

BRAZIL: an overview

REASONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAIR



- ✓ Brazilian universities are among the **top of Latin America's universities**, (*Universidade de São Paulo, USP, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, UNICAMP*) with high quality research.
- ✓ 16,467,162 Brazilians were of age to enroll in higher education institutions (HEI) in 2020¹.
- ✓ In the same year, 89,151 students were in an international mobility².
- ✓ Brazilians in international mobility increased to 77% from 2015 to 2020, compared to 32% in the world³.
- ✓ 21,609 PhD diplomas were awarded in Brazil in 2018⁴.
- ✓ The EU is supporting cooperation with Brazil: about ¼ of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) scholarships and 21% of International Credit Mobility (ICM) are awarded to Latin American countries were benefiting to Brazilian universities (2014/2020).

General presentation⁵

- **Population:** 218.69 million (2023)
- **Official name:** Federative Republic of Brazil
- **Capital:** Brasília (**4.2 million inhabitants**)
- **Political System:** presidential republic
- **Rural population** (in % of total population) : 13%
- **Annual population growth:** 0.64%
- **Major Languages:** Portuguese (official), Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, English, Amerindian languages
- **Ethnic groups:** White 47.7%, mixed 43.1%, Black 7.63%, Asian 1.1%, Indigenous 0.4% (2023 est.)
- **Religion:** Roman Catholic 64.4%, other Catholic 0.4%, Protestant 22.2%, other Christian 0.7%, Spiritist 2.2%, other 1.4% (2010 est.)
- **Life expectancy:** 72 (men), 79 (women) (2023 est.)



¹ Source : Campus France, Focus Brésil, n. 30, avril 2023. <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/ressource/bresil-1>

² *Idem.*

³ *Idem.*

⁴ Source : DAAD, « Daten & Analysen zum Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsstandort 2021 »

⁵ Sources : <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS?locations=BR>

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/brazil/>

<http://www.unicef.fr>

Brazil was established as an independent country as the Empire of Brazil in 1822. It became a presidential republic in 1889 following a military coup d'état. After an authoritarian military junta came to power in 1964 and ruled until 1985, civilian governance and democracy resumed. Brazil is by far the largest and most populous country in South America (and has the 6th biggest population in the world). Currently, it has nearly 220 million inhabitants. The median age of its population is of 33.2 years, while 37% of its population is under the age of 24⁶. Brazil is the 12th largest economy in the world and the first economy in Latin America.

According to the World Bank, GDP is expanding by a rate of 6.09% (2022)⁷. Regarding higher education, direct spending on public institutions represented about 1.0% of the country's GDP in 2016 (OECD average of 0.9%)⁸. Nevertheless, the spending per student in public tertiary institutions was under the OECD spending average: in 2016, USD 14,200 were spent per student in Brazil compared to USD 16,200 at OECD average.

An increase in public spending on education of R\$ 13 billion (USD 2,6 billion) is expected in 2023 compared to 2022, to reach a budget of R\$ 145 billion (around USD 30 billion), with R\$ 2,15 billion (USD 430 million) dedicated to university student scholarships and R\$ 1,5 billion (USD 300 million) for HEIs current expenses.

Higher Education Institutions in Brazil

Key information about Higher Education in Brazil:

- **8.4 million students** were enrolled in Brazilian universities in 2018, representing an increase by almost 50% in ten years (5.8 million students in 2008).
- 23% of 25-34 year-olds had a tertiary qualification in 2021 compared to 47% on average across OECD countries⁹.
- Whilst Brazil's student population almost doubled within 10 years, only 1.4% of the 8.4 million Brazilian students are mobile in 2020 and 0.4% of international students in Brazilian universities. Also, only 18% of adults in Brazil have reached tertiary education (OECD).
- **Higher education in Brazil is split into 4 categories¹⁰: 199 universities, 230 university centres, 20 688 faculties and 40 federal institutions (IF)¹¹.**
- **88.2% of all higher education institutions in Brazil are private** (2018), although the majority of universities (107) is public as only few private universities perform research.
- Public universities are either state-owned (43%), federal (37%) or municipal (20%). Private universities are usually funded by tuition fees.
- **São Paulo is the state where most HEIs are located¹².**

