

Brazil

UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) Adviser to review program-specific details that may impact a student's decision to apply for a UCEAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application, and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA websites. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA Adviser for this program.

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Summary of Programs

	Pre-reqs	Summer	Fall	Year	Spring
Brazilian Seminars	None	X			
Pontifical Catholic Univ. of Rio de Janeiro	None for coursework in English; Portuguese 50 or Spanish 4 for coursework in Portuguese		X		X

Brazilian Seminars (Summer)



[Brazilian Seminars -
Marissa Roth South Carolina](#)



[Brazilian Seminars Info Session 2022](#)

In this program in Rio de Janeiro, students take a Portuguese language course along with the Brazilian Seminars, which consist of a series of lectures on contemporary society. Lectures have a multidisciplinary and broad range focus including: Race Relations, Public Policy, International Relations, Doing Business in Brazil, Environmental Challenges, the Oil Industry, and much more! Each lecture is taught in English by Brazilian scholars and experts in their field. This is a good option for students who wish to learn more about Brazil, Latin America, and the world from the lens of the fifth-largest country in the world.

The program is open to international participants beyond the UC system, so it is likely that students will attend the seminar course with other international students and young professionals.

Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (Semester)



[Berkeley Stories - Sasha L. Fall in Brazil](#)



[Exchange Students at PUC-Rio](#)

The semester program at PUC-Rio has two tracks: English Track and Immersion Track.

The English Track allows students without prior Portuguese or Spanish background to take [limited course offerings in English](#). Traditionally, there are 20-30 courses offered within this option and approximately half are offered per semester. These courses in English are meant for international students and have a focus on Business, Design, Engineering, International Relations, and Social Sciences. The English track caters to those without prior Portuguese or Spanish skills and is best intended for a student who wants to make significant progress in learning the language while taking limited English-taught courses.

The Immersion Track allows students with a minimum of one year of university-level Portuguese **or** two years of university-level Spanish training by the start of the program to take courses in a variety of subject areas. The courses in the immersion track will be taught in Portuguese.

Both tracks start with a 4-week ILP (Intensive Language Program) that is worth 2 semester units and students continue to study the Portuguese language during the semester.

Keep in mind that the courses you find in the UCEAP Course Catalog or on the host university's website may not be offered the semester(s) you will be abroad. Oftentimes, you will not have concrete information about what courses will be offered until a couple of months before departure or only upon arrival in Brazil. Be prepared for the possibility that you will have to modify your academic plans.

Optional internships are restricted to projects arranged by the [Rede de Empreendimentos Sociais da PUC-Rio](#) (RESPUC), or practicum courses (such as Desenvolvimento de Comunidade [SER 1188/SER 1825]) available at PUC-Rio. The student visa only allows participation in an internship as a volunteer; visa holders are prohibited from holding any paid job in Brazil. For safety reasons and to ensure the internship is within the legal boundaries of the student visa, students may not seek out opportunities in Rio on their own.

For more information on these opportunities, please contact the Incoming Coordination at incoming@puc-rio.br.

PUC-Rio offers a number of interesting and unique opportunities for independent studies and volunteer community service projects at the undergraduate level. Several departments sponsor ongoing social service projects. The nature of these projects and the contact information will be discussed during the PUC orientation and printed in the PUC Orientation Manual, which you receive when you arrive. There may be opportunities through PUC-Rio community service offices for doing volunteer work in Rio's favelas, including Rocinha, Vidigal, and others. You may only undertake community service work in a favela under the auspices of the university, not on your own.

Visas

While you will not be applying for your visa until after you are selected, there are some important things you should be aware of now to ensure you do not have problems later on:

It is critical that your full name matches on official documents (passport, birth certificate, visa application form, etc.). The Brazilian Consulate and other government agencies are very particular about the names presented on official documents. For example, if your name is Jorge Amado da Silva, you cannot apply for a visa using the name Jorge A. da Silva, or Jorge Silva.

Check your official documents now and take action if there is any inconsistency in how your name is written on your passport, birth certificate, driver's license, etc. In addition, if there is any potential for future inconsistency in how your name is written, decide before you begin your UCEAP application how you will write your name.

If you hold a passport from a country other than the US, please be sure to contact the Brazilian Consulate to find out what documents you will need for studying in Brazil well in advance.

Back-to-Back Programs

Due to the complicated nature of student visas for Brazil, students are discouraged from participating in UCEAP Brazil as the *second* of their back-to-back study abroad programs. If you are able to start with the Brazil program before moving to your second study abroad destination, that would be advised.

Calendar

The semester/year options are close to a 6 month participation period. The fall program runs between early July to mid-December. The spring program runs between mid-January to early July.

Students with Disabilities

Accessibility and accommodations in Brazil are very different from what you find in the US, or may be altogether non-existent. Most buildings do not make provisions for wheelchair users. Accessibility to public transportation is limited in many areas, including PUC-Rio. Due to the lack of infrastructure, crossing a street or walking on sidewalks may be difficult. Brazilian students with learning disabilities are generally not identified or provided with special education services.

Review how to request disability-related accommodations on the [I am a Student with a Disability page](#).

LGBTQIA+ Students

Threat to safety in the LGBTQIA+ community is moderate. Societal tolerance ranges from intolerance to mixed tolerance. Larger cities are more accepting. Exercise caution when in conservative, highly religious areas as LGBTQIA+ individuals may encounter a higher risk of violence. While acceptance is increasing throughout the country, a portion of Brazilian society still opposes the LGBTQIA+ community.

Review [tips and resources for LGBTQIA+ Identifying Students](#).

Working Abroad

Unfortunately, Brazilian law prohibits UCEAP students from working while studying in Brazil.

Resources

UCEAP Videos & Blogs



RICARDO MARTINEZ

Study Abroad Program: **Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro**

Program Location: **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Other Countries Visited: **Argentina and Chile**

Home University: **UC Davis**

Major: **Philosophy, Political Science, and Minor in Latin American & Hemispheric Affairs**

Year: **Senior (Graduating August 2018)**

Ricardo Martinez is a first-generation college student studying the complexities of US-Latin American relations. He wishes to travel to other Latin American countries and the world, ultimately learning more about Latinos abroad and at home in the United States. In his spare time, he is reading US & world news and fun books, and training Brazilian jiu-jitsu in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

[My study abroad experience as a first-gen college student, Ricardo M](#)



[Photo Story: Brazil, Daniel C](#)

PUC-Rio Resources

This is information PUC-Rio, our partner university, created for all incoming foreign students. Please note that some dates and activities mentioned may differ for UCEAP participants.

- [General Information](#)
- [Brazilian Debates](#)
- [Admission Procedures/Nomination guide](#)
- [Activities and Support for international students](#)
- [Academic Departments](#)
- [International Calendar](#)
- [Living in Rio](#)
- [Cost of Living in Rio](#)



[Buddy System "Brother Carioca" Video](#)



[PUC-Rio Video](#)

Center for Latin American Studies

Being more informed about the history and current affairs of Brazil and Latin America can lead to a more fulfilling study abroad experience. In addition to keeping up with Portuguese language study prior to departure, you are also highly encouraged to attend lectures and events put on by the [Center for Latin American Studies](#) at UC Berkeley. You can join [CLAS email](#) list for event reminders.