



Organization of
American States

OAS – Grupo Coimbra de Universidades Brasileiras (GCUB) Scholarships Opportunities for Master's and PhD Programs In Brazil



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

SELECTION OF UNIVERSITIES

1. Can I apply only to one university?

It is possible. However, it is recommended that the applicants select three programs, each in different universities and regions in order to increase your chances of being awarded a scholarship. This is because the number of scholarships available per university is limited.

2. Why do I have to choose three different universities?

One of the main objectives of the PAEC OAS-GCUB is to promote the internationalization and mobilization of students of the Americas in different Brazilian regions. Therefore, the program is designed to favor the equitable distribution of students among participating Brazilian universities. Additionally, applying in three different regions will increase the chances of receiving a scholarship offer from one of the selected institutions, as the number of scholarship openings per university is limited.

3. Can I apply to several programs in the same university?

No; the programs selected have to be from different universities and regions.

4. What would happen if the program that I wish to apply to is offered in less than three universities of three different regions, or only in universities within the same region?

The applicant may consider broadening his/her field of study. However, if there is no other possibility, such a scenario would be the only exception in order to be able to choose more than one university within the same region.

5. What would happen if no university offers the program that I wish to undertake?

If the type of program you wish to complete is not listed in the [List of Master's and PhD Programs](#) in Brasil, you will not be able to apply to the scholarships program since the scholarships will be awarded exclusively for the programs and universities specified in the list.

6. May I apply to less than three (3) programs?

If the program you are interested in is not offered in at least three regions, you may select programs in universities where they are available, even if they are in only one or two regions. If the same program is available in another university in another region, we cannot guarantee that

the scholarship offer will be made for your particular universities of interest. **The more flexible you are, the greater the chances you have of being awarded a scholarship.**

7. Can I apply to a combination of master's and PhD programs in the same application form?

You can only if you meet the academic requirements for both degree levels. If you hold a bachelor's AND a master's degree, you are eligible to apply to either PhD or other master's programs.

If you only hold a bachelor's degree, you are only eligible for master's programs. In this scenario, if you choose doctoral programs, unfortunately the whole application would be deemed ineligible.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

1. What language requirements are necessary to apply for this scholarship?

Proficiency in Portuguese is not required during the application stage. However, it is important to note that the classes will be taught in Portuguese and study program may offer academic disciplines and activities in other languages. Each university is independent in determining the admissibility of each candidate based on their academic and professional credentials.

It is important to note that students will receive language support from their host universities through on-site or online Portuguese language courses, tutoring sessions with students or professors, or any other model according to the conditions of the host university. In any case, basic knowledge of Portuguese is always preferred.

Please take into account that even though some programs do not require proficiency in Portuguese or another language at the admission stage, this might be a requirement for graduation. Moreover, this scholarship program requires that, if selected to receive an OAS-GCUB scholarship, you must prove a superior-intermediate level of Portuguese in CELPE-Bras exam, before finishing your studies in Brazil. The costs associated with taking this exam are the student's responsibility.

2. Is there any minimum level of proficiency of any other language required?

Some programs may have language requirements for admitting candidates. For more information, please visit the website of each participating program and read the regulations: [List of Master's and PhD Programs](#) in Brazil

3. If my understanding of Portuguese is minimal, can I still apply for this scholarship?

Yes. There are no prerequisites regarding Portuguese language proficiency at the application stage of this scholarship opportunity. However, each Brazilian university will independently

determine the admissibility of each candidate, considering his/her academic and professional credentials.

EXPENSES COVERED AND NOT COVERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. What expenses are included in the scholarship?

The benefits of OAS-GCUB scholarship described in the [Announcement](#) are as follows:

- a. Exemption from tuition and fees, monthly or annual academic fees related to the costs of the graduate program for which the candidate is selected at the host university
- b. Subsistence Scholarship:
 - Master's: monthly scholarships worth R\$ 1,500 (one-thousand five-hundred Brazilian *Reales*), paid by the host university throughout the regular study period, **up to a maximum of 24 months**, in accordance with the List of Master's Programs
 - PhDs: Monthly scholarships worth R\$ 2,200 (two-thousand two-hundred Brazilian Reales), paid by the host university throughout the regular study period, **up to a maximum of 48 months**, in accordance with the List of PhD Programs
- c. A \$1,200 (one-thousand two-hundred) US Dollars contribution to help students defray their settlement expenses paid in Brazilian *Reales* according to the official exchange rate on the day the OAS deposits this contribution to the GCUB. This benefit will be awarded to each one of the first 125 approved scholarship recipients.
- d. Free access to Portuguese language studies (on-site courses, on-line courses, tutorials with students or professors, or other modalities, according to the conditions of the host university.)
- e. Access to classes, classrooms, libraries, laboratories and other university services under the same conditions as any other student at the host university.
- f. Access to university restaurants under the same conditions as any other student at the host university.

