YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

EAP Online
Bookmark your Participants program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad, Program Calendar, EAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Local EAP Support
Campus EAP Office
The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientation, and academic advising, and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office
The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates EAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

- **Program Advisors** communicate program information, both academic and operational, to students and campuses, and coordinate and provide academic and administrative support in all aspects of your participation.
- **Operations Specialists** coordinate the logistics of the program. Document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, placement and acceptance by the host institution, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements are examples of program details the Operations Specialists coordinate.
- **Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies; review and record courses taken abroad for UC credit; process student registrations, petitions, and grades; and document and maintain students’ academic records.
- **Student Finance Accountants** assist primarily with EAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information
Program Advisor
Aysin Berkmen
Phone: (805) 893-4138; Email: aberkmen@eap.ucop.edu

Operations Specialist
Kristen Galbreath
Phone: (805) 893-4138; E-mail: kgalbreath@eap.ucop.edu

Academic Specialist
Monica Rocha
Phone: (805) 893-2712; E-mail: mrocha@eap.ucop.edu

Student Finance Accountant
Antonette Escarsega
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UCEAP Systemwide Office
6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117-5823
Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583
Study Center Abroad

The UC Center is situated at ACBEU (Associação Cultural Brasil-Estados Unidos) in their Vitória campus near the historic parts of the city. The resident Program Director, in coordination with ACBEU, oversees all logistical arrangements for this program. Visiting faculty consultants also collaborate with ACBEU to provide academic oversight and ensure that course offerings are of UC quality. While in Brazil, the Program Director is your first point of contact for information and assistance.

UC Center Bahia
Associação Cultural Brasil-Estados Unidos (ACBEU)
Av. Sete de Setembro, 1883
Corredor da Vitória
40080-002 Salvador, Bahia
BRAZIL

Phone Number Codes
U.S. international code ...............011
(dial this to call from the U.S.)
Brazil country code...............55
Salvador city code.................71

Approximate Time Difference
Mid-February through March: add 5 hours
April through October: add 4 hours
November through mid-February: add 6 hours
**EAP STUDENTS SAY...**

EAP has been the most important thing I decided to do in my life. I've never known so much about myself, my country, and other people and cultures. I believe that I'll return with a critical perspective as a student and question the material given to me.

Through literature and guest speakers we learned about the history and present situation of the people of African descent in Brazil. Actually seeing and experiencing what you talk about in class is the only way to learn!

I've received new perspectives on priorities in life. Living in Brazil has made me place more value on family, education, and friends, and less on money and material possessions.

The professors were great. I like the size of the language classes; since they were smaller we had more one-on-one attention. The language teachers were always willing to help us out.

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**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

**Program Description**

EAP's language and culture program takes place in the northeastern city of Salvador in the state of Bahia. It offers students who have little or no prior Portuguese instruction the unique opportunity to study Portuguese in Brazil. At the same time, the program's culture component takes advantage of the cultural dynamism of the Bahian setting to focus on regional history and the formation of Afro-Brazilian identity. All students on this program are from the University of California.

The culture course, Brazil and the Black Atlantic, is team-taught by professors from local universities. It also hosts a number of guest lecturers who contribute different perspectives through such varied subjects as music, food, literature, social service, and more. Past students report that these lectures are one of the highlights of the program.

The ACBEU coordinator arranges regular meetings between EAP students and Brazilian students so you can exchange ideas and practice your new language skills. Past students report that their homestay families were also helpful in advancing their language skills. If you are interested in gaining a deeper understanding of contemporary Bahian society or in working closely with the people of Salvador, you may also volunteer with a local social service organization. Arrangements are made through the Study Center.

**Academic Culture**

The academic culture of the Bahia language and culture program blends seamlessly with the whole range of experience offered throughout the semester. The city of Salvador is the perfect setting for the study of Afro-Brazilian culture as it retains a unique cultural blend of Portuguese and African influences. Excursions in and around the city are a part of the academic program. From the beginning, the Brazilian language instructors draw you into Salvador's history and culture through the communication exercises and activities.

