

Universidade Federal da Bahia 🗨️ 🏠

contemporary brazilian society and culture / portuguese language



program snapshot

- Learn Portuguese while gaining a deeper understanding of the cultural distinctions of Brazil's northeastern coastal region
- Immerse yourself in Brazilian life through a homestay
- Explore your new home through cultural and educational activities including visits to the museum of Afro-Brazilian history, plays and performances, a soccer game, a folklore dance show, a percussion lesson, and a Candomblé ceremony

what you'll learn

The Intensive Language and Culture summer program is designed to enable students to develop a higher level of Portuguese language fluency, as well as a critical appreciation of Brazilian life and society. This is achieved through the academic program and cultural immersion activities, including the homestay and excursions in and around the city of Salvador da Bahia, an important center of Afro-Brazilian culture. In addition, students participate in a day trip to a site of cultural importance on the north coast of Bahia.

thoughts from abroad

My interest in anthropology comes from my ties with Salvador, having spent my whole life in this city. When I was younger, I lived in a typical neighborhood that, in many ways, resembled some of the places portrayed by Brazilian author Jorge Amado, a native of the region. While I used to play soccer and study theater, I eventually came to the conclusion that it was much more interesting to learn more about the game and drama of people.

Over the years, I have studied and written about numerous types of people from the region—prostitutes, beggars, soccer players, Afro-Brazilian people, and capoeira practitioners. Recently, I have dedicated myself to studying the anthropology of food and diet. Specifically, the study of Bahian cuisine and its influence on our regional identity. As CIEE Resident Director, my role is to expose students to the incredible culture, diversity, and history of Salvador. I look forward to showing it to and sharing it with you.

— Jeferson Bacelar, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Dr. Jeferson Bacelar is a Professor of Anthropology at the Universidade Federal da Bahia. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology and an M.S. in Social Sciences from the Universidade Federal da Bahia. Dr. Bacelar is a recognized scholar and author of numerous publications about Afro-Bahian culture. He has written extensively on Afro-Brazilian studies and Bahian affairs, and his most recent publication is the book, *A Hierarquia das Raças. Negros e Brancos em Salvador*. (Rio de Janeiro: Editora Pallas, 2008)

About Other CIEE Staff

Flavia Santana, Resident Coordinator, helps with student housing, administrative matters, visa registration, cultural activities, and student issues. Matt Ryan, Program Coordinator, focuses on volunteer and community service, cultural activities, and student issues.



about salvador da bahia

Located on the Atlantic coast in northeastern Brazil, Salvador da Bahia has 2,800,000 inhabitants. Due to the strong slave presence during the Colonial period, Salvador has a strong African influence, including religious and spiritual practices, cuisine, and ethnic dynamics. Today, Salvador is a booming city, and its historic and ethnic diversity can be noted in the city's architecture and layout: old parts of the city are located next to modern complexes. The CIEE Study Center is on a bustling square—2 de Julho, near Pelourinho, the historic center of the city.

academics

Academic Program

Established in 1995, the five-week Intensive Language and Culture summer program is designed to help students develop their Portuguese language fluency and learn about Brazilian culture. Students are placed in a Portuguese course suited to their level or ability, or in a special beginner-level Portuguese for fluent Spanish speakers course. Students also take a required course taught in Portuguese entitled Contemporary Brazil.

Academic Culture

Class size is small and includes both lectures and excursions. Classes are held on the host University campus, providing students the opportunity to be part of the Brazilian university system. All instruction is by native Brazilians, and efforts are made to integrate program participants with Brazilian culture and people.

Nature of Classes

Participants take classes with other CIEE students only.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Portuguese, Resident Staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Portuguese language proficiency and understanding of Brazilian society.

Grading System

In the Portuguese language courses, student work is assessed through reading, writing, and oral comprehension exams and quizzes. Course evaluation for Contemporary Brazil is based on student participation and written assignments, much as in the United States. Letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F are given with pluses and minuses.



where you'll study

The Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) is one of Brazil's top ten universities. UFBA has 58 departments for majors and 18,000 students. It is situated near the commercial downtown area of Salvador da Bahia and Pelourinho.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing and meals are included in the program fee. During orientation, students are housed together. For the remainder of the program, students are placed in Brazilian homestays.

