

Interview with FGV/EPGE director highlights aspects of excellence in higher education



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In a recent interview for *Folha Dirigida* ([available here](#)), in Portuguese, Professor Rubens Penha Cysne, director of FGV's Brazilian School of Economics and Finance (FGV/EPGE), outlined what he believes to be the main reasons the school was yet again ranked one of the best in the country according to the latest General Course Index (IGC). The index, released by the Ministry of Education (MEC), measures the quality of Brazil's institutions of higher education.

Penha Cysne cited EPGE's tradition and reputation; ability to attract talented leaders and highly qualified faculty; and focus on research as the school's secrets to success. In every IGC released to date, EPGE has ranked first or second out of more than 1,900 institutions of higher education. In the five years that the IGC has been calculated on the national level - including every Brazilian institution of higher education - EPGE took first place nationwide three times (in 2009, 2010, and 2011) and second place nationwide and first place statewide in 2012 and 2013.

Penha Cysne noted that it is still important to monitor the school's performance in other evaluations, which he said fortunately measures up: "If we look at Tilburg's international ranking, which rates all of the economics departments in the world, EPGE ranks first in Latin America. Tilburg is calculated quite differently from IGC: for example, it evaluates each institution's capacity to contribute new ideas and publications to the field of economics, while IGC focuses on undergraduate, executive master's programs and master's and doctoral degrees. Similarly, EPGE is also recognized for the employability of its graduates and its contributions to public policy and national development. While the evaluation methodologies differ, they demonstrate that the IGC ranking is relatively robust, even though no single unidimensional index can accurately reflect all of the dimensions of excellence of an academic institution," he said.

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