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## **Brazil Scholarships Partnership Program for Education and Training – OAS/GCUB PAEC**

### **Call for Applications OAS-GCUB nº 001/2020**

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB), with the support of the Division of Educational Topics and Portuguese Language (DELP) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (MRE), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) through the OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC OAS-GCUB), have decided to support university level students of the Americas, through academic scholarships for Master's and Doctoral programs, duly recommended by the Brazilian Ministry of Education (MEC), offered by Brazilian universities associated with GCUB.

### **About the Initiatives of the OAS and the GCUB**

The **OAS**, through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), supports the OAS Member States in creating and executing programs that promote human development at all educational levels. The DHDEE strengthens democratic values and security under the framework of regional integration by offering training opportunities to citizens of the Member States to support their efforts to improve quality and equity in education.

**GCUB**, established in October 29, 2008, is a civil association, with private rights, without lucrative or economic purposes, of academic, scientific and cultural character, and with an indefinite duration, composed by a network of 88 Brazilian universities of higher education. Its institutional mission is that of developing academic, scientific and cultural relations among the associated institutions through programs, projects and actions associated with international cooperation. These activities are executed in conjunction with international organizations, foreign universities, university networks, and government bodies, in a great number of countries. In Brazil, the GCUB is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTIC), among others.

## **1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 1.1 This announcement is intended to govern the selection of candidates for the distribution of scholarships offered by Brazilian universities associated with GCUB within the framework of Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program 2020. These scholarships will cover on-site Master's and Doctoral degree programs, scheduled to begin in 2021, according to the information posted on the [Table of Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Brazilian Universities](#).

1.2 The candidate must pursue the Master's or Doctoral program for which s/he was selected and, after a successful completion of all tests and other academic requirements and formalities of the program to which s/he is linked, s/he will receive a Master's or Doctoral degree from the host university.

1.3 The GCUB, OAS, PAHO, and The Ministry of Foreign Affairs bear no responsibility arising from the recognition of diplomas in other countries.

1.4 There will be no employment or commercial relationship established between the GCUB, OAS, PAHO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program 2020 scholarship recipients. Likewise, the institutions shall not assume any type of liability, whether civil, contractual or non-contractual, during the entire academic process.

1.5 Language:

1.5.1 The language of instruction is Portuguese. However, study programs may offer academic disciplines and activities in other languages.

1.5.2 Proficiency in Portuguese or English will not be a requirement for any candidate during the application stage.

1.5.3 All Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB scholarship recipients must prove a minimum level of Portuguese equal to Superior Intermediate, through the *Certificado de Proficiência em Língua Portuguesa para Estrangeiros* (CELPE-BRAS)<sup>1</sup> or equivalent certification at the discretion of the university, as a prerequisite for the defense of the dissertation or thesis.

1.5.4 Once enrolled in the institution, the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB scholarship recipient must comply with all the requirements related to proficiency in languages.

1.6 Dates:

1.6.1 **Approximate starting date for Master's and Doctoral programs:** according to the academic calendar of each host university as per Table of Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Brazilian Universities.

1.6.2 **Duration of Master's and Doctoral programs:**

- Master's programs: Up to **24 months** after the starting date of the study program and according to the rules and internal regulations of each program.
- Doctoral programs: Up to **48 months** after the starting date of the study program and according to the rules and internal regulations of each program.

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<sup>1</sup> The costs associated to the CELPE-BRAS examination or equivalent certification, are the scholarship recipient's responsibility.

## 2. TYPES AND DURATION OF SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### 2.1 During studies in Brazil, each scholarship recipient will receive the following benefits:

- a. Exemption of tuition and monthly or annual academic fees, related to the costs of the graduate program at the host university, for which the scholarship recipient is selected.
- b. Subsistence scholarship<sup>2</sup>:
  - **Master's:** Monthly grants, using as reference the amount paid by the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Level Personnel (CAPES), as the minimum amount, to Brazilian students who are enrolled in master's studies in Brazil, under the responsibility of the host university, throughout the regular study period, **for up to a maximum of 24 months**, according to the Table of Master's Programs.
  - **Doctorate:** Monthly grants, using as reference the amount paid by the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Level Personnel (CAPES), as the minimum amount, to Brazilian students who are enrolled in doctorate studies in Brazil, under the responsibility of the host university, throughout the regular study period, **for up to a maximum of 48 months**, according to the Table of Doctoral Programs.
- c. A **US\$1,200** (one-thousand two-hundred US Dollar) contribution to help students defray their settlement expenses paid in Brazilian *Reais*, 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 150 approved candidates, according to the criteria established for the evaluation in item 5c.

c.1. The limit established in subsection c (mentioned above) may be adjusted depending on the availability of funds, in order to support a larger number of selected applicants.

