

For answers to questions regarding application procedures, program information, responsibilities of participants, pre-departure orientation materials, departure and post-departure information, registration, financial matters, grades, credits, withdrawals, cancellations and expulsions, please read THE HANDBOOK FOR STUDY ABROAD.

General Program Overview:

Brazil is the largest country in Latin America occupying almost one half of the continent. It has a population of nearly 200 million inhabitants. Portuguese is the national language. This program takes place in São Paulo, Brazil's largest city with a population of 18 million. Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC-SP) in Perdizes, Brazil, was founded in 1908 with three faculties: philosophy, sciences, and letters. Since 1946, PUC-SP has become one of Brazil's major institutions of higher learning. Despite its connection to the Catholic Church, PUC-SP is a secular university that accepts students from all faiths.

University Details:

Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo

Assessoria de Relacoes Institucionais e Internacionais

Divisao de Cooperacao Internacional

Rua Monte Alegre, 984-Sala T-37-Predio Sede-Perdizes

05014-901-São Paulo/SP-Brasil

Tel.: (55-11) 3670.8011/8012

Fax: (55-11) 3670.8549

E-mail: dcj-arii@pucsp.br

Homepage: <http://www.pucsp.br/~arii>

1) Can people with no language experience apply?

Students need to have a beginner's level of Portuguese in order to apply to this program.

Students with a strong Spanish proficiency will also be considered. You may apply if you have had at least two semesters of beginning Portuguese language experience. Students in this program are directly enrolled at PUC-SP and take their courses alongside Brazilian students.

The Brazilian Portuguese: Language and Culture Course (BP-L&C) offers an immersion in Brazilian culture and language. Students will be able to gain speaking, listening, writing and reading skills in Brazilian Portuguese. The course is three weeks long and it takes place prior to the start of your semester of study at PUC-SP. To view the course information, please go to <http://www.pucsp.br/~arii>.

2) What college/University will I be studying at?

This program is located in São Paulo, Brazil's largest city. You will be studying at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC-SP) in Perdizes, Brazil.

3) What is the required GPA to apply?

Students are required to have at least a 2.5 GPA.

4) Does the University provide any trips?

The SUNY Oswego OIEP has a Resident Director on the ground at São Paulo who will provide students with support services as well as an orientation upon arrival to São Paulo.

The Resident Director will also take students to places of cultural importance throughout the semester.

5) What are the exact dates of the program?

The departure date for fall is usually around the third week of July and the return date is about the second or third week of December. For the spring, the departure date is around the second week of January and the return date is about the first week of June.

6) Will there be a pre-departure orientation and/or an in-country orientation?

There will be an orientation at SUNY Oswego. For more details on the orientation go to your page on the Studio Abroad website. You will be able to sign up for the orientation and let us know who will come with you to orientation. You may invite your parents, family member, or significant other. Although orientation is not mandatory, we ask that you do your best to attend. If you are a SUNY Oswego student, we would definitely like to see you at orientation. If you are from very far away, we understand if you can't make it. All the students will receive a pre-departure packet at orientation and if you are not able to attend, a packet will be made available on Studio Abroad.

There will also be an orientation starting upon arrival to Brazil led by our Resident Director in São Paulo and soon thereafter, at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. During orientation week students will be introduced to the university, the city, the best places to eat, and provided with very important information about the program and stay in São Paulo. The orientation in Brazil is mandatory. This means that unless you are sick, you will attend all orientation meetings, activities, and/or educational excursions. Everything will be a learning experience, so you will need to relax and enjoy the ride :).

7) What if I arrive earlier than the group or stay on after the end of the program?

Students in this program are expected to arrive on the official programs date for the start of orientation with the Resident Director and to depart on the official designated dates provided by the PUC-SP.

8) Is housing provided?