⁶ Source : https://www.indexmundi.com/brazil/age_structure.html

⁷ Source : DAAD, « DAAD-Datenblatt Brasilien 2022 »

⁸ Source : OECD, Education at a Glance 2019, https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/EAG2019_CN_BRA.pdf

⁹ Source : OECD, Education GPS, Brazil, <https://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=BRA&treshold=10&topic=EO>

¹⁰ Source : http://download.inep.gov.br/educacao_superior/censo_superior/documentos/2019/censo_da_educacao_superior_2018-notas_estatisticas.pdf

¹¹ Federal Centers for Technological Education (CEFET) have been replaced by IF

¹² Source : SEMESP <https://www.semesp.org.br/mapa/educacao-11/regioes/sudeste/sao-paulo/>

- The main student cities are São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Brasília, Recife, Santa Catarina and Curitiba.
- According to QS, the **University of São Paulo** is Brazil's and Latin America's leading higher education institution. Brazil also has five of the top 10 highest ranked universities in the region (2015)¹³.
- **Higher education is almost exclusively delivered in Portuguese language.**
- The Plan for the development of education (*Plano de Desenvolvimento da Educação*) is carried out by the Ministry of Education, through the Secretariat for Higher Education (*Secretaria de Educação Superior*).
- The quality assurance under the Education Ministry is implemented by the *Instituto Nacional de Estudos e de Pesquisas Pedagógicas* (INEP), and by the *Coordenação de aperfeiçoamento de pessoal de nível superior* (CAPES). Both agencies are responsible for the evaluation of all study programmes, respectively at graduate and postgraduate level.

About the **4 types of Higher Education Institutions in Brazil**:

- **University:** A multi-profile higher educational institution, which offers training at all levels of higher education. Most of them are public and very competitive, although some private universities -mainly Catholic universities- are also enjoy prestige.
- **University centre:** Like a university, a university centre enjoys autonomy but does not carry out research activities.
- **Faculty:** smaller than a university, a faculty offers programmes in only one or two fields of study. Most of faculties are private and only offer undergraduate programmes with little focus on research, although some may also offer Master's degrees.
- **Federal Institutions and CEFET:** Nonacademic higher education institutions that mainly carry out teaching activities. As they do not enjoy autonomy, new classes have to be approved by the National Education Council.

Higher education in Brazil consists of three study levels. First, *graduação* leading to one of the following degrees: *Bacharelado* and *Licenciatura* (bachelor), from 4 to 6 years depending on the discipline, or *Tecnológico*, from 2 to 3 years. Second, *Pós-Graduação* leading to a degree of *Mestrado* (Masters degree), 2 years, itself followed by 4 additional years leading to the award of a *Doutorado* (Doctorate), the third level.

To **access higher education**, three options are open to students:

1. The *vestibular* is a specific entrance exam to each university. The *vestibular* generally consists in multiple-choice questionnaires and essays on the subjects taught in high school.
2. Some places in public HEIs are reserved to students coming from public schools. They are selected according to the SISU (*Sistema de Seleção Unificaca*) ranking, based on ENEM (*Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio*), a national exam for high school students who have completed secondary education that takes place once a year. ENEM is also a decisive criteria to select students according to the ethnic quotas; for some HEIs, this exam replaces *vestibular* and students can demand scholarships and public loan for private HEIs through ENEM results.

¹³ Source : <https://www.qs.com/10-quick-facts-about-higher-education-in-brazil/>

3. The PSS (*Processo Seletivo Seriado*), whose name may vary, has been developed by very few universities (like the University of Brasilia) for the recruitments of their students as an assessment of knowledge at the end of each of the 3 years of high school.

Public HEIs are recognized as the best ones in Brazil. Therefore, students face high competitiveness to have access to these institutions that are free of charges and offer a variety of programmes with limited places.

To face access inequalities, the federal government enacted a “quota law” in 2012 to allocate up to 50% of available places in public HEIs to students who have completed all of their studies in a public school (less efficient than the private school system). In some states, such as São Paulo, 35% of places are reserved to indigenous, black and mixed race people. Moreover, students coming from low-income households that are enrolled in private HEIs can benefit from the federal student loan programmes according to their ENEM results.