As your language skills improve, you will find the Brazil and the Black Atlantic culture course more intellectually satisfying. The instructors are able to incorporate more local idioms into their lectures and invite a wider range of guest speakers who can address you in Portuguese and convey a deeper understanding of the formation of Afro-Brazilian identity.
Registration and Course Information

While on EAP, you are required to take a full-time course of study and enroll in a minimum of 20 UC quarter units each term. Attendance at all academic classes and activities is required. You are allowed a total of two absences during the program. Each absence beyond the limit will result in a deduction of 3 percent from your raw total. An absence occurring on a day a quiz or exam is scheduled or an assignment is due will result in a zero for that quiz/exam or assignment. There will be no make-ups permitted. Your final grade is coordinated by the Program Director and assigned by the UC faculty consultant providing academic oversight for the program.

All students register in three courses:

- Two sequential Portuguese language courses (6 UC quarter units each)
- The culture course, Brazil and the Black Atlantic, cross-listed as ETHST/HIST/LATAS/PORT 120 (8 UC quarter units)

The Portuguese language courses are offered at several levels. You will be placed into the appropriate level following a placement exam. Classes are for UC students only.

- It is important to take a Portuguese-English dictionary with you to Bahia. See the Recommended Books section for suggestions.

The Brazil and the Black Atlantic culture course is taught by four different scholars working at local universities, each of whom takes the class for three or four weeks to cover his or her area of expertise. The four sections are Afro-Brazilian history, Afro-Brazilian cultural experience, Afro-Brazilian religion, and the black movement in contemporary Brazil. All program participants take this course together.

In order to ensure that courses and grades are recorded on your UC transcript, you must complete your MyEAP registration by the deadline specified by the Program Director or staff at the EAP Systemwide Office. Because this is a short-term language program, pass/no pass grading is not an option; you must take all courses for a letter grade.

Grades

For details about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
EXTENDING EAP PARTICIPATION

Back-to-Back Programs

- Visa procedures can be very complicated and are subject to change at any time. UCEAP provides basic guidelines and resources, but these do not replace or override decisions made by the consulate.

It is possible to participate in two different EAP options consecutively. For example, the Bahia program may provide you with the Portuguese skills needed to qualify for EAP’s program in Rio de Janeiro.

Participation in back-to-back programs requires an exceptional level of organization and maturity. You must decide early if you would like to participate in a second program in order to complete necessary preparations while still at your UC campus. Due to visa restrictions, you may need to return to the U.S. in between programs to renew or obtain an additional visa. You are not allowed to study at PUC-Rio without a valid student visa.

Refer to the EAP online Predeparture Checklist for detailed information about obtaining a student visa.

Time between Programs

It is important that you plan for the gap in time between the end of your first program and the beginning of the second program. Some participants decide to return to the U.S. during this period (you may have to in order to renew your student visa). If you decide to remain in Brazil between programs, you will be responsible for all costs associated with daily living, travel, insurance, housing, etc., until the start of the second program.

Insurance Coverage

EAP insurance for the Bahia semester ends exactly 31 days after the end of the program. If you decide to participate in the program at PUC-Rio, you will be automatically enrolled in EAP insurance beginning exactly 14 days prior to the official start date of the PUC-Rio program. There will likely be a gap in your insurance coverage between programs, so start planning now. Make sure that you are not without insurance coverage.

If you remain in Brazil during the break between programs and wish to be covered by EAP insurance during this time period, refer to the Insurance Information tab of your Participants program page for procedures and forms. The cost of this extension coverage is not included in EAP fees.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...”

If you truly want to learn Portuguese, you must be self-motivated. Read as much as possible—newspapers, milk cartons, children’s books, whatever.

The recommended reading list posted in the Program Guide isn’t just to fill up page space. Take advantage and check out those books! You’ll be amazed at what you learn.

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Educate Yourself

Get to know Brazil. Your time abroad will be more successful and enjoyable if you acquaint yourself with Bahia and Brazilian culture before you leave California. Past participants indicate that there is no excuse for arriving at your destination without background knowledge.

Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as Lonely Planet, are excellent resources. Keep up with current events by reading articles in newspapers, magazines, and journals. If you already have Portuguese reading skills, read Brazil’s major newspapers O Estado de São Paulo, Jornal do Brasil, and O Globo.

An enjoyable way to get an idea of life in Salvador is to read Jorge Amado’s novel Tent of Miracles (Tenda dos Milagres). Much of the story is set in Pelourinho, a historic neighborhood where students spend a lot of time.

