



# BRAZIL HANDBOOK-

A guide for studying abroad in Brazil

## STUDYING IN RIO DE JANEIRO

This pack was made by previous students, from the law school, who studied in Brazil for a year. The aim of this pack is to give you insight into the practical parts of living in Rio.

## **1. Before you go**

### **1.1 Visa**

- Before you leave for Brazil, you will need to get a student visa.
- Tourists from the UK that intend to stay in Brazil for 90 days do not require a visa but any period of time above this will need one.
- There is a Brazilian embassy in London and you can book an appointment online in order to get your visa.
- There are other consulates in the UK but you can search the website to see if there is one located nearer to you.
- There are various requirements that you need to get your student visa, the link below gives a list of everything you will need.
- Students who are UK residents are required to apply for the 'Vitem IV' visa.
- Requirements: [http://cglondres.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visas\\_to\\_brazil.xml#Study\\_VITEM\\_IV](http://cglondres.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visas_to_brazil.xml#Study_VITEM_IV)

### **1.2 Waiting for Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)**

- One of the requirements for your visa is proof that your partner university – FGV has accepted you to study at the institute.
- You should receive your letter of acceptance by April

### **1.3 Accommodation**

- Here at Warwick, it is very common to have sorted your next year's accommodation before the New Year.
- As it is most likely you haven't been to Rio de Janeiro before you have two options that both work in your favour.
- You can either book accommodation in Rio before leaving for a long period of time for example from July to December. The benefit of this is peace of mind and a chance to build familiarity with that specific area. The other option is for you to book accommodation temporarily, such as a hostel, and then look for more permanent accommodation to move into, once you've landed in Brazil.
- There is a section below dedicated to location and options for accommodation.
- Please note, depending on how you find your accommodation, you might have to pay in cash and there is a limit on how much you can take out a day with the cash machines.

## **2. Where to live**

### **2.1 Zones in Rio**

- FGV is located in Zona Sul (South Zone), which is the safest part of Rio.
- There is also Zona Norte (North Zone), but it is highly recommended that you stay within Zona Sul because it means getting around the city and commuting to university will be a lot easier.
- There is no accommodation provided by the university as it is only one faculty in a single building.

### **2.2 Understanding Areas in Rio**

- In Zona Sul more specifically, the university is located in Botafogo.
- Popular areas to live in are: Copacabana, Botafogo, Flamengo, Ipanema and Gavea. The last two locations are a little bit further from university but are some of the more affluent areas in Zona Sul, there you can find a variety of restaurants and bars if that interests you.
- Try to avoid accommodation in Barra de Tijuca, this is because it is right at the end of the metro line. You will very often find you may have to take the bus as well as the metro which can be stressful especially in a new setting
- There is an area called Centro, this is the business capital in Rio. Centro is quite easy to get to from the above locations listed and has some very beautiful areas. Past students have chosen to live in areas of Centro such as Santa Teresa, but again not all areas in this zone are as safe or as easy to access via public transport.
- My tip would be at first to stay closer to the university, then once you feel comfortable then look at other areas if you would like. In my first term, I lived in Copacabana but in my second term I moved around Botafogo because it was easier to access Centro from there.
- You may also prefer to see the accommodation before committing to live there!
- There is guidance for where to stay in the FGV booklet, however some other useful websites are Homestay.com and Air b'n'b.

## **3. Navigating the City**

### **3.1 When you arrive in Brazil: RIO Galeao- Tom Jobim International**

- There are two airports in Rio de Janeiro: Santos Dumont and Rio Galeao

- Santos Dumont is for domestic flights, whereas Galeao is for international flights
- There will be taxi drivers trying to approach you- do not follow them because they are not licensed and most likely won't speak English, so it will be even harder for you to communicate.
- Uber DOES work in the city and there are instructions for how to get to designated pick up area for Uber in Galeao. Santos Dumont only has one main exit where you should easily be able to meet your Uber.
- If it makes you more comfortable you can head to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor exit of the airport and flag down a yellow taxi, they are licensed and will have their registration on the dashboard.
- Please note yellow taxi's stay in the same area as Ubers.
- Please if you are using your phone, stay inside the airport.

### 3.2 Transport Around the City

- There are 4 lines on the metro (please refer to the map adjacent)
- The station stop for FGV is Flamengo
- GoogleMaps or Moovit are great apps to help you navigate around the city



### 3.3 Your first day

- More specific information will be provided in detail via email before your first day
- Get there by metro and leave via Exit A- you can follow a path that leads straight to the university
- Uber
- Bus (for more specific details please refer to the booklet organised by FGV students)
- The most important thing to remember is that your course in Portuguese is called 'direito'. When you arrive and talk to receptionist they should understand what you want if you say your department- 'direito' they should understand. You will need a form of ID to prove that you FGV card belongs to you. If in doubt, you can also use google translate.

