

**FEATURE**

## Institute of Chemistry of the University of Campinas Renews International Quality Certificate

In recognition of the excellence of its chemistry courses, infrastructure, program, and academic staff, the Institute of Chemistry at the University of Campinas (IQ-Unicamp), Brazil, which has been accredited since 2014, obtained renewal of the Accreditation of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). In 2019, a team from the RSC came to IQ-Unicamp to revalidate the accreditation, which lasts for five years.



Facade of the Institute of Chemistry building, Unicamp.

In South America, only Unicamp and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, both in Brazil, have this certificate. The coordinator of the undergraduate course at IQ-Unicamp, Prof. Dr. Italo Odone Mazali, emphasized the importance of this certificate. “More than a seal, certification by RSC shows IQ’s willingness to establish partnerships with high-level academic partners. Accreditation facilitates students’ participation in RSC programs, such as exchanges at UK universities, through short term scholarships. We will implement a new model that may be unprecedented in the country; all of our undergraduate exams will be evaluated by our peer professors before being applied to students. The purpose of this innovation is to ensure uniform teaching. For the students, this measure is good because it means that the institution is concerned with the evaluation being applied to them. This aims to transform the evaluation into an institutional one and not an evaluation of the individual”.



Italo Odone, graduation coordinator of IQ-Unicamp, highlights that the institute easily surpassed all requirements for certification by RSC.

The director of IQ-Unicamp, Prof. Dr. Marco Aurélio Zezzi Arruda, explained that the accreditation offers a certificate with the diplomas issued by the Institute. “The importance is fundamental for both students and the academic community. Students have two very important things: the quality of education, as we have reached an international level, and the opening of job possibilities not only in Brazil but also abroad”, said Prof. Arruda. According to the director, for the academic community, this certification marks an important recognition of the professors for their work developed in teaching and, for Unicamp itself, the excellence of its courses is recognized.



For Marco Aurélio Z. Arruda, director of IQ-Unicamp, the certification expresses recognition of the courses' excellence and opens up greater opportunities for students.

### ***Master lecture celebrates the partnership***

In order to celebrate the renewal of accreditation and the partnership between the Institute of Chemistry and the Royal Society of Chemistry, on March 10, 2020, a master class opened to the public was given by Dr. Roberto Rinaldi, a professor at Imperial College London, UK. The researcher, graduated and post-graduated by IQ-Unicamp, shared his academic trajectory.

The ceremony, held at the Unicamp Convention Center, was also attended by Elizabeth Magalhães, a representative of RSC in Brazil; Marco Antonio Zago, the president of the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP); Eliane Amaral, Unicamp's pro-rector of graduation; and representatives of other academic units at Unicamp.

Prof. Arruda and Prof. Mazali emphasized that, more than celebrating the re-accreditation, the event aimed to give visibility to the partnership and the importance of internationalization.

### ***About the Royal Society of Chemistry***

The Royal Society of Chemistry is a non-profit international association of researchers in the field of chemistry. It promotes several scientific activities in the field, in addition to being a publisher that is currently responsible for 50 scientific journals. Born in the United Kingdom in 1841, the RSC has offices in the United States, China, Japan, Germany, India, and Brazil.

For the representative of RSC in Brazil, Dr. Elizabeth Magalhães, the accreditation process offers a differential recognition in the professional and academic trajectory of the students. "Students from universities accredited by RSC are considered to have better quality training than others. When it is known that a student has undergone such scrutiny, there is certainty that the student has a good base and is able to meet the needs of research. Elizabeth Magalhães points out that "it is a form of recognition".

"In addition to promoting RSC in Brazil, I am a former student at Unicamp, and it is with great pride that I see this university being raised to this position. It shows that the quality of research carried out in Brazil is as good as that done in any other part of the world", added Magalhães.

*By Luciene Campos - With information from "Jornal da Unicamp"*