Recommended Books

Reference texts to take with you:


Recommended readings prior to departure (some are also listed on the culture course syllabus):


EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Harassment is one of the biggest cultural differences between the U.S. and Brazil. Men often harass women in the streets, but you adapt and ignore them. It’s better not to provoke them—if it goes too far, ask someone for help.

Brazilian society is sexist. Men will often make remarks that we consider derogatory in the U.S. It’s up to you to face it. I personally made the statement that I don’t welcome such remarks. You also have to be careful about your dress, hours of travel, and the places that you visit.

Be prepared for an entirely new culture and lifestyle. Be patient and enjoy the people. Respect the differences.

Encountering Intolerance and Harassment

Living and traveling in an unfamiliar environment, having a limited understanding of the local language and culture, and being perceived as well-off are some of the factors that can put you at risk. Learning quickly about the differences in gender relations could be one of the most sensitive and difficult lessons to learn while abroad, but one that could have a direct impact on your safety.

Past students on EAP programs in Brazil have reported encountering unwanted behavior that would be labeled as sexist, racist, or discriminatory in the U.S. Sexual harassment and unwanted attention (verbal comments, whistles, cat calls, and physical advances) has surprised many EAP students. During the on-site orientation, you will learn tips about how to reduce risks. Women should never walk alone after dark and all students should be aware of the need to take appropriate precautions once abroad.

Some UC students may find themselves the objects of stares and comments, ranging from relatively innocent to occasionally hostile. Some have noted that there is no “political correctness” in Brazil. Past students have characterized these behaviors as annoying, frustrating, and initially shocking, but generally no more than that.

Coping Strategies

If at any time you feel unsafe, remove yourself from the situation and report the incident to the Program Director.

The following tips can help you protect yourself and reduce harassment:

- The best response to unwanted advances is to ignore the person and look in the other direction. If you cannot avoid the person, remain aloof, avert your eyes, and do not smile. Responding may simply escalate the situation. If you experience such behavior, discuss your frustrations with the EAP Program Director, staff, and fellow students.

- Female returnees indicate that harassment can occur no matter what the circumstances; however, they recommend adapting your dress, comments, and actions to blend more closely to local norms.

- Decline offers that trigger anxiety and avoid situations that make you nervous.

- Walk with determination with your eyes fixed forward and ignore all cat calls.

- Protect yourself by being constantly aware of your surroundings. Avoid isolated or remote areas.

In most cases, these incidents represent a cultural difference that causes annoyance and frustration for UC students, rather than physical danger. Read about social and political issues in Brazil, think about and discuss these issues before departure, practice personal tolerance, and be mature and realistic in your expectations.

Cultural differences should not be an excuse to endure verbal or physical abuse. It is important to trust intuition and obey instincts that send warning signals. Report serious or repeated instances of verbal or physical aggression to the UCEAP Program Director and staff when they occur.
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Don’t rely solely on your Spanish skills, if you have any. Take the time to learn some Portuguese before you arrive. You’ll be glad that you did.

Brazil turned out to be more than I expected!

If you want to learn Portuguese, do not constantly hang out with people from the program, because then you will just continue to speak English. Force yourself to go out, meet Brazilians, create friendships, and your Portuguese will naturally improve.

Improve Your Language Skills

The more Portuguese you know before departure, the easier your transition to life in Brazil will be. Even if you have no Portuguese training, start preparing before you get to Salvador. Prior to departure, spend one hour a day or at least five sessions a week improving your Portuguese skills. If you have previous language experience in another Romance language, you can work with Portuguese language CDs and a related syllabus to become familiar with some of the similarities and differences between the languages.

It will help if you observe the following suggestions:

- Obtain a Brazilian-Portuguese language CD from a local library or bookstore.
- Watch Brazilian movies, listen to Brazilian music, and seek out Portuguese-speaking people so you can learn the rhythm of the language.
- Download Portuguese language podcasts.
- Keep a journal of Portuguese phrases, expressions, sentences, and structures for vocabulary building.