Orientation

A two-day mandatory intensive orientation is conducted at the beginning of the program and introduces students to the country, the culture, and the academic program, as well as provides practical information about living in Brazil. Students are also given a language placement exam to determine which language course they should take during the program. Special orientation activities continue during the five-week program. Brazilian students participate and assist with orientation and program activities. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Please note that access to the Internet and computer labs in Brazilian universities is more limited than at U.S. universities. However, students have access to computer labs at UFBA and Internet cafés throughout the city and are encouraged to bring a wireless-enabled laptop. Students are advised to open a web-based email account to ensure access upon arrival. Most homestays have an Internet connection.



culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The program includes several visits to sites of historic and cultural importance, including one full-day excursion to a site of cultural interest in northeastern Brazil. Students attend Brazilian music concerts, a Candomblé ceremony, museums, dance class, percussion class, cooking class, and view Brazilian films.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent and/or 2 semesters of college-level Portuguese or equivalent

duration

5 weeks: late June–late July

costs

CIEE Fees

Summer 2011: \$5200
Summer 2012: available 12/15/11

The CIEE program fee for 2012 includes an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing and all meals, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2011)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,300
Personal Expenses	\$ 350
Books and Supplies	\$ 75
Local Transportation	\$ 175
Visa Fee	\$ 160
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 2,060

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

All students take Contemporary Brazil and one Portuguese language course at their level.

Credit

Total recommended credit is 6 semester/9 quarter hours.

The language course has 60 contact hours and the content course has 45 hours. Recommended credit for each course is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

Language of Instruction

Portuguese

Faculty

The language course is taught by faculty from the Department of Portuguese for foreigners at UFBA. The Contemporary Brazil course is taught by Dr. Jeferson Bacelar, CIEE Resident Director and guest professors.



courses

Required CIEE Courses

BRAZ 3101 BSPO/BRAZ 3101 BBAH Contemporary Brazil

This course provides a multi-disciplinary overview of Brazilian culture and current realities. Daily lectures and discussions on a broad range of topics drawn from Brazilian history, literature, economics, politics, race relations, and current social movements are augmented with field trips and Brazilian films and music. Students write a short critique in Portuguese based on the subjects presented and discussed in class each week. Special focus is given to the Afro-Brazilian experience in Bahia.

PORT 1101 BBAH Intensive Beginner Portuguese I

PORT 1102 BBAH Intensive Beginner Portuguese II

PORT 2101 BBAH Intensive Intermediate Portuguese I

PORT 2102 BBAH Intensive Intermediate Portuguese II

PORT 2103 BBAH Portuguese for Spanish Speakers

PORT 3101 BBAH Intensive Advanced Portuguese I

PORT 3102 BBAH Intensive Advanced Portuguese II

Depending on student enrollments and results of the language placement exam given during orientation, all sections may not be offered. A special section of beginner-level Portuguese for Spanish speakers is offered for students who are fluent (or near-fluent) in Spanish and have had no previous Portuguese instruction (a minimum of five students must be enrolled). These courses emphasize grammar applied through oral production. Reading, writing, and listening comprehension activities are included to reinforce the oral exercises.

a student's story

I am a student majoring in International Affairs and Spanish. I decided to study abroad in Brazil after visiting three years ago when I fell in love with the country. The culture, the language, the people, the food—just the general energy attracted me. I came to Brazil knowing very little Portuguese, but since I speak Spanish I haven't had too much trouble learning the language. Even though Spanish and Portuguese are structurally very similar languages, they sound completely different—Brazilians sing when they speak!

The five-week Intensive Language and Culture Program was an excellent introduction to Portuguese and Brazilian culture. It helped me feel much more comfortable with my Portuguese language skills.

— Lindsay Williams, George Washington University