

BRAZIL

Language: Portuguese

Top University in Brazil: University of Sao Paulo

Currency: Brazilian Real - R\$

Academic Year: 2 semesters – August through December/February-July

Student Visa: A valid Passport with six months to expiration and four blank pages, as well as a Visa are required to study in Brazil. You must also include a copy of the confirmation of acceptance from the school or a copy of the school

registration. You must also include vaccination records, your financial records & evidence of funds to stay in the country, health insurance coverage, for those students under 18, there must be a copy of the birth certificate and a letter of consent from parents.

*For a complete list of requirements, please visit the Embassy website at

<http://www.brazil.org.nz/page/student-visa.aspx>



Socially Speaking:

Nothing likes a party like Brazil and its people! A little samba dancing to some real booty shaking, relax and let loose because the music is going to move you...*it's the Brazilian way*. The interesting thing about the reputation that precedes it is that Brazil is often quite "shy" about showing it's true self. So, samba down to the city center like Copacabana, Ipanema and watch the nightlife come alive. The downtown party district of Lapa that was once a seedy destination, has now transformed itself into a "must-see" (and hear) for tourists. Take in a concert at Circo Voador, which welcomes both local and international musicians. Head over to the heart of Lapa and visit a redone colonial mansion called Leviano where the jazz music plays and the liquor flows. Order some food, relax and enjoy. *É o jeitinho brasileiro!*

Culturally Speaking:

What many people don't realize is the performing arts culture is very rich in Brazil, particularly Sao Paulo, where quality is quite high. The current world-class performing arts and concert hall, The Sala Sao Paulo was originally a Victorian railway station. Ballet, theatrical productions and the Sao Paulo Symphonic Orchestra regularly perform at the venue. With music being such an important part of Brazilian culture, the schedule is filled with ongoing performances and productions year-round.

Looking for a Private Day School in Brazil?:

With the structure of non-private schools in Brazil being poor, many international and Expat students attend international private schools. They are very expensive, however, the curriculum is rich with language requirements (multiple languages are taught), smaller class sizes and extracurricular activities. Some of those schools do offer a Boarding school option. Many of these schools are Faith (Christian) based, such as: The Rio Day School: www.riointernationalschool.com

For a list of schools, there are many websites available, including:

<http://www.expat-quotes.com/guides/brazil/education/international-schools-in-brazil.htm>

Can You Work on a Student Visa?: If working on a student Visa, you must apply for a special temporary visa at the Embassy or Consulate. These visas are valid for up to one year and are called VITEM-IV visas. Students with a VITEM-IV are allowed to do an internship but that internship must be a paid internship. Its best to check out the specifications of the different restrictions either online at:

<http://thebrazilbusiness.com/article/student-visa-for-brazil> or at the Embassy website.

So, you have your school information, have settled in and now you're ready to see the country! Where to begin?:

Brazil is the 5th largest country in the world with a population of over 2 million people. In a country as vast as this, the list of things to do is almost endless. So, let's start with a few of the obvious –



The beaches: White sand, crystal blue water and if you didn't know there's a place called ***Jericoacoara aka The Brazilian Maldives***. It's beautiful, complete with fresh water lagoons instead of saltwater beaches!

Party Time!:

Everyone is familiar with Carnival, but there's nothing like it unless you've had the opportunity to experience the fun firsthand. Considered one of the biggest, most colorful parties in the world, Carnival is held in February between the Friday 51 days before Easter and Ash Wednesday at noon, marking the beginning of Lent. So, it usually lasts for a full week (or a little more). Dancing, eating and drinking, you'll love the colorful floats and happy atmosphere... if you're into that kind of thing. If not, then the best time to visit Rio is usually right after Carnival in late February or early March when the temps cool down and the tourists leave.



Explore!

If true adventure is what you're seeking, try exploring as you float through the Amazon, or hiking in the hills by the coast, rafting under the Iguacu Falls in the rainforest or maybe learning to Samba at one of the local studios, Rio Gafieria.

Something a little more relaxed in mind?

Head to Sao Paulo and visit the art galleries, listen to live music and eat at the many restaurants... the cuisine is incredible! Shopping? Definitely great "finds" in Brazil from beautiful Afro-Brazilian art, ceramics and musical instruments to the best in fashion (Brazilians love a great bathing suit), to shoes to leather goods and hammocks!

Brazilian Fun Facts! Did you know?:

1. After the United States, Brazil has the most airports in the world?
2. Since 2008, sex change surgeries are covered by the country's public health system and are free?

3. Ethanol, which is produced from sugar cane, is the major source of fuel for 92% of all new sold cars in Brazil?
4. The Catholic population in Brazil at 64% of its population (123 million people), is the largest Catholic population in the world (including Italy and Spain)?
5. Tanning beds have been banned in Brazil, making it the first country to do so?
6. Brazil has the largest Japanese community in the world?
7. The capital of Brazil, Brasilia looks like an airplane from above?
8. A rhinoceros (yes, a rhinoceros) was a candidate in the 1958 Sao Paulo city council elections? Although not officially accepted as a candidate, he won 100,000 more votes than any other candidate for that term!

Full of life and an amazing culture, Brazil is a beautiful country ready to be explored, appreciated and enjoyed! Brazil is magnificent - O Brasil é lindo maravilhoso!