



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

OAS – Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB) Scholarship Opportunities for Master’s Programs in Brazil



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Selecting a University

Can I apply to only one university rather than making three selections?

It is recommended that each applicant identify three Master’s Degree programs as indicated on their application form. Each selected program must be offered by a different eligible university and each university from a different region of the country. This will maximize the applicant’s chances to be selected to receive a scholarship, given that the number of scholarships available for studies at each university is limited.

Why do I need to identify/select three programs from different universities in different regions?

In addition to promoting international education opportunities for the students of the Americas, one of the principal objectives of the OAS-GCUB scholarships program is to help support the internationalization of each participating Brazilian university. Each participating university, as well as the community and region within which it is located, has distinct advantages to offer its students and constitutes a uniquely valuable study experience. Therefore, the program is designed to help facilitate an equitable distribution of selected scholarship recipients between all participating Brazilian universities.

What if the program that I want to pursue is only offered in one university?

In these cases, the applicant is justified in selecting only one program/university on their application form. The applicant may also consider identifying study programs from universities in other regions that are similar to the desired field of study even if they are not exactly the same

What if the program that I want to pursue is offered multiple universities but that are located in the same geographic region?

In these exceptional cases, the applicant may identify more than one study program from within the same region. Additionally, the applicant may consider identifying study programs from other regions that are similar to the desired field of study even if they are not exactly the same.

What if I cannot find the field or specific study program that I wish to pursue?

Only those fields of study and universities identified in the [List of Eligible Master’s Degree Programs and Universities](#) are supported by OAS-GCUB scholarship program. If the program you are interested in is not available, the OAS encourages you to explore www.oas.org/en/scholarships for other scholarship offers that may meet your needs.

¿Can I choose less than 3 master's programs?

In case that there is no availability of your selected master program in at least 3 different regions you may choose only one or two programs in universities in different regions depending on availability. If the program is available at another university in another region and you do not want that option, if you received the scholarship we can not guarantee that it will be granted to the university of your choice. The more flexibility you have, you are most likely to be granted a scholarship.

Language Requirements

What are the Portuguese-language requirements for this program?

If your native language is Spanish or Portuguese, there is no language requirement for your eligibility for this scholarship program. However, please keep in mind that the classes for all eligible programs will be taught in Portuguese. It is important to mention that scholarship recipients will receive language support by the university in which they are selected to pursue their study program.

If your native language is English or any language other than Spanish or Portuguese, you will be required to prove that you have at least an intermediate level of Portuguese either by submitting official results of an appropriate standardized Portuguese-language exam such as the [Celpe-Bras](#) or through the submission of relevant course certificates.

The webpage of the specific program(s) I wish to apply to indicate that I must pass an English-language exam to undertake the program, is this necessary?

Some universities and programs require a level of English-language knowledge. In these cases, the student must be prepared to meet the requirements set forth by the university.

Costs covered and not covered by the Scholarship

What additional costs should I be aware of that are not covered by this scholarship?

The benefits offered through this scholarship are described in the [scholarship announcement](#). Some of the additional costs that are not covered by the scholarship and that the student should expect to cover include: any costs associated with the visa process; certificates, diplomas or transcripts request/processing costs; personal expenses; health insurance; books and study materials; graduation costs.

What happens if I cannot complete my studies in 24 months?

The OAS-GCUB Scholarship has a maximum duration of 24 months. Whatever cost or expense normally covered by the scholarship will become the complete responsibility of the student after the first 24 months have elapsed.

If I am selected to receive the scholarship and I wish to travel with my family, is there some type of support I can receive for costs associated with bringing my family members?

No. The scholarship does not allow for any additional benefits to help cover these family-related costs. The scholarship provides only those benefits specified in the Announcement, which are designed to support the scholarship recipient only as an individual.

How will the scholarship benefits be dispersed?

The \$1,500 USD portion of the scholarship will be granted directly to the scholarship recipient upon their arrival in Brazil in accordance with the procedure that will be indicated by the host university. The grant will be made in Brazilian Reales at the exchange rate on the day it is granted.

The monthly stipend of 1,200 Reales will be provided by the host university on a monthly basis.

If I am selected but my monthly stipend for subsistence is not sufficient to cover my monthly expenses, what can I do?

The benefits to be received by scholarship recipients are fixed and cannot be modified. In normal circumstances, the stipend provided by the scholarship is expected to be sufficient to cover the basic necessity costs incurred by the participating student. However, this cannot be guaranteed. It is therefore of the utmost importance that each scholarship recipient be fully aware that it will be her/his responsibility to cover any additional costs that are not able to be covered by the OAS-GCUB scholarship's benefits. If scholarship recipients require additional financial support, it is recommended that they search for another type of complementary funding such as educational loans, among others.