**Note:** In order to receive disbursement of any of the above-mentioned benefits, the scholarship recipient must report to the Brazilian university and follow the OAS-GCUB PAEC Institutional Coordinator's instructions regarding the registration process: opening a bank account; issuance of documents required by the Brazilian government; presenting proof of insurance<sup>3</sup> with full medical, lab testing and hospital coverage, valid in the entire Brazilian territory, including coverage of repatriation of mortal remains; presenting a valid passport with a Temporary Visa IV ( Subsection IV), as specified in art. 14, I, d, of the Migration Law (Law 13.445/2017); Under no circumstances will another visa type be accepted. The payment of the contribution for settlement expenses can take up to three months after the arrival of the student to Brazil. Therefore, the scholarship recipient must send the necessary documentation to GCUB within 45 days after the presentation and enrollment in the institution of destination, at the risk of losing the subsidy<sup>4</sup>. In this case, the subsidy will be transferred to another candidate, in accordance

<sup>2</sup> It is not allowed to accumulate scholarships offered by Brazilian institutions or by any foreign institution for studies in Brazil.

<sup>3</sup> The search and selection of medical insurance is the scholarship recipient's responsibility. The OAS and the GCUB refrain from recommending any particular insurance company. The scholarship recipient must ensure that the insurance covers all aspects described in numeral 2.1.e. The Program's General Coordination requires that the insurance be purchased before the student arrives in Brazil.

<sup>4</sup> The OAS, the GCUB and the host University will not cover any expenses of the scholarship recipient's companions or dependents.

with the rules governing the distribution of subsidies agreed between the OAS and the GCUB.

- d. Access to university restaurants, if any, under the same conditions as any other student at 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. Free access to Portuguese language studies (on-site courses, online courses, tutorials with students or professors, or other modalities), determined by the host university.

### 3. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

#### 3.1 General Requirements for Applying

- a. The scholarship application should be completed individually and may be submitted in Portuguese, English, French or Spanish;
- b. The student cannot receive another academic scholarship from the OAS, PAHO or from any Brazilian institution for the same level of studies of the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program PAEC 2020 application;
- c. Hold citizenship or a permanent residency of any of the [OAS member states](#), except of Brazil<sup>5</sup>;
- d. Not be an OAS or PAHO officer or possess any type of contract with the OAS or PAHO, at the time of application. Representatives of the Permanent Missions to the OAS and their immediate families will not be considered for a Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program 2020 scholarship either.
- e. Be in good health (physical and mental) to undertake and successfully conclude graduate studies;
- f. Secure additional financial resources to assume the expenses not covered by this scholarship (i.e. airfare, visa fees, international medical insurance for the entire duration of studies, and additional subsistence expenses that exceed the amounts described in numeral 2.1.b)
- g. Applicants must indicate the degree for which they are applying, be it a Master's or a Doctorate.
- h. Each student must apply to three Master's or Doctoral programs from different universities; **it is mandatory that each of these universities be located in three different regions of Brazil (see map).**
- i. The presentation of the graduation diploma is mandatory for all applicants. In the case of doctoral candidates, **the student must verify if the program of study requires a master's diploma in order to qualify.** (See table)

### 4. DOCUMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION

4.1 Applications for Master's or Doctoral programs must include the following documents:

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<sup>5</sup> Brazilian citizens and/or Brazilian citizens with double nationality, Brazilian citizens with permanent residency in another country, foreigners with permanent residency in Brazil or foreigners on temporary visas are not eligible for the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program, because one of the purposes of the program is to promote the integration of the countries of the Americas through the internationalization and mobilization of students in the region.