Students are responsible for arranging and paying for their own housing in São Paulo. A list of housing accommodations will be provided by Lizette M. Alvarado and Resident Director, Dra. Maria Helena Maier. Students will reside in boarding houses, apartments, or rooms in private residences close to the university. All housing costs are paid by the students directly in Brazil and the program administration is not responsible for any housing cost. Students are also

responsible for submitting a housing deposit prior to arriving to São Paulo to hold their housing accommodation.

9) Who will I be living with?

You may have a roommate from our SUNY Oswego program. Otherwise, you may reside on your own.

10) Is the cost for housing included in the program fee?

The cost for housing is not included in the program fee, but is included in the estimated cost of the program; see budget sheet. Cost for housing and meals are paid by the students in Brazil. Support for finding housing will be provided by OIEP and the Resident Director in São Paulo.

11) Are there phones in the residential facilities?

There are phones located in the residential facilities. However, you cannot call internationally, you will be able to receive international phone calls and you will be able to make local phone calls.

12) Should I bring a cell phone, or buy one once I get there?

We advise students to purchase a cell phone during orientation week with the support and advice of the Resident Director. The best way to communicate out of Brazil is internet, via communication lines such as Skype. You may contact your cell phone company and see if you will be able to use your cell phone in Brazil. You are advised to bring your laptop.

13) Do I make my own flight arrangements?

You will be making your own flight arrangements for this program. You need to arrive on the official date designated by OIEP and Resident Director, Dr. Maria Helena Maier. OIEP will provide you with the official arrival date.

14) Will I be met at the airport?

Yes, you will be met at the airport by the Resident Director, Dr. Maria Helena Maier.

15) Where are the classes held and how often per week?

Classes are held at the PUC-SP campus in Perdizes.

Students in this program take a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 15 credits. All of your courses will be in Portuguese taken alongside Brazilians, Americans and International students with Brazilian professors teaching the courses.

Please review the list of courses on the PUC-SP website

(<http://www.pucsp.br/universidade/faculdades>) and choose at least five courses. Meet with your academic advisor and get approval for all courses. Final decision on the courses you will be taking, or plan to take, will be done in Brazil.

16) Are the classes different than those in the United States?

Students on this program take classes alongside Brazilian students in Portuguese. There are nine schools which include:

- 1) Medical Sciences and Health
- 2) Human Sciences and Health
- 3) Social Sciences
- 4) Philosophy, Communication, Languages and Arts
- 5) Law
- 6) Economics and Business
- 7) Education
- 8) Sciences and Technology
- 9) Theology

17) Will my credits be accepted at my home school?

Yes, but you will need to do your “homework”. This means that you will have to meet with your academic advisor and have him or her sign off on the classes you will be taking abroad. Once accepted to study abroad in this program, one of the forms you will need to complete is the Overseas Course Approval Form which you will complete with your academic advisor. This form is mandatory for SUNY Oswego students.

18) How do I do my laundry?

You will have to make your own arrangements or speak with your landlord, but there will most likely be a washer for you to use.

19) How will I get to class?

Your primary mode of transportation to get to class will be your feet. You will also take the bus or taxi.

20) What are the public forms of transportation?

Public forms of transportation include buses and taxis.

21) What form of currency should I bring?

We suggest that you bring a small amount of U.S. dollars with you (about \$100.00). You are also advised to convert \$100 U.S. dollars to Brazilian Real (BRL) prior to leaving for Brazil. You will need to bring a credit/debit card.

22) How much money should I bring?

That all depends on the type of lifestyle you plan on having while abroad. If you plan on traveling, going out to eat, and shopping often then you will need to bring more than the suggested amount of \$1,000.00 on the Program Budget Sheet.

23) Should I open a bank account?

Students are able to open a bank account if they wish to do so. Check with your bank in the U.S. because there may be a branch located in Brazil. You should be able to use one of the following banks in Brazil:

- 1) HSBC
- 2) Bank of America-Brasil

24) Are there internet facilities? Should I bring my laptop?

Bring your own laptop. Most residential facilities have internet access. However, you will have to check with your landlord to see if internet is available. You can also use the PUC-SP computer facilities.