What is the approximate cost of living in Brazil?

The cost of living in Brazil varies depending on the city and region but is normally higher in the larger cities.

Required Documentation**What are the admission and scholarship application requirements?**

The Master's Degree program admission requirements and the scholarship application requirements can be found in the [OAS-GCUB Scholarship Announcement](#). It is worth noting that some universities and programs require a level of English-language knowledge. In these cases, the student must be prepared to meet the requirements set forth by the university.

What type of recommendation letters should I send? Is there a standard format?

There is no standard format for recommendation letters. Letters from professors and employers are acceptable.

Can I send my documents in an electronic format?

All documents must be sent online in an electronic format via BecasBrasil@oas.org. However, applicants should be prepared to send original, hard-copies of documents when these are requested by the Brazilian institutions.

How should I send the requested documents?

Documents must be emailed to becasbrasil@oas.org. Preferably, please send all documents in one single PDF file.

What I can do if I can not save the Scholarship Application Form OAS-GCUB with my information?

You can print, fill, scan and save as a PDF file, then send it along with the other required documents on an email to becasbrasil@oas.org.

Should I apostille and/or legalize the required documents?

To apply, you can send your documents without legalizing and/or apostille. However, as indicated by the Edict, you must note that the OAS and/or GCUB may request such documents legalized and/or authenticated at any time.

In what format should I send my resume (CV) and/or recommendation letters?

We do not require any particular format. Please send your Curriculum Vitae in a concrete and simple format.

To whom should my recommendation letters be addressed?

They can be addressed "To whom it may concern," the OAS and/or the Coimbra Group.

Travel**Do I need a visa to study in Brazil? What type of visa do I need and what are the requirements?**

It is necessary that you consult with the embassy or consulates of Brazil in your country to find out more about the student visa requirements, policies and regulations for your entry to the country.

Selection Process**What are the selection criteria?**

- Academic and professional merit and credentials of the applicant.
- Potential for impact upon completion of the program and return home.
- Geographical distribution of candidates, taking into consideration the greater needs of emerging economies.
- Financial need of the applicant, as indicated in his/her essay.

If I am selected to receive a scholarship but I am unable to accept it for some reason, is it possible to defer the offer until next year?

No. If the selected applicant cannot begin her/his Studies in March of 2012, she/he will be required to decline the offer and the opportunity will be offered to another candidate.

Is there any age limit for potential applicants?

No. there is no age limit to apply to this program.

Other**If I am a Brazilian citizen, can I apply for this scholarship?**

This scholarship program is not open to Brazilian citizens or permanent residents because the purpose of the program is to facilitate international mobility of students between the OAS member states.

Will I need to get health insurance?

Yes. All scholarship recipients are required to purchase health insurance. It is recommended that you consult with the university in which you will pursue your degree to determine which providers they recommend.

What are the responsibilities of scholarship recipients?

Some of the most important responsibilities include:

- Return to his or her country of origin within thirty days after completion of studies in Brazil and reside there for a period equal to or greater than the duration of his or her studies in Brazil. If the beneficiary does not comply with this requirement, he/she will be required to return the total value of the scholarship to the GCUB and/or the OAS.
- Once the student has been admitted into a program of study and has been awarded the scholarship, he/she must comply with all of the organizational and academic guidelines of the university and GCUB, and will be subject to any changes made by the academic authorities.
- The scholarship can be declined by the candidate before the initiation of his/her studies without the candidate incurring a financial penalty. However, if the selected candidate declines the scholarship after having begun his/her study program, and without proof of extenuating circumstances, he/she will be required to reimburse the OAS for the total costs of disbursements made from the inception of the scholarship to the moment of the declination.

How will I know if I have been selected?

Scholarship recipients will be announced on the following webpage www.oas.org/en/scholarships/brazil.asp. Additionally, the OAS and GCUB will send a scholarship offer letter to selected applicants as well as relevant contact information so that any concerns regarding the granting of the scholarship can be addressed.

Once I have graduated from my Master's Degree program, will this degree be valid in my country of origin?

Applicants are responsible for determining the validity of degrees from the participating Brazilian institutions with relevant institutions in their country of origin. The OAS and GCUB are not responsible for the international validation of degrees that may be granted through this program.

Can I work when I am in Brazil?

No. Scholarship recipients are expected to dedicate themselves exclusively to their study program.