Some of the **additional expenses not covered** by the scholarships are:

- Airfare
- Visa process fee
- Additional subsistence expenses
- Issuance fees of Diploma, transcripts and/or certificates
- Medical Insurance
- Books and study materials

2. What would happen if I am not able to finish my studies in 24 months /48 months?

The OAS-GCUB scholarship has a maximum cover of 24 months for master's programs, and 48 months for PhD programs. Any additional expense after that timeframe will be the student's responsibility.

3. If I am selected and I travel with my family, is there any monetary support for family members?

No. The scholarship does not include benefits for family members. The only benefits to be awarded are the ones specified in the [Announcement](#), and are intended for the scholarship recipient only.

4. How will I receive the benefits?

The \$1,200 USD (for the first 80 selected students) will be disbursed upon arrival in Brazil. In order to receive the disbursement the student must report to the Brazilian university and follow the instructions of the Institutional Coordinators regarding the following procedures:

- Registration,
- Opening a bank account,
- Issuance of documents required by the Brazilian Government (*Registro Nacional de Extranjeros*, etc.)
- Obtaining international medical insurance with full medical, hospital and lab-testing coverage valid in the entire Brazilian territory, including coverage of repatriation of mortal remains.
- Obtaining a passport with student visa

NOTE: The disbursement of the US\$1,200 stipend for settlement expenses could take from 1 to 3 months.

5. If I am selected and the subsistence stipend is not enough to cover my monthly expenses, what can I do?

The benefits that you will receive are fixed amounts and cannot be modified. It is imperative that the applicant is aware that he or she must be prepared financially to cover any additional costs beyond the OAS-GCUB scholarship benefits.

6. What is the approximate living cost in Brazil?

The living cost in Brazil varies from city to city. The subsistence or stipend granted by the scholarship is intended to help the student cover the essential expenses, which does not include costs associated to activities during leisure time. For more information contact the consulate of Brazil in your country or the universities of your interest, and visit public websites about living costs in Brazil.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

1. What are the scholarship application and admission requisites?

When you apply for the OAS-GCUB scholarship you are also applying automatically for admission in the selected universities. Therefore, it is not necessary to apply for admission to the desired programs in addition to the OAS-GCUB scholarship application. The requirements for this scholarship opportunity are included in the Scholarship [Announcement](#).

It is important to note that some universities/programs require English proficiency (or other languages.) For those cases, the student must be prepared to fulfill all requirements established by the desired university/program.

2. In which format should I submit my Curriculum Vitae (CV)?

We do not request any particular form. Please submit your CV in a concise way, and do not attach additional documents (workshops/conferences certificates, invoices, etc).

3. What type of letters of recommendation should I submit? Is there any format?

There is no particular format for the letters of recommendation. We accept letters from university professors or employers. Make sure that the letters are prepared on letterhead and signed (adding any institutional stamp, if applicable) before they are scanned.

4. To whom should the letters be addressed?

Letters can be addressed to the Organization of American States and/or the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities. They can also be written in general terms "To whom it may concern."

5. Should I include notarized/legalized documents?

To apply you should submit electronic copies of the required documents without any type of notarization. However, as indicated by the Scholarship [Announcement](#) you must bear in mind that the OAS, the GCUB and/or the host university could request notarized/legalized documents at any moment.

6. If I have concluded my studies (undergraduate/master's level) but I still do not have my diploma, can I apply to the scholarship?

In order to be eligible, it is necessary to have fully completed your undergraduate/master's studies before the application deadline. If your diploma is being issued, you may attach a certificate issued by your university confirming that you have completed all program requirements (including submission and defense of graduation papers/exams, if applicable) and the expected date in which the degree will be officially awarded. If you will conclude your program requirements after the application deadline, unfortunately you are not eligible to apply in this scholarship cycle.

7. Should I write a "text 2" for each program/university that I chose? Or should I do only one "text 2" for all three options combined?

You should only write one text referring to all the programs you are interested in.

8. How should I write "text 2"? Is it necessary that I contact a professor at the Brazilian university?

No. It is not necessary for you to contact a professor since the essay must encompass subjects applicable to the three programs of your interest. The text must follow the directions contained in the Scholarship [Announcement](#).