- a. Fill out and complete Scholarship Application Form online; duly filled out.
- b. Copy of identification document (citizenship document, passport, national identification document).
- c. *Curriculum Vitae* (no need to include supporting documents at the time of application. The supporting documentation may be requested by the general coordinators of the program at any given time).
- d. Transcripts of grades (bachelor's) and for Master's if the chosen Doctoral program requires it.
- e. **For Master's candidates:** Diploma or certificate of completion of studies, or declaration from the University of origin that certifies the completion of studies carried out (undergraduate or bachelor's degree).
- f. **For Doctorate's candidates:** Diploma, certificate of completion of university studies: bachelor's and Master's degree, if the chosen Doctoral program requires it.
- g. Two letters of recommendation, preferably from university professors or other people of renowned academic or work expertise.
- h. For each of the three options chosen for study program, the candidate will have to submit in two essays in any of the following languages: Spanish, English, French or Portuguese.
- i. **For university professors':** proof of permanent bound with a Higher Education institution, when applicable.

- Specifications: Font type, Times New Roman, Nº 12; line spacing: 1.5 cm; top, bottom, right, and left margins: 2.5 cm

- Texts should include:

- **Essay 1:** Academic expectations and interests, professional expectations and prospects upon return to the country of origin (maximum of two pages).
- **Essay 2:** Justification of the program selection, central theme and problem to be investigated, delimitation and justification of the object of study, bibliographic review, methodological procedures, timeline and bibliographic references (maximum of eight pages).

**Note 1:** The initial proposals submitted by the candidate at the time of registration are subject to evaluation and may be modified or replaced depending on the adherence to the research lines and the conditions of execution in the course.

**Note 2:** If the candidate is selected for the scholarship, and if required by the host university, s/he may be required to present the documents mentioned in Section 4 (b,d,f,g) officially translated into Portuguese (certified translation), except if the documents are already in lingua franca (Portuguese, English, French or Spanish).

j. Term of commitment. The applicant can use the following [template](#).

4.2 Applications are free and must be completed electronically. **The registration period on the online platform is: January 6 to 22, 2021;**

4.3 The scholarship application deadline is, **January 22, 2021 until 6:00 pm (BRT, official time in Brasília-DF, Brazil).**

**Note:** We encourage applicants to submit their application as early as possible, since the OAS and the GCUB will not be responsible for those applications not received as a result of any technical problems and congestion in the electronic system.

4.4 Applying to Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program implies full understanding and absolute acceptance of the terms and conditions defined in this announcement, from which the scholarship applicant will not be able to plead ignorance.

4.5 The applicant is fully responsible for the information provided. The OAS, the GCUB and the host university reserve the right to exclude applications, at any stage of the selection process, if the documentation provided is incomplete, inaccurate or inconsistent, if applications are submitted after the specified deadlines, or if subsequently the documents are found to contain untruthful information.

4.6 Original documentation may be requested by the OAS, the GCUB or the host university, at any time.

## 5. SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS PROCESS

5.1 The evaluation process of the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program 2020 applications consist of three eliminatory phases. Any applicant may be dismissed at any phase if s/he does not fulfill all requirements of each phase.

5.1.1 The first phase of the selection process (document assessment) is the responsibility of the GCUB;

5.1.2 The second phase (examination of merit and admissibility by the university) is the responsibility of the coordinators of the master's and doctoral programs, from the Brazilian universities associated with GCUB.

5.1.3 The third phase (selection and final distribution of approved candidates in previous phases) will be executed by the Advisory Evaluation Committee, conformed by professors with doctorates of the GCUB associated universities, named by specific decree signed by the Chairmanship of the GCUB.

### a. **First Phase: Verification of consistency in the documentation**

This phase consists of an assessment by the GCUB technical team of the submitted documentation, according to the information provided in Section 4 (DOCUMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION).

Applications will be rejected without analysis of merit, without any possibility of reconsideration, if they are incomplete, improperly submitted, and/or received beyond the established deadlines. No requests for reconsideration will be accepted.

**b. Second Phase: Examination of merit and admissibility by the university**

The OAS and GCUB will send every eligible application from the first phase to the Brazilian universities selected by the applicant. Each program selected by the candidate will evaluate his/her application based on the documents of Section 4 of this announcement (DOCUMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION), and will decide if the candidate is APPROVED or NOT APPROVED.

- The university will provide the GCUB with the list of approved and unapproved candidates. Whenever possible, the university will preselect at least four candidates per offered scholarship. This procedure is essential for a better use of grants, in case of declinations.
- The university will, preferably, take into account the geographic distribution criteria of OAS member states when preselecting candidates, without the detriment of the academic merit.