If you have taken some classes in Portuguese, you can also enhance your skills through the following methods:

- Read aloud (anything in Portuguese) for 20 minutes at a time. Read progressively faster, striving to maintain correct pronunciation.
- Review basic grammar terminology and definitions.
- Seek out visiting Brazilian students and form a conversation group.
**EAP STUDENTS SAY...**

"Obtaining my student visa turned out to be the first EAP adventure that I experienced. Take it seriously and follow instructions carefully. The stress isn’t worth waiting until the last minute. Be on top of it, have all your materials complete and organized, and go to the consulate right away. Make sure you get your visa ahead of time and check with the consulate for their hours to avoid going back several times. Be mindful of when your visa expires; if you stay longer, you pay a fee for each extra day you stay in Brazil."

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**ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION**

**Travel Documents**

- Additional information about passports, visas, and other required documents is provided in the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and in the EAP online Predeparture Checklist.

Write your passport number down and keep it in a safe place. Carry only what is necessary. Leave a photocopy of the first page (with photo) of your passport with someone in the U.S.

**Student Visa**

Detailed information and instructions for applying for the visa are included in the EAP Predeparture Checklist. UCEAP provides these general guidelines as a courtesy; however, it is your responsibility to:

- Contact the consulate of Brazil for visa requirements, updates, and procedures.
- Read and follow all visa instructions carefully and quickly as the government of Brazil may change instructions, fees, and requirements at any time, without notice.
- Pay attention to details and be consistent with your name on every form you complete. Abbreviations and nicknames are not allowed. If you do not have a middle initial, do not write “n/a.” The name you use on your visa application form must exactly match the name on your passport, and both of these must exactly match the name you use when registering with the Federal Police in Brazil.
- Obtain copies of all documents before you submit them to the Brazilian consulate for your visa; you will need these copies once in Brazil.
- Acquire a valid Type IV or Type I Student Visa prior to entering Brazil. Before leaving the U.S., make sure the visa is issued for the correct length of time.

As you go through the visa application process, be aware of the following:

- It is not possible to apply for a visa after arrival in Brazil. You cannot enter Brazil as a tourist and then switch to a student visa.
- Consulates, which represent the government of Brazil, reserve the right to deny a visa. To receive a visa is a privilege, not a right.
- It takes time to gather the required documents and acquire a valid student visa; do not wait until the last moment to apply for a visa.
- If you do not obtain the proper visa in time you may be withdrawn from the program.
- The consulate will keep your passport while they are processing your visa (approximately 10 to 14 business days, sometimes longer).
- The Brazilian consulates set strict rules for obtaining student visas. Since UCEAP does not set these rules, we cannot extend a visa application deadline or assist you if your application is denied or delayed.

**Non-U.S. Citizens**

If you are not a U.S. citizen, contact the appropriate Brazilian consulate immediately to determine your specific visa requirements. Requirements may differ depending on your country of citizenship and the process may take longer than it does for U.S. citizens.
Brazil Federal Police Registration

Upon arrival in Salvador, you must register with the Brazilian Federal Police and have your passport stamped again. This new stamp will allow you to leave the country without a penalty. Fines for failure to register within the designated time frame are currently R$8 per day up to about R$900 and are subject to change without notice.

If you choose to arrive early and travel before the program starts, you may have to complete the registration process on your own. Registration must be completed within 30 days of entering Brazil. Failure to register on time may present you with complications during your visit and upon exiting the country.

If you arrive on or near the official start date of the program, Study Center staff will help you with this registration process, which can be bureaucratic and lengthy. The police registration is a serious process that requires attention to detail and a level of formality with which you might not be familiar.

The following are some details and tips that will help you with the registration process:

- Photos of the correct size (3 x 4 cm) can be easily taken in Brazil before the registration process begins.

- **Keep a copy of all official documents** that are used to obtain your student visa; you will need them again for the police registration. These include:
  - Passport with visa and copies of the first two pages of your passport (with personal information and photo) and the page of your passport containing the visa.
  - Original visa application form from the Brazilian consulate (the consular document filled out at the Brazilian consulate on the basis of which the visa is issued) and a copy of this document.
  - Green entry form filled out during the flight to Brazil and stamped by the customs immigration officer upon arrival in Brazil.

- **You must pay a fee of around R$200. Fees are subject to change.**

- Complete a registration form (provided by the Study Center) accurately.

- Pay attention to the consistency and accuracy of your name and your parents’ names on all documents (passport, visa application, birth certificate, registration form, etc.). A student had to re-register with the police in Brazil because a middle initial appeared on one document but not on another.