9. How should I write “text 3”? Is it necessary that I include proof (i.e. certificates, bank statements, etc.) that I have the money to pay for the additional expenses not covered by the scholarship?

It is not necessary for you to attach proof of finances. The OAS and the GCUB ask for a letter in which you show your awareness that you will have financial, personal and labor responsibilities in case you are selected, and that you are willing to assume them.

You must describe a plan about how you would secure the additional funding, what type of sources you would use, and whether you are willing to leave your work, family, etc. (as applicable) for several years. You must also show that you are willing to relocate to Brazil to start classes in 2015. If you intend to relocate with family members, you must also describe the financial sources that you would use for their subsistence.

10. If I am a Brazilian citizen or permanent resident, can I apply to this scholarship opportunity?

The OAS-GCUB Scholarship program is not available to Brazilian nationals or permanent residents. This is because one of the purposes of this Program is to promote the regional integration of countries through the internationalization and mobilization of students to a country different than their own.

TRAVEL

1. Do I need a visa to study in Brazil? What type? What are the requirements?

Yes, you do need a type IV visa to study in Brazil. It is student’s responsibility to request all necessary information from the Brazilian Consulate(s) in his or her country to apply for the visa. None of the scholarship benefits can be disbursed if, upon arrival in Brazil, the student does not present the visa and proof of medical insurance to the institutional coordinator at the host institution.

2. If I am selected, how far in advance should I arrive in Brazil?

This will depend on each particular university and program, who will indicate their terms when they announce the admissions. On average, universities request that students arrive two weeks prior to the start of classes in order to register and settle; however, this varies from program to program.

3. What type of medical insurance will I have to obtain if I am selected?

The OAS and the GCUB refrain from recommending any particular insurance company. However, the medical insurance must include full medical, hospital and lab-testing coverage valid throughout Brazilian territory, including coverage of repatriation of mortal remains.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. What are the selection criteria?

The following criteria will be taken into account (not necessarily in this order):

- Merit, academic and professional credentials of the candidate
- A geographical distribution of the applicants, taking into consideration the most important needs of emerging economies.
- Applicants from countries with a low human development index (HDI), according to the ranking of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- Full-time professors working at public higher education institutions, especially those originating from countries with a low HDI, according to UNDP.
- Applicants whose proposals portray the highest potential for social impact upon return to their countries of origin.
- Gender diversity.

2. If I am selected and I cannot accept the scholarship for any reason, can it be deferred for next year?

No. If the scholarship recipient cannot start classes during 2015, he or she would have to decline the scholarship offer, and the institution will offer the opportunity to another candidate.

3. Is there any age limit to apply to this scholarships program?

There is no age limit to participate in this specific scholarship program.

OTHER

1. What are the scholarship recipient's responsibilities and commitments?

The most important responsibilities are as follows:

- Prepare his/her trip and securing a study visa
- Cover all financial aspects not included in the scholarship (i.e. airfare, medical insurance, subsistence expenses that surpass the monthly stipend granted by the scholarship, etc).
- Dedicate him or herself to full time studies in Brazil, keeping a good academic performance and obey the laws and regulations of the host country and institution.
- Return to the country of origin no more than 30 days after concluding studies in Brazil, and reside there for a minimum period equal to the duration of the studies in Brazil. In case the grantee does not fulfill this commitment, he or she could be asked to return to the OAS, GCUB or the host university the total amount granted in the scholarship.
- Comply with all organizational and academic guidelines required by the OAS, GCUB, and/or University.

- The selected candidate can decline the scholarship before starting the program of study without financial repercussions. However, if the selected candidate declines the scholarship without any substantial reason after having started the program of study, he or she must reimburse the OAS, GCUB and/or University the total amount of the scholarship benefits disbursed as of the time of withdrawal from the program.

2. How will I know if I have been selected?

Selected candidates will be announced through the websites www.oas.org/scholarships and www.grupocoimbra.org.br/coimbra. Additionally, selected candidates will be directly contacted by the OAS and will receive a Scholarship Award Letter and the contact information for any inquiries about the scholarship award. **Please be aware that due to the large amount of applications received each year, it is not possible to provide feedback to non-selected individuals.**

3. When I graduate from my program of study and I am awarded the degree, will this degree be valid in my country of origin?

Scholarship recipients will be responsible for doing previous research on the recognition of their degrees in their country of origin, through the competent institutions. The OAS and GCUB are not responsible for recognition of degrees.

4. Will I be able to work while studying in Brazil?

No. Students must dedicate themselves exclusively to their studies on a full time basis.