**c. Third Phase: Final Selection**

The Evaluation Advisory Committee, referred to in item 5 (SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS PROCESS) in this announcement, will distribute and classify candidates admitted by the host universities in the previous phase.

The Evaluation Advisory Committee will make the final decisions on awarding the scholarships and of the student distribution, into the programs and universities to which they applied. The Committee shall consider the following criteria:

- Full time professors working at **higher education institutions**, especially those originating from countries with a low HDI, according to United Nations Development Program (UNDP) <sup>6</sup>.
- 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).
- Gender equity.
- The order of preference of the candidate's chosen programs.

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<sup>6</sup> For more information on the Human Development Index (HDI) per country, please see the 2018 Human Development report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

[http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018\\_human\\_development\\_statistical\\_update.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf)

## 6. SELECTION RESULTS

6.1 The OAS and the GCUB will announce the results on their websites.

6.1.1 Selected applicants will be contacted by the GCUB, using the email indicated on the application form, to inform them about the university and the study program for which they will be offered a scholarship under the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program.

6.1.2 In case of declinations, the host university will contact the alternate candidates, according to the classification published by the Evaluation Advisory Committee.

6.2 The universities must send the Admission Letter to the selected candidates in the final phase, as well as the list of documents required to enroll in the programs.

6.2.1 For those scholarship recipients in areas related to health sciences, the host university must send an additional letter signed by the Course Coordinator, reporting that the scholarship recipient cannot perform procedures on patients in Brazil, except for those strictly necessary for the development of research activities related to the dissertation of thesis, according to the rules of the respective Professional Councils.

6.2.2 In the specific case of medical students, the letter signed by the Course Coordinator must indicate that the scholarship recipient cannot perform medical procedures outside the educational institution to which s/he is linked, except those strictly necessary for their studies. The letter must also include the name of the person responsible for the student at the Regional Council of Medicine, who will also be responsible of informing the scholarship recipient's presence under his/her jurisdiction and assume joint responsibility for him/her (under Resolution CFM No. 1,832/2008, Article 5, subsections I and VI and Article 7 § 5).

**Note 1:** Acceptance letters in electronic format must be sent by the host university to selected candidates with copy to the GCUB.

**Note 2:** At the discretion of the host university, the original letters may be sent directly to the address informed by the selected candidate in the application form, without prejudice to the sending of the electronic document to the candidate and the GCUB.

6.3 The GCUB will send the Scholarship Acceptance Contract to the selected candidate. The selected candidates have 10 days to submit their signed Scholarship Acceptance Contract, starting from the date the contract was sent to them by the OAS. If the awardee does not send her/his contract within the established deadline, the OAS and the GCUB will interpret the absence of an answer as a rejection of the scholarship offer.



## 7. STUDENT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 The final approval of the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program 2020 selected awardees will be subject to the signing of the Scholarship Acceptance Contract, in which the candidate is obliged to comply with the Program requirements. Furthermore, the selected applicant should refrain from engaging in activities that violate the concession rules of the scholarship granted by the host university.
- a. Students who fail to submit proof of international insurance with full medical, lab testing and hospital coverage, valid in the entire Brazilian territory, including coverage of repatriation of mortal remains, will not be able to enroll in Brazilian universities. With the objective that awardees are covered from the first day of arrival in the country of study, the medical insurance must be acquired from the country of origin, **before** traveling to Brazil. **The international health insurance policy must cover the period of 12 months and must be renewed for an equal period, during the entire stay in Brazil. The student must be present the international health insurance policy annually under penalty of non-renewal or cancellation of the scholarship.**
  - b. Submit the supporting documents required by the Program.
  - c. Full-time dedication to program activities and compliance with the legislation and regulations in force of the study program<sup>7</sup>, the host university and Brazil.
  - d. Return to the country of origin within 30 days after the completion of studies in Brazil, and reside there permanently for at least the same duration of the scholarship. An exception can be made for continuing academic studies in Brazil.
  - e. Without prejudice to Section 2 (TYPES AND DURATION OF SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS), the awardee should cover all expenses related to his or her participation in the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program 2020 program such as, personal expenditures, airfare, international insurance with full medical, lab testing and hospital coverage, valid in the entire Brazilian territory, including coverage of repatriation of mortal remains (point F)<sup>8</sup>; mandatory fees for student services (e.g. issuance of certificates); graduation expenses (issuance of degree title); and if applicable, legalization of documents; visa processing and issuance, and any additional costs or expenses that are not explicitly contemplated in this Announcement.