25) What happens if I get sick?

If you get sick you will go to the hospital. The nearest hospital to PUC-SP is the:

CITY GOVERNEMENT HOSPITAL called P.S. Barra Funda. (P- Pronto, S- Socorro)

Address: Rua Vitorino Camilo, #717

Telephone: (011) 3826-5666

The hospital is located near to the Praça Marechal Deodoro, and also to the Rua Albuquerque Lins. The student is required to bring his/her ID. The hospital is open 24 hours a day for 365 days of the year.

We highly advise students that when they are sick or hurt to go to the hospital. Also, we request that you contact one of your primary contacts at PUC-SP to inform them that you are going to the hospital or if you need their assistance.

26) How can my parents get a hold of me in case of an emergency?

- a) Call Lizette Alvarado, Program Specialist for Barcelona at (315)312-5697 or (315)312-2118. If Lizette is not available ask to speak to Dr. Joshua McKeown, Director of the Office of International Education and Programs at SUNY Oswego.
- b) Call Dr. Maria Helena Maier or Patrícia Shiroma at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. Their contact details will be provided to students accepted into this program.

27) Will meals be provided for me? If so, how many per week?

Students will eat their meals with other students in the boarding houses and private homes, or cook for themselves in their apartments. The campus also has a restaurant and a cafeteria. Inexpensive meals are also available in nearby restaurants. All meal costs are paid by the student directly and the program administration is not responsible for any meal cost.

28) Will I need a passport and a student visa?

Yes, you will need a passport and a student visa. The Office of International Education and Programs does NOT apply for your visa. You must make an appointment with the Brazil Consulate General (instruction on the student visa application process will be provided on the Studio Abroad website after you have been accepted into the program). Students apply for their visa in person in New York City.

In order to apply for the visa, you will need to have a letter of acceptance from PUC-SP, a To Whom It May Concern Letter from SUNY Oswego OIEP Office, your passport, the application from the consulate and any other documentation required by the consulate.

ADDRESS OF THE NEW YORK BRAZIL CONSULATE GENERAL:

Consulate General of Brazil
1185 Avenue of the Americas, 21st floor
New York, NY 10036-2601
Phone (917) 777-7777 Fax (212) 827-0225
<http://www.brazilny.org>

29) Can I receive Financial Aid for Study Abroad?

Yes, you can receive Financial Aid for study abroad. If you're a student that receives financial assistance you are to meet with your financial aid advisor to discuss how much financial assistance is available to you for the program.

Start early! Once accepted for this program you will need to bring the Financial Arrangements form, copy of the letter of acceptance, copy of program invoice, and program budget sheet to the Financial Aid Office at your home campus.

30) What kinds of classes are offered during the semester in Brazil?

See #16 for list of departments at PUC-SP and the following website:
<http://www.pucsp.br/universidade/faculdades>

31) Is there an application process in addition to the SUNY Overseas Study Abroad Application?

Yes, there is another application that you will need to complete for the PUC-SP program. This application will be provided to accepted students only. Student will need to submit this application to OIEP within 14 days of being accepted by OIEP.

32) Are there PUC-SP specific forms to complete?

There is one specific PUC-SP form to complete:

1. Ficha de Candidatura- PUC-SP Application
2. Ficha Medica- PUC-SP Medical Form

3. Nivel de Portuguese- PUC-SP Foreign Language Proficiency Form
4. Plano de Estudos Preliminar- PUC-SP Preliminary Plan of Study Form
5. Programa de Acolhimento de Intercambistas- PUC-SP Student Volunteers Form

Apart from the above form, you will need to complete various forms to participate in the program. You will be informed of these forms upon acceptance into the program.

33) Receive mail?

Yes, you can receive mail at your independent living accommodation.

Please begin to read about culture and history of Brazil, specifically São Paulo. Try to have some background on the city, the people, the environment, and the politics. Although, you are not expected to know and understand São Paulo entirely, we would like that you have some general information and understanding of São Paulo, Brazil.