

A professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Federal University of Goiás (FCS/UFG), Laís Thomaz had been the University's International Office since 2022, and has now joined the National Secretariat for Oil, Gas and Biofuels (SNPGB) at the Ministry of Mining and Energy (MME). She will act as an advisor to Secretary Pietro Mendes, dealing directly with international issues related to biofuels, her area of research. Laís was transferred by UFG and started her new position on March 28th, 2024.

Since her undergraduate degree, Professor Laís has been focusing on energy policy and the ethanol interest groups in the United States, and her Final Paper (TCC) was awarded the Top Ethanol prize in 2011. This topic was also the subject of her master's thesis, published as a book by Editora Unesp and later awarded during the "National Ethanol Conference" in Texas, United States, in 2015. In 2023, she was appointed as the Civil Society representative on the National Energy Policy Council (CNPE), a body that advises the Presidency of the Republic.

International work

The invitation to join the SNPGB team came as a result of the professor's academic work. She has been a volunteer on the workgroup formulating the national biofuel incentive policy known as Renovabio since 2017. In 2018, she joined the Brazilian Aviation Biokerosene Network as a researcher. She participated in the ProBioQAV Subcommittee of the Fuel for the Future Program, working directly on the Governance and Public Policy study led by the German cooperation agency GIZ, which supported the formulation of the bill that defined a mandate for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) in Brazil.

More recently, she was part of the team working on the project "Studies on alternatives in the aviation sector related to the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)", run by the Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF) in partnership with the Civil Aviation Secretariat (SAC) of the Ministry of Ports and Airports. Through this project, she was responsible for field research agendas in the United States, Norway and Finland, in the latter country with the support of Business Finland.

She took part in a panel on the Fuel of the Future during COP 28 in Dubai, at the invitation of the MME. She was invited to speak at an event organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), an agency linked to the United Nations (UN), in Caracas, and also at a workshop promoted by the World Economic Forum in São Paulo.

The professor's work in the area of Sustainable Aviation Fuel has been featured in national media outlets such as Fantástico (Rede Globo), National Geographic, Revista Fapesp and opinion articles in Estadão, among others.