

Study in Brazil!



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Welcome to Brazil! Bem-vinda e bem-vindo ao Brasil!

Did you know the Netherlands fits around 207 times in Brazil? Measuring 8.5 million km² Brazil is almost as big as Europe. When you travel from the south to the north it is hard to believe you are still in the same country.



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The capital of Brazil, Brasília, is a planned city. It was built in the 1950s in the heart of Brazil's middle-west region to replace Rio de Janeiro as the capital. Brazil hosts 60% of the biggest rain forest of the world and has the highest flora and fauna diversity. It is no exaggeration to say that Brazil is the richest country of the world in terms of natural resources.

You never run out of things to do in Brazil. There is no boredom! Once you are in Brazil, you will realise how easy it is to befriend Brazilians: they are friendly, helpful and give foreigners a warm welcome. With so much friendship around, you can be sure you will be invited to a *churrasco* (barbecue), to drink *caipirinhas* (world-known cocktail made with lime, sugar and *cachaça*) or to watch a Sunday football match. Then, of course, there is always the nice weather to enjoy.

Depending where you arrive in the country, you will have different things to appreciate. São Paulo is the world in a nutshell and hosts the biggest Japanese and Lebanese communities in the world (there are more Lebanese in Brazil than in Lebanon). The south has distinct seasons with cold winters, while the rain forests and equatorial climate in the north ensure high temperatures throughout the year. Minas Gerais has high mountains, in a clear contrast with the plains of the Mid-West Region.



Studying in Brazil

Brazil has a lot to offer in terms of education. Five of the top 10 Latin American universities, including the top two, are located in Brazil. All government-funded universities offer tuition-free bachelor's, master's and PhD programmes.

The Brazilian academic year usually starts in February and runs until December.

A Brazilian bachelor's programme takes around four years while a master's programme generally takes two to three years, depending on the university and type of programme.

The higher education system in Brazil is a bit more traditional than the system in the Netherlands. In general, Brazilian students attend more lectures than Dutch students. Brazil mostly relies on Bilateral Agreements for the internationalisation of higher education. This means that your home university should have an exchange agreement with a Brazilian partner institution. Check with your International Office if your university has any such agreements. Most Dutch universities have at least one exchange agreement with a Brazilian university.



Government-funded universities

The government-funded universities are considered the best ones in the country. There are more than 100 public universities. Due to its tuition-free character, public institutions do not receive free mobility of international students. However, exchange students are welcome if agreements of bilateral cooperation are established.

Private universities

You may approach one of the 2,000 private universities and colleges from all over the country. There are courses taught entirely in English, or in Portuguese and English. For courses taught entirely in Portuguese, you might have to show a certificate of Portuguese as a Second Language. Usually, your host university will offer free Portuguese courses.

**Think different:
internationalise your
studies in Brazil**





Student life

Once you land in Brazil, you will be immediately immersed in the Brazilian culture. Brazilians are hospitable, ready to help you and keen to know everything about you and your country.

With more than 2,000 higher education institutions distributed over 26 states and one federal district, it is hard to tell how your student life will be. You might live on a campus or in a student house downtown, or even be hosted by a family. Some schools have very active student associations. Others use online networks to buy and sell things and make plans to go out.

During your free time, you have lots of options such as sports activities, language classes and nightlife. Drink a super cold beer to beat the warm weather or try out your *samba* skills. But be warned: Brazilians will probably make fun of your dancing.



Testimonial:

“As a student from the HZ University of Applied Sciences (Vlissingen), I was asked to do a research on the international possibilities for my own study programme. The focus of this research was on the Minas Gerais district of Brazil. For this research I’ve also spent some time in Brazil and I have to say; what an amazing country! Due to the rich and open culture of the Brazilians, it’s really easy to make friends who will invite you to all kinds of activities during your stay. Besides friendly, the people of Brazil are always enormously helpful and will try to help you in every possible way, even though you can’t speak their language. This hospitality is also present at the universities, where you will get personal guidance through your time at the university, mostly by students who are interested in your background and experience in your home country.”

Thijs van Hoek

project Living Lab Biobased Economy Brazil Belo Horizonte
– Hogeschool Zeeland

Study programmes

The chance of studying in Brazil during your studies depends on agreements between your Dutch institution and a Brazilian institution. You must pick a university that is related to your field of studies and check if there are courses suitable for your study programme. Make a list of the courses that are available to international students at the university you want to go to and check with your study advisor which subjects fit in with your current studies.

Once your International Officer confirms you are allowed to go, they will inform the university in Brazil. From this point onwards you will mainly be in touch with your host institution. They will start your visa application and do everything they can to facilitate your arrival and stay in Brazil.

Most universities are located in the south and south-east. Rio de Janeiro hosts seven public universities with various study exchange agreements with the Netherlands. Rio also has various private institutions which receive many international students, such as PUC-Rio, which has the largest number of international incoming mobility and Fundação Getúlio Vargas, a university specialised in Business and related areas. They both offer summer courses in basic Portuguese, Brazilian history, Culture and Economics.

São Paulo is home to the country's two leading universities: Universidade de São Paulo and UNICAMP. These big universities offer courses in nearly all fields of knowledge. Top areas in both universities are Medicine, Agriculture and Creative

Industry. Fundação Getúlio Vargas also has a branch in São Paulo, focused on MBAs, Economics and Finance. Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing offers special summer courses in marketing and also receives free movers.

Minas Gerais is a state near Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. As the largest producer of agricultural products in Brazil, the universities of Minas Gerais heavily invest in developing study and research programmes in rural activities, agribusiness, agrarian and sustainable development, engineering for agricultural purposes, and so on. The Federal University of Ouro Preto offers courses on Mineralogy, while PUC Minas, based in the state's capital city Belo Horizonte, offers excellent courses in Engineering, Mathematics, Agriculture and Languages. In the south, there are many institutions that are experienced in receiving international students. Unisinos is one of the largest universities in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. It offers undergraduate courses in almost 70 fields of study, many graduate courses, PhD opportunities and Portuguese as a Second Language.



PUC Paraná is also located in the south and has many English-taught courses and a great website with all study options available. UNISUL, in the State of Santa Catarina, offers an extension course on Languages, Culture and the Brazilian Socioeconomic Context, which is tailored for international students.

But there is much more in Brazil. Each state has an own culture and universities will have different fields of study. Neso Brazil can give you more information regarding the different universities across

the states of Brazil. You'll find the contact details at the back of this brochure.

Internship possibilities

In Brazil, internships are considered as work rather than as part of a study programme. Hence, they are regulated under the common labour law. This means that you would need a special visa, which is difficult to get. If you want to do an internship in Brazil, you have two options:

- 1 Contact a multinational in the Netherlands that has a branch in Brazil.**
- 2 Check if your institution is involved in project and research programmes in collaboration with Brazilian institutions.**

Contact details

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[/wilwegbrazilie](#)

Why Brazil?

- 1 The finest education in Latin America
- 2 Top travel possibilities (not only within Brazil but also to Argentina, Peru, etc.)
- 3 The easiest country in the world to make friends
- 4 The perfect combination between knowledge and creativity
- 5 Work hard, play hard