Brazil: challenges and opportunities

Practical recommendations for foreign institutions and professors
(out of professional and personal experience)

• Prof. Dr Lioudmila Batourina, International Partnership Consultant, ABMES (Brazilian Association of Private Universities)
My picture of the world would be incomplete without BRAZIL!
Brazil has fantastic climate, better than you thought of;
Independence of research and rather liberal days of presence;
Happily noisy and charmingly curious people;
Young nation with the GREATEST potential and LOTS of TALENTS!
Stunning richness and unbelievable, depressing poverty
Awfully bureaucratic procedures with idea of total control and taking money
Very high prices for standard living (education, medicine, dwelling, sport, art...)
Lost ideas of what they want (socialism/capitalism/authocratism/......)
No need to say how rich is the country.
Private institutes have traditionally strong reputations for law education. Only 39% of students study law in Federal Universities.

Subsoils studies (agro/paleontology/ocean/space) are traditionally sphere of public universities

Public Universities do fundamental science, that requires solid investment in research laboratories

Private Universities invest a lot into training equipment (distance learning, professional equipment, ex: odontology, virtualization of libraries, computer programs, etc)
• PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES:

- Public institutions do not charge tuition fees for national or international students. 😊
- Very limited vacancies; often strikes; dirty facilities, declining budget

• PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES:

- High flexibility; Skills to survive on the market; Desire to develop 😊
- Enrollments with lower level knowledge; Most students work and have families; Less / or nothing access to funds 😒

Figure 36: Higher education graduates earn a 115% salary premium...
Average wage (R$/month), 25-34y, 3Q18

Figure 37: ... while facing better employment trends
Unemployment rate, 25-34y, 3Q18

Source: IBGE and J.P. Morgan estimates.
Diplomas

• Undergraduation (*in Brazil called “graduation”*)

• Graduation (*in Brazil called “postgraduation”*)
**INBOUND STUDENTS**

- 64% of the total 20,500 international students study in the country’s economic and industrial hub, the Southeastern region.

**Studies popularity:**

- 39% - social sciences and law – *Privates are strong!*
- 19% - health sciences (19 percent)
- 18% - engineering
- 8% - humanities
- 6% - agriculture - *Public Universities*
- 4% - life sciences, earth, space, chemistry, physics, mathematics - *Public Universities*
- 2% - linguistics, literature, and arts, biological sciences – *traditionally public*
Outbound Students

• **Low outbound mobility:**
  • Language
  • Funding
  • Diploma validation
  • Information
  • Good quality of education in the South of Brazil
  • Strong cultural ties to their local setting

LatAM mobility is the easiest so far but less attractive. 77% of outbound students are in STEM fields BA (66%) and PhD (15%)

Main Brazilian Research Funds

- **The National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq)** [http://www.cnpq.br](http://www.cnpq.br)
  - Recent calls:
    - BRICS
    - International events

  - Programs of CAPES funding scientific events
    - Programa de Apoio a Eventos no País (PAEP) [http://www.capes.gov.br/apoio-a-eventos/paep](http://www.capes.gov.br/apoio-a-eventos/paep)
    - Programa de Apoio a Eventos no Exterior (PAEX) [http://www.capes.gov.br/apoio-a-eventos/aex](http://www.capes.gov.br/apoio-a-eventos/aex)
    - PRINT (focused on institutions) [http://www.capes.gov.br/cooperacao-internacional/multinacional/programa-internacional-de-internacionalizacao-capes-print](http://www.capes.gov.br/cooperacao-internacional/multinacional/programa-internacional-de-internacionalizacao-capes-print)

- **State research funding agencies**, known as FAPs, are also important players in the research field, particularly in São Paulo.

  - District Federal – FAP DF - [http://www.fap.df.gov.br](http://www.fap.df.gov.br)
  - Pernambuco - FACEPE - [http://www.facepe.br](http://www.facepe.br)
  - Rio - FAPERJ - [http://www.faperj.br](http://www.faperj.br)
  - etc
Strategic Conclusions

- Long-term outlook for outbound mobility from Brazil is promising:
  - public research universities, São Paulo, have limited numbers of seats.
  - Many of Brazil’s mobile students are self-funded.
  - Demand for English-language education in Brazil is on the rise.
  - A recent shift to enrollments in cheaper English-speaking countries.
  - Interest is rising for the Chinese incoming students. Think about triple diplomas offers.
  - Internationalisation at home - Brazilian turn (slow) to invite foreign professors to teach in Brazilian Universities.
  - It is important to reinforce the program of equivalence of educational systems or formal treaties between the Brazilian Educational Process and Bologna and the US systems.
  - Validation of diplomas should be solved on an inter-governmental level.
  - Recognition of credits gained abroad may be particularly problematic at the graduate level and be a factor of refusals from mobility of graduate students.

- Source: Going North: The Student Mobility Outlook from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, Published: September 18, 2017.
For those who is responsible for students exchange

• 1000 000 advises that you already know

• 1000 001 - Mobility students should be assessed before, during and after the course

• 1000 002 - Alumni groups should be created. Loneliness is a strong demotivational & anti-promotional factor
My three main conclusions:
1. Do not try to change Brazil – relax and enjoy
2. Never compare your previous best with your current worst.
3. Stay positive
Cultures are fun always... Often... sometimes..
• Stars and time flow different here
• Things connected to commerce change like a rocket. The rest does not change at all
• Giving bad news is not in the Indian culture. If people agree with everything you say, get really worried
• Any deviation from standards make process shutdown. In your case YOU are a deviation
• The first reaction to deviation: out of sight - out of mind
• Tactile nation. All foreigners sound rude
• Bills need to be paid within 2-3 days, otherwise you can end up in collector’s office
• Traditional family nation. If you do not belong to any family you will stay to be a foreigner forever, does not matter how long you will stay in Brazil
• Majority of people live under assumption “everybody knows”
For those who decide to come to Brazil for a long term as a visiting professor
• Before moving to Brazil, come to the country for a short working visit
• Start legalisation of your PhD diplomas already at home
• If your family has two professors, negotiate double employment
• Insist that your University appoints a person responsible for you who could bring you to various institutions to make obligatory paper work and help with translation
• Insist that your University provides possibility for you (and your family) to learn Portuguese
• Insist that your University provides assistance in searching accommodation, otherwise start doing it before you come to Brazil
• Insist that your University makes a short but clear brochure to describe how life in Brazil is arranged (CPF, insurance, transport, rent contract, bills, declaration, school, security, etc). This is NOT a luxury or caprice, this is what will save your working time, your nerves and the peace in your family

• Insist that your University (your department) provides the information about internal regulations: how lectures and credits are organised, which documents you need to fill in, links to CNPq, Capes and other important funding organizations

• Enter your CV to LATTES asap, right after getting CPF, but not before
• Brazil is a nice country, a dream for most of the northern nations, a lesson for most of the business edicted, a treatment for most of the one-way-thinkers

• My picture of the world would be incomplete without BRAZIL!
You can’t blame yourself all the time. Blame yourself once and carry on living.
THANK YOU

Lioudmila Batourina
lioudmila@abmes.org.br
+55 (81)9 999 87258