- The police absolutely require that the names of both parents appear on the consular document. Names must be written in full (e.g., write: Donald Potter and Elizabeth Potter; do not write: Mr. and Mrs. Potter or Don and Liz Potter). Nicknames are not allowed.

- Respect and decorum are encouraged when complying with immigration regulations. A student was once denied entry to the police registration office due to lack of formal dress (shorts were not acceptable).

Once you have registered, you will receive a receipt valid for 90 days. Use this receipt until official identification cards are available. Carry the receipt as proof of police registration.
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Pack lightly! Calculate what you think you’ll absolutely need and then divide that by three.

Whatever you think you need, you probably don’t, so pack as little as possible. A small, half full suitcase would be ideal.

Take your driver’s license; it can serve for identification so that you don’t have to carry your passport around.

The best investment that I made was in an external frame backpack and a small, quick-dry towel. This was perfect for weekend traveling. It was easy to carry and versatile. I could even attach my sleeping bag if I needed it.

Remember to take a travel guide.

Do not ask others to carry your personal items. Airlines may not allow you to take them and customs abroad may charge you a high duty. This is particularly a concern with electronic goods.

When you leave Brazil, immigration officials will check to verify that you have properly registered with the Federal Police. Therefore, safeguard any documents you receive during the registration process. More information about the registration process can be found in the EAP Predeparture Checklist.

Packing Tips

Essential

- Passport photos, original visa documentation (plus copies), and entry form (see previous section titled Brazil Federal Police Registration)
- Light, comfortable clothing that is easy to dry (most laundry is hung up to dry)
- Sturdy and comfortable walking shoes
- Rain gear (lightweight and breathable)
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Electrical adapters
- Camera
- Two ATM cards
- Portuguese and Portuguese-English dictionary
- Portuguese grammar book
- Toiletries
- Vitamins
- Flashlight
- Extra contact lenses and lens solution
- First aid supplies
- Small luggage locks for added privacy in your homestay
- Preferred pain relief medication
- Enough prescription medication to last the length of your stay

Optional

- Laptop (highly recommended), Ethernet cable, and pen drive (or other memory device)
- Dressy outfits (for parties, nightclubs, dinner events)
- Bathrobe and slippers
- Beach towel
- Equipment, shoes, and clothing for sports or recreation
- Small gifts for your host family (e.g., CDs; T-shirt; decals or mugs with city, state, or campus logo; major league baseball cap; California pistachios, almonds, or chocolate; California postcards or scenic calendars)
- Pictures of family and friends
- Musical instruments
- English-language reference materials for the subjects you expect to study (e.g., Brazilian history, U.S.-Brazilian relations, or specific aspects of economics)
- Travel-size sleeping bag
- Battery-operated alarm clock
- Combination lock
- Safety pins

Do Not Pack

- Illegal narcotics or medications that are illegal in Brazil
- Items that do not belong to you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.)
- Sheets and bedding (this will be provided by your Brazilian host)
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Brazilians wear completely different clothing. Their materials are perfect for the weather whereas our clothes stick to us like glue in the heat. Pack a week’s worth of outfits and buy whatever else you need in Brazil.

Be prepared for the heat!

Take good rechargeable batteries plus an adapter. This way you don’t have to keep purchasing new ones!

Clothing

Dress is informal, although Brazilian students tend to dress more neatly and formally than UC students. In smaller towns, people may dress more conservatively. In some public buildings, long pants may be required.

To avoid unwelcome attention, women should not wear scanty attire, halter-tops, or other revealing clothing off the beach. People have been refused entry to buses or public buildings for dressing too scantily or inappropriately.

Because of its location on the Atlantic Coast of northeastern Brazil, Salvador’s climate is humid and warm. Take comfortable, light clothing that is easy to dry (most laundry is hung to dry).

The EAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad.

Electrical Appliances

Brazil has a variety of electrical voltages (110V, 220V, or 127V), sometimes within the same city. This differs from the standard U.S. 110 volts for small appliances. You will need a voltage converter (or transformer) and adapter plugs in order to use typical home appliances. Students find that it is much easier to purchase small appliances abroad instead of bringing them from the U.S. Most computers come with a built-in voltage converter. Outlets often accept a variety of plug types (including round holes and flat holes as in the U.S.). You may be able to plug small U.S. appliances into the outlets, but an adapter plug would be useful.

