

Brazil

UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective of the Advising Notes Document

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student's *decision to apply* for an EAP 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 website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. The best source of detailed program information is always the [UCEAP Program Guide](#) from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Advisor Contact Information

For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising>

Academics

Rio de Janeiro

The 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 8-9 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 Brazilian or Latin American culture, society or history. 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.

The Immersion Track allows students with a minimum of one year of university-level Portuguese *or* two years of university-level Spanish training prior to departure 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 3-4 week ILP (Intensive Language Program) that is worth 2-4 semester units and students continue to study the Portuguese language during the semester.

- **Flexibility is important.** Keep in mind that the courses you find in the EAP Course Catalog or on the host university's web site may not be offered the semester(s) you will be abroad. Often times you will not have concrete information about what courses will be offered until a couple months before departure or even until upon arrival in Brazil. Be prepared for the possibility that you will have to modify your plans.
- **How many courses/units will I take?** You are required to take a minimum of 12 (semester) units per semester (this does not include the ILP). Students typically take 3 or 4 courses per semester.

Salvador da Bahia

The Brazilian Studies program in Salvador da Bahia is administered through CIEE. Its structure is similar to the Immersion program at PUC-Rio. Students in Bahia can take courses at CIEE and Catholic University of Salvador after a 3-4 week Intensive Language Program.

Note: UCEAP options in Salvador da Bahia are offered in partnership with CIEE (Council on International Education Exchange). While it is not a part of the initial application process, you will be required to submit an official UC Berkeley transcript, letter of recommendation, and other materials to CIEE at a later date.

Language Prerequisite

There are a variety of ways to satisfy the language requirement needed for programs:

For detailed information on how to fulfill the language prerequisite, please read the [EAP Language Prerequisite Guide: Spanish & Portuguese](#).

Important Visa Information

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 and the full names of your parents are identical on all documents** (passport, birth certificate, visa application form, etc.). The Brazilian Consulate and other government agencies are very picky about names. 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 EAP application how you will write your name.
- **Plan ahead to extend.** It is not always possible that students are able to extend their visas once they are in Brazil. For this reason, if you think there is *any* possibility that you will want to extend your stay in Brazil, make sure to check "Yes" and obtain the necessary signatures on the Departmental Pre-Approval to Extend form (DPA) that you will submit as part of your application. Students are not obligated to stay in Brazil when the "Yes" option is checked, however, a "Yes" now will ensure that you will receive the documentation necessary to obtain a year-long visa.
- **Non-US passport holders plan ahead.** EAP is only able to provide instruction on visa procedures for U.S. passport holders. If you hold 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.

Back to Back programs

Due to the complicated nature of student visas for Brazil, students are not encouraged to participate on UCEAP Brazil as their second of back-to-back study abroad options. If you are able to start with the Brazil program and move to your second study abroad destination, that would be advised.

EAP Alums

EAP alumni are one of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the BSA Adviser an email with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.