supply chains. Engaging with these topics in a Brazilian context allowed me to better understand how global economic structures affect local realities. Furthermore, I was introduced to the processes of lawsuits, which helped me connect theoretical legal knowledge with real-world legal practice.

Equally important was the exchange with students and academics at UFMG. Through discussions, joint classes, and informal conversations, I was able to broaden my perspectives, challenge my assumptions, and learn from experiences that differed significantly from my own academic and cultural background. This intercultural exchange made the academic content more tangible and meaningful.

Beyond the university setting, immersing myself in the cultural life of Belo Horizonte greatly contributed to the depth of the experience. Living and studying in Brazil allowed me to engage with the country's social, cultural, and political realities on a daily basis, which further enriched my understanding of the issues addressed within the Global Justice Clinic.

Overall, this stay was a profound experience that strengthened my academic interests, enhanced my intercultural competence, and reaffirmed my motivation to engage with questions of global justice in my future studies and professional path.

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