Fact Sheet: Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean make up a world region known for its dynamic cultures, prodigious agricultural capacity and vast energy resources. A deep and continuous exchange of influences exists between North and South America as the continents work to address shared challenges, including energy issues, climate change and transnational crime. Duke University programs and course offerings in Latin American and Caribbean Studies reflect the breadth, complexity and importance of the ties that bind the countries and cultures of the hemisphere we share.

Quick Facts

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current students from the region</td>
<td>358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni living in the region</td>
<td>822</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty in Latin American &amp; Caribbean Studies</td>
<td>73</td>
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Programs and Activities

Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies

A title VI national resource center since 1991 with consortium partner UNC-Chapel Hill, the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS) works to
bring together members of our local and worldwide community—including K-12 schools, universities, artists, activists, civic organizations and so on—to promote new ideas, research and cultural awareness about the region. CLACS offers language training, course development and other educational activities; supports research through grants and conferences; and creates social networks through collaborations with other universities, student organizations, alumni, visiting scholars and more.

**The Duke Brazil Initiative**

The Duke Brazil Initiative (DBI) aims to broaden exposure to and build deeper connections with Brazil; to support innovative student and faculty exchanges; to develop interdisciplinary research and partnerships; to create internships in Brazil for Duke students; and to bring Brazilian scholars, public officials, and artists to Duke. DBI projects focus on a variety of topics, including energy, environment, health and human development.

**Franklin Humanities Institute**

The mission of the John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute (FHI) at Duke is to encourage and enable serious humanistic inquiry, and to promote a heightened awareness of the centrality of the humanities to the quality of human life, social interaction, and scholarship in all fields.

**Global Brazil Humanities Lab**

With a two-year Mellon Humanities Writ Large grant, the Global Brazil Lab: Nature, Culture, Politics, began in Fall 2014. The lab aims to generate new conversations between the humanities, social sciences, and the natural sciences by including students in research projects focused on Brazilian arts, social movements, and natural environment.

**Haiti Humanities Lab**

The Haiti Lab was founded in 2010 as the Franklin Humanities Institute’s
inaugural Humanities Lab. The Lab’s term at the FHI concluded in 2013, but, through the support of Duke’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, it continues to offer public events and to serve as a focal point for scholars and students working in Haitian Studies.

Sanford School of Public Policy

The undergraduate program, Masters in Public Policy (MPP), and Masters in International Development Policy (MIDP) program at Sanford consistently train students with interests in Latin America & the Caribbean. Each year the MPP and MIDP programs, in particular, recruit an average 10 students from Latin America. These students come to Duke with many years of experience working in government and the private sector from their home countries. They actively participate by enrolling in the Graduate Certificate for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, presenting research at the UNC-Duke Consortium in Latin American & Caribbean Studies conference, and remain active as alumni after returning to the region.

Nicholas School of the Environment

The Nicholas School has assembled a unique and talented faculty of world-class researchers and educators spanning all of the relevant physical, life, and social sciences, steeped and actively engaged in their respective disciplines, but also committed to the multi- and interdisciplinary lines of inquiry and collaborations that are at the core of many environmental issues. Nicholas faculty and students are involved in multiple research projects in Latin American and Caribbean countries, including Professor Stuart Pimm’s work in the Atlantic Coast forest of Brazil and the northern Andes—two of the world’s hotspots for threatened species—and Professor Jennifer Swenson’s research on conservation challenges in the Peruvian Amazon and elsewhere.

Fuqua School of Business

**Fuqua Client Consulting Practicum**

The Fuqua Client Consulting Practicum (FCCP) enhances students’ business education by developing collaborative consulting engagements with
businesses and nonprofit organizations. Under the supervision of Fuqua faculty, student teams engage with client organizations to address existing and emerging challenges and then work for two weeks, in-country, with the organization’s leadership. Brazil is a popular destination for FCCP groups, with students working with a diverse set of organizations ranging from social enterprises focused on improving women’s health to multinational corporations focused on food production.

**Duke CFO Global Business Outlook**

The Duke CFO Global Business Outlook is a quarterly survey of chief financial officers which identifies and predicts economic trends. The survey is directed by Fuqua Professor John Graham and is one of the longest-running and most comprehensive pieces of research about senior financial executives. The survey has enjoyed strong representation in Brazil and is conducted jointly with Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV). Brazilian media often report on the results, including such outlets as Estado de São Paulo.

