Brazil Scholarships Program PAEC OAS-GCUB 2022

Call for Applications OAS/GCUB nº 001-2022

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) and the International Cooperation Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB) with the support of the Division of Educational Topics of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (DTED/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 OEA 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.

The **GCUB**, established on October 29, 2008, is a non-profit civil association with academic, scientific and cultural goals, composed of a network of 89 Brazilian universities. Its institutional mission is to develop 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 number of countries.

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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022. These scholarships will cover on-site Master's and Doctoral degree programs, scheduled to begin in 2022, 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 MRE 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, MRE, and PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 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)[1] 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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 scholarship recipient must comply with all the requirements related to language proficiency.

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:**

[1] The costs associated to the CELPE-BRAS examination or equivalent certification are the scholarship recipient's responsibility.

- 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.

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[2]:

- **Master's:** Monthly stipends, 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 stipends, 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) one-time allowance to help students defray their moving expenses paid in Brazilian *Reais,* according to the official exchange rate on the day the GS/OAS transfers the amount of the stipend to the GCUB. This benefit will be awarded to each of the top 152 selected 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.

[2] It is not allowed to accumulate scholarships offered by Brazilian institutions or by any foreign institution for studies in Brazil.

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[3] 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 scholarship recipient must send the necessary documentation to GCUB **within 45 days** after their enrollment at the university, or he/she may risk losing the subsidy[4]. In this case, the subsidy will be transferred to another candidate, in accordance with the rules governing the distribution of subsidies agreed by the GS/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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022.
c. Hold citizenship or permanent residency of any of the OAS Member States, except Brazil[5];
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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 either.
e. Be in good health (physical and mental) to undertake and successfully conclude graduate studies.

[3] 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.

[4] The OAS, the GCUB and the host university will not cover any expenses of the scholarship recipient's companions or dependents.

[5] Brazilian citizens, 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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022, 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.

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 living 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 applicant's relevant diploma/s 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:

a. Scholarship Application Form online, duly filled out and completed.

a. Copy of identification document (citizenship document, passport, national identification document).

a. *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).

b. Transcripts of grades from bachelor's degree and from Master's degree, if applicable.

c. **For Master's candidates:** Diploma or certificate of completion of studies, or declaration from the university that certifies the completion of studies carried out (undergraduate or bachelor's degree).

d. **For Doctorate's candidates:** Diploma, certificate of completion of university studies: bachelor's or Master's degree, for doctoral candidates, if applicable.

e. Two letters of recommendation, preferably from university professors or other professionals of renowned academic or work expertise.

For each of the three programs of study options chosen, the candidate will have to submit two essays in any of the following languages: Spanish, English, French, or Portuguese.

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

- Especificaciones: *Times New Roman*, No 12, espacio entre líneas de 1.5 cm; y margen superior, inferior, derecha e izquierda de 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 process, timeline and bibliographic references (maximum of eight pages).

f. For university professors: proof of permanent employment relationship with a higher education institution, when applicable.

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 IV(b,d,f,g) officially translated into Portuguese (certified translation), except if the original documents are already in Portuguese, English, French, or Spanish.

i. Term of commitment. The applicant can use the following template.

4.2 Applications are free and must be completed electronically.

4.3 The scholarship application deadline is **04th July, 2022 at 23:59 pm (BRT, official time in Brasília-DF, Brazil)**.

Note: We encourage applicants to submit their application as early as possible, since the GS/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 the PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 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 GS/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 GS/OAS, the GCUB, or the host university, at any time.

5. APPLICATION SELECTION PROCESS

5.1 The evaluation process of the PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 applications consists 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 Commission, comprised of professors with doctorates of the GCUB associated universities, named by the Executive Director of the GCUB.

a. First Phase: Document assessment

This phase consists of an assessment of the submitted documentation, according to the information provided in Section 4 (DOCUMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION), and will be under the responsibility of GCUB.

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

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

The GS/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 submitted pursuant to 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 not approved candidates. Whenever possible, the university will preselect at least four candidates per scholarship offered. This procedure is essential for a better use of funds, in case of declinations.

- The university will, preferably, take into account the geographic distribution of OAS Member States as a criteria when preselecting candidates, without detriment to academic merit.

c. Third Phase: Selection and final distribution of approved candidates in previous phases

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

The Advisory Evaluation Commission will make the final decision on awarding the scholarships and the student distribution among the programs and universities to which they applied. The Commission shall consider the following criteria:

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

6. SELECTION RESULTS

6.1 The GS/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 address indicated in the application form, to inform them about the university and the study program for which they will be offered a scholarship under the PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022.