Customs officials may try to charge an import tax for electrical items you bring into Brazil; however, if you indicate that they are personal items, the charge may be waived. Customs officials may list the items in your passport. If they do, you must take these same items out of the country or else pay duty on them when you leave.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...
Get your plane tickets as soon as the program dates are confirmed. The longer you wait the more expensive they get. Expect to spend at least $1,000 round-trip.”

Travel to Brazil

Official EAP Start Date

- You must arrive in Salvador by the Official Start Date. Details of the official date, time, and meeting place are provided in the Arrival Instructions included in the EAP Predeparture Checklist.

You are responsible for the following actions as you prepare to travel to Brazil:

- Reserve and purchase your plane ticket to Salvador, Brazil (airport code SSA). Changeable airline tickets are preferred. Standby tickets are not appropriate. Traveling by bus from other major cities in Brazil is risky. If you plan on bus travel, make sure to purchase your bus tickets in advance. Budget extra time in case of delays.

- Schedule your arrival to correspond with the Official Start Date; you are subject to dismissal from the program if you fail to arrive on this date (Student Agreement, Section 10).

- Generally, late arrivals are unacceptable; however, extreme cases can warrant exceptions. Obtain advance approval from the UCEAP Systemwide Office if you need to arrive after the Official Start Date.

- Refer frequently to the EAP program calendar as the start date of the program can change due to unforeseen circumstances and you will be responsible for making any related modifications to your travel itinerary.

- Update your contact information in MyEAP to ensure that you are informed of any program changes (predeparture updates will most likely be sent via e-mail).

- Confirm your flight schedule about two weeks before your departure date (flights are routinely changed or canceled).

- If you arrive early, you must find your own lodging until the program starts. Host families are only available after the program has formally started.

Orientation

Plan to arrive on the Official Start Date of the program. The mandatory EAP orientation takes place the day after arrival and begins after breakfast at the arrival hotel. The Program Director and the ACBEU staff will review all practical components of the Bahia program, including the program calendar, housing, academic registration, student services, computer access, health, safety and emergencies, money and banking, phones, mail, and public transportation. The orientation is followed by a lunch in the hotel, at which time you meet your host family.

Financial Aid Students

You are responsible for reserving and purchasing your plane ticket (the Financial Aid Office will not do this for you).

Your financial aid package is based partly on the EAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare amount in the budget is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Brazil. If your travel expenses are greater than the airfare estimate in the Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither EAP nor the campus Financial Aid Office can guarantee the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.
Return Travel

It is highly likely that you will need to book a round-trip airline ticket in order to obtain your visa. If you do not make round-trip arrangements, book a return flight with plenty of lead time once abroad. Study Center staff can refer you to a local travel agency for information on return travel. Flights to the U.S. fill up fast and economy-fare seats are booked early.

Most airline tickets are good for one year only. Purchase a round-trip ticket that allows changes to the return date for a relatively low fee, such as those available from student travel agencies.
The EAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

- Do not plan recreational travel on class days or during scheduled group events. There will be numerous opportunities on weekends and national holidays to travel without missing classes.

Buses

According to the U.S. Department of State, Brazil’s intercity roads are widely recognized as among the most dangerous in the world. Poor driving skills, bad roads, and a high density of trucks combine to make travel considerably more hazardous than in the United States. There are no laws requiring truckers to take mandatory rest stops and they often drive for excessive periods of time. All major intercity routes are saturated with heavy truck traffic and for the most part have only two lanes. Road maintenance is inadequate and some long-distance roads through the Amazon forest are impassable much of the year. There are few railroads and passenger train travel is almost nonexistent. Private cars and public buses are the main modes of intercity road travel. Buses can range (depending on the route and the price) from luxurious and well maintained to basic and mechanically unsound.

If you decide to travel by bus, be careful when choosing which bus to take. Certain buses are generally comfortable and well scheduled. Others can be uncomfortable and dangerous. Be sure to research all your options.

For overnight trips, students sometimes prefer to travel by leito, a bus with wide seats that recline completely for sleeping during the trip. They will occasionally provide blankets, but you are encouraged to take your own. Leito seats may cost twice the normal fare, but are inexpensive when compared to the cost of a room.