Two important programmes related to international attractiveness of Brazil’s higher education system, which participated in developing partnerships with European countries, can be mentioned.

The first one is Science without Borders, *Ciência sem Fronteiras* (CSF). This programme was implemented by the Brazilian government between 2011 and 2018 and supported the mobility of more than 90,000 Brazilian students abroad.¹⁴

In 2017, the Ministry of Education's agency for quality assurance CAPES launched the programme PrInt (*Programa Institucional da Internacionalização*) to foster the internationalization of Brazilian research. It encourages universities to undertake an internationalisation strategy corresponding to their priority research areas. The focus countries of this programme are situated mainly in Europe, North America as well as in BRICS countries¹⁵.

Additionally, several partnerships and double degree programmes have been established between European and Brazilian HEIs.

In the framework of the Horizon 2020 programme, Brazilian researchers, enterprises and institutions have reinforced scientific cooperation with the EU. In 2004, Brazil signed an Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation with the EU and thus benefits from a EURAXESS LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean region) regional office in Rio de Janeiro to facilitate the mobility of researchers. Likewise, the ENRICH in LAC’s (European Network of Research and Innovation Centers and Hubs in Latin America and the Caribbean¹⁶) is located in Brazil (Sao Paulo).

In 2018, the European Commission signed agreements with various Brazilian institutions (*Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos – FINEP; Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico – CNPq; Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais from Amparo to Pesquisa – CONFAP*) to co-finance research and innovation projects.

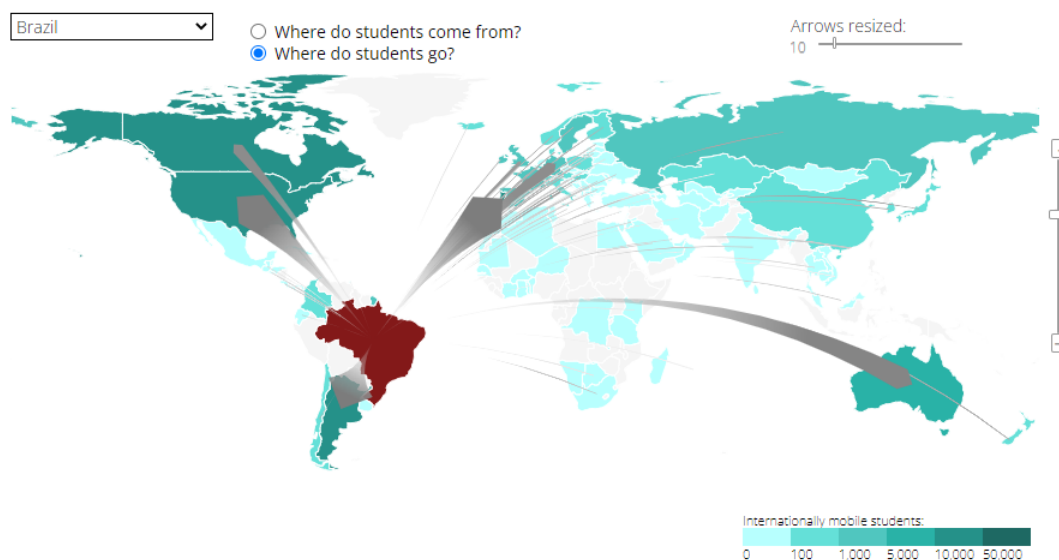
¹⁴ Source : DAAD, « Daten & Analysen zum Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsstandort 2021 »

¹⁵ Source : DAAD, « Daten & Analysen zum Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsstandort 2021 »

¹⁶ Source : ENRICH in LAC, <https://lac.enrichcentres.eu/>

Outgoing Student Mobility Figures

To explore the data select a country from the menu, or click on the map.



Brazil

- In 2020, **89,151** Brazilian students studied abroad, which represents an **increase of 163%** since 2010 (33,823). **1.4% of Brazilian students are mobile** as of 2020¹⁷.
- **Argentina is the preferred destination for Brazilian students** (20,515 students), closely followed by **Portugal** (18,081 students) and the **United States** (16,085 students).
- Close to 33,135 Brazilian students come to Europe mainly to study in Portugal, Germany, France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy, Switzerland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Poland.