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<sup>7</sup> Students should consult the internal regulations and all other regulations of the program s/he applied to, either at a Master's or PhD level. Language requirements should also be taken into account. Once enrolled in the Brazilian host university, Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program student has the same rights and therefore the same responsibilities as the rest of the students.

<sup>8</sup> The insurance must cover an initial period of 12 months and must be renewed for the same period, during the whole stay in Brazil, according to the term of commitment.

- f. The awardee must obtain the Temporary IV Student Visa to travel to Brazil and cover all costs related to this process. No other visa will be accepted without exceptions. The student should contact the Brazilian Consulate, in his/her home country, the nearest country or consular representation nearest to his/her residence, to complete all necessary procedures to obtain the visa.<sup>9</sup> The visa must be renewed before its expiration date.
- g. The scholarship may be declined by the awardee up to four weeks before starting the study program, without financial penalties. However, if the selected candidate declines the scholarship after this period, or after having started the program of studies without a valid or sufficient justification determined by the OAS and the GCUB, the awardee will be obliged to reimburse to the OAS and/or the GCUB and/or the host University, all funding granted under the scholarship up until the moment of the declination. In addition, the awardee may not compete in any other scholarship program of the OAS or GCUB, within the next 2 (two) years. These cases will be informed by the GCUB to the Embassy of Consular Section of the student's country of origin, as well as to the MRE of Brazil.
- h. The host university may withdraw the scholarship if the awardee does not meet the academic standards and the university's regulations, where the academic studies are being pursued, under the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program.
- i. In case the scholarship holder does not fulfill the university's obligations and of this announcement and the rules and regulations of the host university, GCUB, the OAS and the Brazilian university, may require the refund of the full amount or part of the scholarship granted during the period of stay in Brazil.
- j. It is the scholarship recipient's responsibility to do all the necessary procedures to obtain and renew the Temporary IV Student Visa and the international health insurance, according to the term of commitment (item 4.1.i of this announcement).
- k. The scholarship recipient must require previous authorization when leaving the state or Brazil from the institutional coordinator of the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program, who will take the appropriate measures to obtain said authorization. The scholarship recipient could be expelled from the program if s/he does not obtain this permit.

## **8. EVALUATION OF THE BRAZIL SCHOLARSHIP PAEC OAS-GCUB PROGRAM**

- 8.1 The universities will be responsible for constantly monitoring the academic progress and wellbeing of the scholarship recipients.
- 8.2 The host universities will send the GCUB, through the email address: [gcub.bolsasbrasil@gmail.com](mailto:gcub.bolsasbrasil@gmail.com) an annual report describing the progress of each student and their possibilities for continuing in the Program.
- 8.3 Coordinators of the Brazil PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarship Program, along with the general coordination of the Program and the Coordination of the Program in the OAS will meet

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<sup>9</sup> The visa should be renewed before its expiration date.

once a year for the evaluation and discussion of proposals regarding the continuity and improvement of this Scholarship Program.

## 9. CALENDAR 2021

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Activities</b>
December 21, 2020	Publication of the Call for Applications
January 06 – 22, 2021	Registration period on the online platform
January 25 – 29, 2021	Verification of consistency in documentation (Phase 1)
February 04 – 23, 2021	Examination of merit and admissibility by the University (Phase 2)
March 01 <sup>st</sup> – 05 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	The Evaluation Advisory Committees (Phase 3)
March 16, 2021	Announcement of results
As of March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, and according to the academic calendar of the host university	Letters of acceptance to alternates

## 10. CASES OF OMISSION AND COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

10.1 Any situation not included in this announcement will be considered jointly by the OAS and the GCUB.

10.2 Additional information can be requested via a direct query exclusively to the following e-mail: [gcub.bolsasbrasil@gmail.com](mailto:gcub.bolsasbrasil@gmail.com).

10.3 The CGBU is responsible for communicating with applicants for the PAEC OAS-CGBU Scholarships Program 2020 during the entire process. Communication with scholarship recipients upon their arrival to Brazil and during the entire period of stay at the host university is the responsibility of the Institutional Coordinators of the member universities and, when necessary, of the CGBU.