**Global Academic Travel Experiences (GATE)**

In Fuqua’s Global Academic Travel Experience (GATE) courses, students study the business, culture, economy and politics of a country or region for six weeks before traveling to the area studied. As an important economy globally, Brazil has been a popular destination for GATE programs. Previous programs to Brazil have visited Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Manaus, where Fuqua students and faculty have engaged with high-level regional experts and prominent alumni; and conducted visits to multinational corporations, local enterprises, government agencies and exchange program partner schools. Patrick Duddy, former U.S.
Ambassador to Venezuela and current Fuqua Scholar in Residence, frequently leads Fuqua’s GATE programs in Brazil.

Fuqua has also expanded its presence in Latin America by hosting a cross-continents MBA residency in Santiago, Chile and a Global Executive MBA residency in Panama City, Panama.

**Duke Medical School/School of Nursing**

Several faculty of Duke’s Medical and Nursing Schools have expertise or conduct activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Professor Renato Lopes works jointly with Duke and the Federal University of Sao Paulo, and has established a clinical research institute in Brazil based on the model of such an institute at Duke. Professors Rosa Solarzano and Dennis Clements teach medical Spanish, and Clements leads a course on medicine in foreign cultures, which typically includes a ten-day practicum in Honduras with 15 students on average each spring. Catherine Staton’s research in trauma and injury care in low- and middle-income countries focuses on Brazil.

**Program in Latino/a Studies in the Global South**

Latino/a Studies in the Global South (LSGS) is an interdisciplinary certificate program that allows students to expand on their knowledge of the U.S. Latino and Latina population by combining classes from across the humanities, social sciences and professional schools. LSGS connects faculty, administrators, and resources to promote interdisciplinary research, teaching and study related to Latino and Latina communities in the United States and across national boundaries.

**Romance Studies**

**Brazilian and Global Portuguese Studies**

In the fall of 2014, Duke launched a Brazilian and Global Portuguese major/minor within the department of Romance Studies. The major is designed for students who wish to acquire competency in spoken and
written Portuguese, as well as familiarity with the literature and culture of Brazil and Portuguese-speaking regions. The Portuguese language program is run by Magda Silva, and core classes are taught by a number of faculty members including two Brazilianists, Gustavo Furtado and Lamonte Aidoo.

**Spanish and Latin American Studies**

Spanish is the second largest world language as a vehicle of international communication and the third largest as an international language of politics, economics and culture. About 330 million people in the world speak Spanish as their first language. It is the official language of 21 countries. It will also become the first language of 50% of the population of the United States within the next 50 years. The Spanish Major at Duke sponsors two study abroad programs (Duke in Spain/Duke in Barcelona) and one semester/year study abroad program in Madrid. There is also a one-course summer program in Costa Rica.

**French and Francophone Studies**

Students majoring in French will acquire a considerable degree of competency in the written and spoken language, as well as knowledge of the literature and culture of France and the French-speaking world, which includes several Caribbean countries. Faculty with expertise on the French Caribbean include Deborah Jenson, Laurent Dubois, Jacques Pierre, Barry Gaspar and Michaeline Crichlow.

**International Comparative Studies**

ICS is an undergraduate program focused on global and transnational studies. There have been over 1,700 alumni since this major was established in 1973, each focusing their studies on a particular region. Latin America and the Caribbean is one region represented by the ICS program. ICS students also study an associated language; language training offerings at Duke related to Latin America and the Caribbean include Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Yucatec Maya, K’ichi Maya and French.
History Department

Faculty in Duke’s history department study multiple aspects of the Latin America and the Caribbean, including the aftershocks of Haiti’s history; slave emancipation in the French Caribbean; soccer politics; feminism, labor, and motherhood in Mexico; and Brazilian politics. The Hispanic American Historical Review journal is edited by Duke history faculty John French, Pete Sigal and Jocelyn Olcott and printed at Duke University Press. Undergraduate and PhD training is particularly strong for Latin America and the Caribbean, as the department offers a focused field of study on Colonial and Modern Latin America.

Cultural Anthropology Department

Cultural Anthropology field explores how people produce, inhabit and make sense of all corners and aspects of today’s globalized world. This department is committed to studying the politics of culture, power, and history and the complex questions of theory, method and interpretation that this project demands. The Ph.D. program has particular strengths in Latin American fields of study. The faculty of Cultural Anthropology and Sociology have several faculty members working on projects in Latin America, on topics including nationalism, gender, violence, and identity in Guatemala; the African diaspora in Brazil, Cuba, Trinidad, and Jamaica; immigration from Latin America to North Carolina; the drug war in Colombia; human rights; and coloniality.