## **4. Living in Rio de Janeiro**

### **4.1 Resident Permit and CPF**

- As British citizens you have 90 days in Brazil without the need of a resident permit, after this period you will need an RNM even with the student visa
- For your resident's permit, the FGV correspondent will give you all the information you need
- FGV sometimes offer a system whereby they organise a day to sort it out for you. If this isn't in place, you will be given a detailed account of the steps you need to take yourself.
- A CPF is like an ID number given to citizens, some students choose not to get a CPF, as the process can be lengthy. The CPF however, is needed for day to day life including buying tickets to travel or for an event. For more information about the CPF you can ask the university's international relations coordinator, they would have sent you a welcome email.

### **4.2 Finance**

- If you are self-sufficient financially you will need to make sure to keep good communication between yourself and student finance.
- Student finance may be due in line with Warwick's start date in October. The first term in FGV starts in August, so you will need to fill in a form that confirms your start date. Make sure to get law school to sign the dates form that will provided by SFE, you can access it online via the SFE portal.

### **4.3 Language**

- This is a year abroad in English, and the Professors/students at FGV will speak English very well.
- Outside of the university, this may not be the case so please try to learn some basic phrases to help you communicate in Rio de Janeiro.
- You will find that the receptionists at the university only speak Portuguese, in this case it is important that you confer with Google Translate if you can.

### **4.4 Safety**

- This is a big question for students, while Rio has a reputation for being dangerous, if you act carefully and are aware of yourself you should be fine.
- The booklet from FGV has more information concerning areas you should avoid
- Note the students who wrote the booklet recommend to avoid Avenida Nossa Senhora de Copacabana. This is a long avenue, very close to Copacabana beach and

can be hard to avoid, so I would suggest staying more towards Leme and Copacabana and further away from Siqueira Campos. This will make more sense once you arrive in the city.

- Try to avoid using your phone carelessly when walking on the street, of course you may use google maps at times, but avoid leaving it out for long periods of times.
- The university has an extensive insurance policy, the details of which will be explained at the year abroad meeting and can be found online.

#### **4.5 Practical Points**

- Rio has many, many beaches and the longer you live in Rio the more you get used to referring what 'Posto' (beach post) you live by. You may decide on your accommodation by how easy it is to walk to the closest beach. Note that if you live in Botafogo, though there is a beach it is quite small and quiet so it is not as safe to go there by yourself.
- The university does not currently offer language classes. The most recommended one is Caminhoes Language Centre in Ipanema. Though there are others than you can research, Caminhoes seems to be the most immersive. They also run events every day for other tourists, which allows you to make friends, and get to know the city.



#### **4.6 Nightlife**

- Don't worry too much about affordability of and transport to activities because Uber is very cheap and transport around the city is very easy.
- The main bulk of nightlife in Rio de Janeiro are in Centro, whilst the metro does run until quite late, it is recommended you travel by Uber once it gets dark, until you are comfortable with the city.

#### **4.7 Phones and Data Plans**

- In most cases when it comes to a mobile phone plan, you may need a CPF before you can purchase a sim.
- Claro and Tim only require a passport and may be an easier option, however the process for topping up your phone is the same.
- Once you have your sim, you will have to top up your phone either every week, two or three. In order to do this, you usually have to go to vendor on the street and explain how much you want to top up, they usually only take cash.

#### **4.8 The Exchange Rate**

- The current exchange rate is about 5 Brazilian Reals to £1, which is a pretty good rate. Brazil however is known for being quite an expensive country especially in comparison to its other South American counterparts.
- Whilst you can set up a Santander account within the university, it may be easier to open an account with Monzo, Starling or something of the like. These banks are easy to access online and via mobile and they don't charge any fees if you use them abroad. They also allow you to take money out of cash machines without charging you and they offer an exact exchange rate.

#### **4.9 Banks**

- There are 24-hour cash machines in Brazil but they usually charge a fee
- Bradesco and Banco do Brasil charge the list (to none I believe) in terms of exchange rates. Please search online before taking money out as you don't want to be charged an extortionate amount.

#### **4.9 Studying in Brazil**

- Participation is important, most modules require you to participate so you need to do the reading and make valuable contributions.
- A copy of the grade scheme and how it translates to the Warwick Mark Scheme will be provided to you once you arrive and start studying, use this as guide.

**Have fun! There are many opportunities to travel in and around the country. You will meet a lot of different people from all across the world. This truly is once in a lifetime experience, so try to cease the moments.**