Erasmus + in Brazil

The EU and Brazil have worked together to conclude various political agreements. The current relations are based on agreements such as the Framework Cooperation Agreement signed in 1992, a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement signed in 2004 and the EU-Mercosur Framework Cooperation Agreement signed in 1995. A Strategic Partnership was established between the EU and Brazil in 2007 in the field of around thirty sectoral dialogues in areas such as political relations, Human rights, trade, energy, cyber, research & innovation, information society and climate change. Since the establishment of this Partnership, the EU and Brazil hold summits at the highest political level (last one in February 2014)¹⁸.

¹⁷ Source : <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

¹⁸ Source : https://www.eeas.europa.eu/brazil/european-union-and-brazil_en?s=191

International Credit Mobility

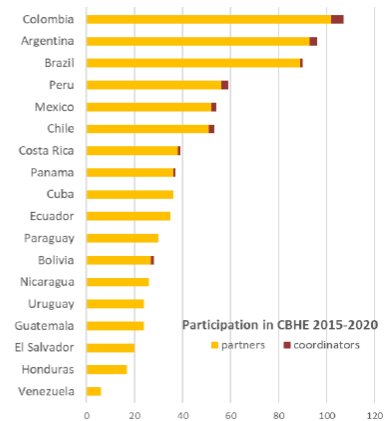
	TOTAL	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Proposals received involving Brazil	1.377	270	252	218	192	201	244
Projects selected involving Brazil	714	246	220	67	64	57	60
Students and staff moving to Europe	1.401	253	345	211	171	205	216
Students and staff moving to Brazil	907	162	225	126	109	150	135
Percentage of regional mobility	23	19	26	20	19	25	29

Capacity Building for Higher Education

Brazil in CBHE projects

	TOTAL	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Proposals received in call overall	4.830	1019	840	887	833	736	515
Projects selected in call overall	908	164	163	147	149	147	138
Proposals received involving Brazil	205	44	33	32	42	29	25
Projects selected involving Brazil	33	4	4	4	6	7	8
Projects coordinated by Brazil	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Instances of participation from Brazil in selected projects	90	9	11	11	18	20	21

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of countries or a single country. They can also be cross-regional, including institutions from different partner regions.



Scholarship winners from Brazil

Scholarship-winners from Brazil

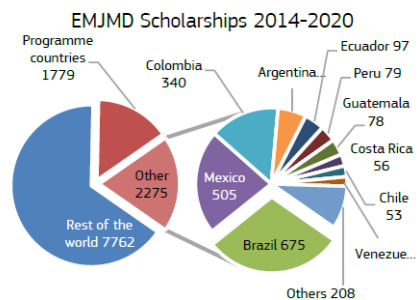
from global budget

From additional regional budget

Scholarships worldwide

EM programmes offering scholarships

	TOTAL	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Scholarship-winners from Brazil	675	137	124	117	95	77	85	40
from global budget	525	103	95	92	70	60	65	40
From additional regional budget	150	34	29	25	25	17	20	0
Scholarships worldwide	11.816	2427	2130	1669	1556	1347	1308	1379
EM programmes offering scholarships	775	130	103	86	100	87	120	149



Source (2021): https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/america-caribbean/brazil_erasmusplus_2020_en.pdf

To learn more ...

About development and higher education statistics in Brazil:

<https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/BRA>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/brazil/overview#1>

To learn more about student mobility from Brazil:

<http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

Erasmus+ and Brazil

https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/america-caribbean/brazil_erasmusplus_2020_en.pdf

EU- Brazil relations

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/brazil/european-union-and-brazil_en?s=191

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/141088.pdf

EU dialogue with civil society in Brazil

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/brazil/european-union-and-brazil-civil-society_en?s=191

Delegation of the European Union to Brazil:

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/brazil_en?s=191

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/brazil>

Brazilian Universities Ranking : <https://ruf.folha.uol.com.br/2019/ranking-de-universidades/principal/>