Duke Global Health Institute

The Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI) has projects in at least 15 countries in Latin American and the Caribbean. DGHI faculty members are working to understand how development and environmental changes are affecting the spread of diseases, such as malaria, in the Amazon. The climate change project is part of a growing research portfolio centered on human health and the environment. Researchers working in Brazil are also building partnerships for innovations in health care delivery and for responding to the country’s AIDS and tuberculosis epidemics. Undergraduate and medical students at Duke also pursue global health research in the region on various topics, including telemedicine and children’s health. In June 2013, DGHI signed an agreement with the Federal
University of Sao Paulo and its Paulista Medical School to develop sustainable programs to improve health care delivery to underserved populations in Brazil.

Global Education for Undergraduates

Nearly half of all Duke undergraduates study abroad before they graduate. The university operates more than 40 programs abroad and provides administrative oversight for student participation in more than 125 non-Duke administered programs. In addition to the programs listed below, Duke has approved five study abroad programs in Argentina, two in Bolivia, five in Brazil, three in Chile, one in Ecuador and one in Mexico hosted by other universities.

Duke in Costa Rica

This four-week, one-course summer program is based in Heredia, Costa Rica and allows students to develop advanced Spanish language skills while gaining an understanding of community health issues in Costa Rica.

Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) – Costa Rica

This is an integrated rigorous program of tropical biology studies located at OTS’s three biological field stations in Costa Rica. Students are introduced to the key questions in modern tropical biology and are provided with language skills and cultural orientation, as well as knowledge of the Costa Rican and Central American environmental dilemma.

Duke in Brazil

Duke in Brazil is 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 non-
governmental organizations that engage on issues of civics, citizens’ rights, culture and sustainable development.

DukeEngage

DukeEngage provides full funding for select Duke undergraduates to pursue an immersive summer of service in partnership with a U.S. or international community. As of summer 2015, more than 3,200 Duke students have volunteered more than one million hours through DukeEngage, serving more than 600 community organizations in 69 nations.

DukeEngage in Argentina

This program is organized by the Foundation for Sustainable Development in collaboration with DukeEngage and allows students to support the efforts of grassroots NGOS focused on social, economic, health, environmental and educational issues.

DukeEngage in Colombia

DukeEngage in Colombia students create documentary videos and photographs in collaboration with Colombian university youth from displaced communities for circulation to local and global audiences. In 2015, DukeEngage Colombia students began partnering with art and architecture students from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Medellin to develop a multimedia, transnational art exhibition.

DukeEngage in Ecuador

Students in this program volunteer with grassroots and nonprofit community and environmental health organizations in low-income neighborhoods of Guayaquil, Equador.

DukeEngage in Guatemala

The DukeEngage in Guatemala program is organized in collaboration with Social Entrepreneur Corps. The service focus is on designing and implementing entrepreneurial and
educational solutions with constituents in rural communities in the developing world.

**DukeEngage in Nicaragua – Engineering World Health**

This program is organized by Engineering World Health at Duke in collaboration with DukeEngage. It offers students the opportunity to facilitate the transfer of healthcare technology to regional hospitals through medical equipment repair and technical training.

**DukeEngage in Nicaragua – Granada**

DukeEngage in Nicaragua – Granada is organized by Social Entrepreneur Corps in collaboration with DukeEngage. The service focus of this program is on designing and implementing entrepreneurial and educational solutions with constituents in rural communities. Students study and think critically about aid strategies and social entrepreneurship models in addition to taking two weeks of intensive Spanish language classes.

**DukeEngage in Peru**

A new program in 2015 co-organized by SIT, DukeEngage in Peru takes students to Cuzco to support the efforts of organizations in and around the city, focused on indigenous rights, advocacy and support. Students learn about the history and cultural identity of Peru’s native Andean communities while examining these groups’ community development, preservation and advocacy efforts in the context of shifting global forces.

**Center for Globalization, Governance, and Competitiveness**

The Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness (CGGC), an affiliate of the Social Science Research Institute at Duke University, is built around the use
of global value chains methodology to study the effects of globalization on topics including the environment, global health, engineering and entrepreneurship, and innovation in the global knowledge economy. The center has conducted a number of research projects about global value chains in Latin America and the Caribbean, including a project assessing the prospects of Mexico in the North American automotive industry and a study to understand Costa Rica’s participation in several global industries.
Photography

Global health students assess ocular health in Honduras and offer eye exams and glasses to local children.

Haiti Lab undergraduates visit Leogane with Duke faculty to study traumatic stress after the 2010 earthquake.

OTS Costa Rica tropical biology students visit Palo Verde.

DukeEngage in Guatemala students on an excursion.