It is our goal at Duke to strengthen ties and develop deeper connections with Brazil and Latin America. Our world is more globalized than ever, and we need to draw from the whole range of talent across the Americas to work toward a more peaceful and prosperous world.

— Ambassador Patrick Duddy, Duke University

### QUICK FACTS:

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DUKE IN THE WORLD

Duke students and scholars have a wide range of ties to Brazil, including longstanding work in medicine, the environment and the humanities. As the Americas face the shared challenges of addressing climate change, poverty and inequality, Duke’s engagement with Brazil seeks to reflect the complexity and importance of the ties that bind the hemisphere we share.

EDUCATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Duke’s education partners in Brazil focus on business administration, medicine, energy and the environment, and a number of other academic disciplines and activities.

The Duke Clinical Research Institute partners with the Brazilian Clinical Research Institute (BCRI), the first academic clinical research organization in South America, to train future generations of clinical researchers based on the pillars of education, ethics, knowledge and quality. Dr. Renato Lopes of Duke’s Clinical Research Institute serves as executive director of the BCRI. Educators at the Duke School of Medicine also connect via videoconference with students at BCRI’s affiliated university, the Federal University of Sao Paulo, who are enrolled in courses in the Masters of Health Sciences in Clinical Research.

The Fuqua School of Business, the Duke Global Health Institute and the Duke Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies have established ties with notable Brazilian universities for graduate student exchange, visiting scholars programs, joint research projects, collaborative publications and cooperative efforts between teaching staff.
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In addition to the above partnerships, Duke sponsors a number of academic excursions for students to experience the cultures and customs of Brazil.

The Global Education Office for Undergraduates (GEO), which coordinates Duke’s study away programs, offers a four-week, one-course summer program designed to provide intensive Portuguese language instruction while exposing students to the reality of social issues in Rio de Janeiro and environmental issues in the Brazilian Amazon. In both locations, students interact with NGOs that engage on issues of civics, citizens’ rights, culture and sustainable development.

GEO supports student involvement in three Duke-approved programs in Brazil. In Brazil’s northeast region, Nordeste, students study traditional Afro Brazilian healing practices and experience firsthand how healthcare policies in Brazil are put into practice. Students can also choose from two programs based in Sao Paulo: one focused on the people and politics of Brazilian cities, and the other on health and community in the face of globalization.

Bass Connections also provides an opportunity for Duke students to travel to Brazil. The program brings graduate and undergraduate students together with faculty from across the university to address theme-based research questions and challenges. One research team is working alongside Brazilian scholars and students at the Multidisciplinary Institute of the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro to assess how changes to higher education—particularly the Brazilian government’s expansion of the university system—will impact social mobility in the country.
BRAZIL AT DUKE

The study of Brazil has grown substantially at Duke over the past few years with the addition of a Brazilian and Global Portuguese major, the Duke Brazil Initiative, the Global Brazil Lab and more than a dozen new Brazilian studies courses.

The **Duke Brazil Initiative**, under the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, aims to broaden exposure to and build deeper connections with Brazil at Duke. The initiative:

- Supports student and faculty exchanges
- Develops interdisciplinary research partnerships between Duke and Brazilian universities
- Brings Brazilian scholars, public officials and artists to Duke

The **Global Brazil Lab** brings together an interdisciplinary team of faculty members to engage students in research focused on Brazilian arts, social movements and natural environment. The lab, **Global Brazil: Culture Nature and Politics**, focuses on everything from Brazilian pop art as a major player in the international art market to biodiversity in the Amazon to the policies surrounding financial inequality in Brazil.

**The Brazilian and Global Portuguese Major** allows students to acquire competency in spoken and written Portuguese, as well as a familiarity with

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The **Capoeira Crazies** is a student-run organization dedicated to sharing the Afro-Brazilian martial art of capoeira and fostering a community around the history and culture of this art form on campus. Students host regular events, including capoeira demonstrations, capoeira music lessons and discussions about capoeira culture.

“**Our vision is to nurture a robust capoeira community that will continue to thrive for years,**” the organization writes, “**and that may one day become a distinctive, cultural fixture that contributes to the uniqueness and diversity of Duke’s campus.**”
the literature and culture of Brazil and other Portuguese-speaking countries.

The student population at Duke is also active in working to bridge Duke and Brazil. The Duke Brazilian Association in particular brings together Brazilian students, faculty, alumni and businesses, as well as those at Duke interested in Brazil, to enhance cultural awareness on campus. This organization works in partnership with the Portuguese department to provide interested students with exposure to Brazilian culture and language in informal settings.

RESEARCH

Thirty-seven Duke faculty members currently conduct research in or related to Brazil. This research spans six of Duke’s schools and many of its institutes and centers.

Among Duke’s experts and researchers exploring topics related to Brazil are:

• Christine Folch—on water and energy politics and how environmental impacts affect marginalized communities
• John French—on Brazil’s deepening democracy and the history of the Brazilian working class
• Gustavo Furtado—on Brazilian literature, music and visual culture and the interaction between aesthetic forms, history and politics
• Richard Frederick Kay—on the origins and evolution of primates in South America
• Shakeeb Khan—on infant mortality rates in Brazil
• Alexander Pfaff—on the impacts of various efforts to conserve Brazil’s Amazon rainforest

Also relevant to Brazil is the Duke Tropical Conservation Initiative, which brings together Duke scholars looking at the protection, management and restoration of tropical natural systems and their relation to human welfare. Some Duke experts also look at financial and
technological innovations relevant to conservation of the Amazon and other tropical ecosystems.

William Pan studies the ways land use, climate and population mobility contribute to the transmission of infectious diseases in the Western Amazon basin. Dr. Pan mentors student researchers in the area of malaria risk in this region. Here he looks at mosquitoes near South America’s Rio Napo.

To find more Duke experts, visit global.duke.edu/regions and search our Global Activities Map by school and country of interest.