Student Exchange in Brazil

Federal University of Espírito Santo
Federal University of Santa Maria

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Semester Exchange Program

*Take some of your classes in Brazil!! Get a new perspective on your subject … and on your life!*

- Study one semester in Brazil at a partner university
  - Federal University of Espirito Santo (UFES) – Vitoria, ES
  - Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM) – Santa Maria, RS

- Courses & credits...
  - Course credits transfer to Virginia Tech
  - Courses selected to satisfy your degree requirements
  - Language study included, here and in Brazil

- When ...
  - (Whenever it works best in your schedule!)
  - Fall Senior/Junior year: June 15 - Dec 15
  - Spring Junior year: Jan 5 – July 15
  (These dates allow for 6 weeks of language study prior to the semester)

*$3,800 FIPSE/CAPES Fellowships Available* (Fall12 & Spr13 only)
Semester Exchange Program

• Cost
  – Pay tuition at Virginia Tech (reduced study abroad rate)
  – No tuition/fees in Brazil
  – No additional cost !!!
    • Living expenses are about ½ of cost of living in Blacksburg
    • Round trip airfare ~ $1200
    • So … total cost is similar…
  – Many scholarships are available for study abroad (department, college, university, other…)
    - So, spend time in Brazil and be ahead financially!

• To Apply – contact Dr. Heatwole [heatwole@vt.edu]

FIPSE/CAPES Fellowships -- $3,800 for semester study in Brazil
Available for Fall 2012 and Spring 2013
Exchange Program

• Why study abroad?
  – Take courses that satisfy program requirements (courses selected and approved before you go)
  – International experience / language proficiency
  – New experiences and perspectives to make you a global citizen
  – Challenge yourself; create opportunities; make memories

• Why Brazil?
  – Brazil is a marvelous destination – landscapes, cities, people, culture, history, food, opportunities, …
  – Major economic, industrial, and agricultural power
  – World leader in biofuels and bioprocessing
  – Strong university system; good partners
  – Wonderful people
  – A big country – so much to see and do
Vitoria…

• Tropical, Southern hemisphere

• July is winter → 65 to 80 deg !!
Questions

• What about language study?
  – Language preparation is important. One of the goals of semester study is the opportunity to get a basic proficiency in a foreign language. Several factors work for your success.
    • We will work with you in the semesters ahead of travel with computer-based courses and other materials that you can borrow. (Unfortunately, VT does not offer any courses in Portuguese.) We may arrange tutorial classes if there is a group interested.
    • You will travel to Brazil 6-8 weeks ahead of the semester to focus on language study, and take an intensive course in Portuguese.
    • Previous study of Spanish or related languages is very helpful background.
  – Many Brazilian university students and many professors speak English, so you are never isolated. (However, the goal is NOT to get by on English – but to learn Portuguese.) Our partner faculty are very committed to your success
  – All previous exchange students have commented on the friendliness of Brazilians and how willing they are to help you learn and practice speaking
  – In Brazil, tests and graded work usually come later in the semester, so there is time to practice and develop language skills as the semester progresses
Questions

• Is Brazil safe?
  – Yes! We can equally ask, “Is Washington D.C. safe?” The short answer is ‘yes’. The longer answer is that you need to know how to be safe and where you can go and what you should and should not do. The bad press for Brazil is usually due to drug and gang-related violence in specific ‘favelas’. The areas we travel and study in Brazil are very safe. Prudence and care are always important, and students should talk with Brazilian friends early to learn about places and behaviors to avoid. Previous students have felt comfortable to travel extensively. As a faculty (and father), and having been to Brazil more than 10 times, I have no hesitancy to take and send students to Brazil.

• How easy is it to travel in Brazil?
  – Very easy. Public transportation is quite good, with regular coach bus service at national, state, and local routes. And if you book ahead, you can get low-cost ($100) airline flights between all major cities.

• How expensive will it be?
  – Our locations in Brazil have lower living costs that the US. You can travel to Brazil and live a semester for similar or lower cost than living in Blacksburg.

• Will there be something I like to eat?
  – Oh, yes!
Building bridges...

“The experience was wonderful. Thanks for the opportunity”

“It was great to learn to know new people. The students helped me overcome some bad paradigms I had about the American people.”