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

6.2 The universities must send an acceptance 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

[6] For more information on the Human Development Index (HDI) per country, please see the 2019 Human Development report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf

coordinator stating 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 thesis dissertation, according to the rules of national professional medical 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 for 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, notwithstanding the fact that a digital copy of the acceptance letter shall also be sent to the candidate and the GCUB.

6.3 The Scholarship Acceptance Contract:

6.3.1 The Scholarship Acceptance Contract will be sent to the selected candidate through an online system. The selected candidates have 7 days to submit their signed Scholarship Acceptance Contract, starting from the date the contract was sent to them by the GS/OAS. If the awardee does not return her/his signed contract within the established deadline, the GS/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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 selected awardees will be subject to the signing of the Scholarship Acceptance Contract, which the Program requirements for the scholarship recipients. Furthermore, the selected applicant should refrain from engaging in activities that violate the host university's scholarship rules.

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. The medical insurance must be acquired at the scholarship recipient's country of origin, **before** traveling to Brazil. **The international health insurance**

policy must cover an initial 12-month period and must be renewed for an equal period during the scholarship recipient's 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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022.

c. Full-time dedication to program activities and compliance with the legislation and regulations of the program of study[7], 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.

a. 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 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022,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[8]; 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.

b. The awardee must obtain a Temporary IV Student Visa to travel to Brazil and cover all costs related to this process. No other visa will be accepted, no 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.[9] The visa must be renewed before its expiration date.

c. The scholarship may be declined by the awardee up to four weeks before starting the program of study, 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 GS/OAS and the GCUB, the awardee must reimburse to the GS/OAS and/or the GCUB and/or the host university, for all funding granted under the scholarship up until the moment of the declination. In addition, the awardee may not participate in any other scholarship program of the GS/OAS or GCUB, for the following 2 (two) years. These cases will be informed by the GCUB to the Embassy or Consular Section of the student's country of origin, as well as to the MRE.

[7] Students should consult the internal regulations and all other regulations of the program to which s/he applied, either at a Master's or PhD level. Language requirements should also be taken into account. Once enrolled in the Brazilian host university, the PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 student has the same rights and therefore the same responsibilities as all other students at the host university.

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d. The host university may withdraw the scholarship if the awardee does not meet the academic standards and the university's regulations under the PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022.

e. In case the scholarship recipient does not comply with the university's requirements, the obligations under this Announcement, or the university's rules and regulations, the GCUB, the GS/OAS, and the Brazilian university may require the scholarship recipient to refund the full amount or part of the funds granted under this scholarship during their stay in Brazil.

f. It is the scholarship recipient's responsibility to follow all the necessary procedures to obtain and renew the Temporary IV Student Visa and the international health insurance according to the term of commitment.

g. The scholarship recipient may not leave the state or Brazil without previous authorization by the institutional coordinator of the PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program. The scholarship recipient could be expelled from the program if s/he does not obtain this authorization prior to leaving the state or Brazil.

h. Every communication from the selected students must be forwarded to the email: gcub.bolsasbrasil@gmail.com. No other form of communication will be considered for this matter.

8. EVALUATION OF THE PAEC OAS-GCUB SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM 2022

8.1 The host universities shall 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, a bi- annual report describing the progress of each student and whether they continue to fulfill the requirements to stay in their program of study.

8.3 PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 coordinators and the GS/OAS' and GCUB's general coordinators for the PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 shall meet once a year to evaluate and discuss proposals regarding the continuity and improvement of this PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program.

9. CALENDAR

Dates	Activities
June 10, 2022	Call for Applications
July 11 - 15, 2022	Document assessment (Phase 1)
July 20 - August 03, 2022	Examination of merit and admissibility by the university (Phase 2)
August 08 - 12, 2022	Selection and final distribution of approved candidates in previous phases (Phase 3)
August 19, 2022	Announcement of results
As of August 22th, 2022, and according to the academic calendar of the host university	Acceptance letters to alternates

10. CASES OF OMISSION AND COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

10.1 Any situation not included in this announcement will be considered jointly by the GS/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.

10.3 The GCUB is responsible for communicating with applicants for the PAEC OAS-GCUB Scholarships Program 2022 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 GCUB.