Planes

Travel by plane tends to be more expensive, but deals are sometimes available. Check with your travel agent about purchasing a Brazil Air Pass, which allows for discounted and package air travel within Brazil. You must purchase this pass in the U.S. prior to departure. You are required by law to carry your passport when traveling by air in Brazil.

You are encouraged to make the most of your experience abroad, but remember that this is an academic program. Unexcused absences from class can result in a lowered or failing grade.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after EAP is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to EAP
- EAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while on EAP (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your home campus Financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. The fees that you owe UCEAP are posted to your account, and you can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). Fees will be applied after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP.

EAP Student Budget

Carefully review your UCEAP Student Budget.

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. The fees due to UCEAP will be posted to your MyEAP Student Account after your program predeparture withdrawal date. Program fees are subject to change. View your EAP Student Budget frequently.

Instructions

- Download and print your EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your EAP bills. Sign them up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you are on financial aid, see also the EAP Financial Information web page.
The official currency unit in Brazil is the real (plural, reais), abbreviated R$ or BRL.

**Handling Money Abroad**

**Before Departure**

- Obtain local currency (Brazilian reais)—EAP recommends at least U.S. $50 worth. This can be obtained from a U.S. bank. Some banks require a week or two to order the foreign currency. It is possible to exchange money at the airport; however, exchange rates are not always favorable.

- Assign your Power of Attorney to someone you trust.

- Plan to take at least two international credit cards in your name (not a parent’s) and two ATM cards from your U.S. bank account since these can be lost, stolen, or damaged.

- Take an ATM card linked to your checking account rather than your savings account. Students have had trouble accessing their savings accounts from abroad.

- Sign up for online banking if possible. This allows you to easily transfer money between accounts, monitor bank fees and account balances, pay bills while abroad, etc.

- Make sure you sign the back of all ATM and credit cards.

- Write down contact numbers you can call to report lost or stolen credit or ATM cards and to obtain replacements.

- Obtain international PINs (four-digit, numerical only, that do not start with 0) for your credit and ATM cards if you do not have them already.

**Communicate with Your Bank and Creditors About:**

- Your study abroad and travel plans. This will prevent them from questioning unusual activity.

- How to contact them from abroad if necessary.

- Whether or not your ATM card has international access and participates in one of the larger ATM networks. An ATM card that works with multiple networks is preferable.

- Daily withdrawal limits and information on any fees your bank may charge for using an international ATM. The ATMs in Brazil may also charge a small usage fee.

- Online banking fees and transfer limits.

- Fees that apply for cash advances. If you plan to use your credit card for cash advances, confirm that the card will be accepted by Brazilian banks and ATMs.

- Any other necessary arrangements that need to be made before you leave (e.g., some banks will ask you to authorize your cards for use abroad).
While in Brazil

- Plan on using a combination of methods to handle money in case one does not work (e.g., a local ATM is temporarily out of service). Do not rely solely on one form of funds.
- You will have to cover the costs of daily transportation, books and school supplies, and personal items, among others. Although these costs will vary depending on your situation, the “incidentals” estimate provided in the EAP Student Budget outlines expenses you can expect.
- In order to register with the Federal Police in Brazil, you will have to pay a fee of around 200 reais.
- Do not have checks (financial aid, money from family, etc.) sent to you in Brazil. It is not possible to cash U.S. checks at Brazilian banks since you cannot legally open a bank account. EAP returnees recommend that financial aid or support funds be sent to a trusted friend or relative who will deposit the funds into your U.S. bank account. You can then withdraw these funds (in reais) from an ATM. Direct deposit (electronic funds transfer, or EFT) of financial aid monies is the best option. Make sure you submit this form on time and contact UCEAP Student Finance with any questions before you leave the U.S.

ATM Card

Using an ATM card is by far the easiest way to access your money abroad, and the exchange rate is the most favorable.

Not all ATMs accept international ATM cards. The ones that will are marked to show that they accept Visa, MasterCard, Cirrus, Star, etc. Some ATMs will work with one network, but not with another.

The only ATM card function that will work is cash withdrawal, and many ATMs have low limits on the amount of cash that can be withdrawn. Banco do Brasil, Citibank, and HSBC will accept most international ATM cards with the least difficulty and allow transactions for the largest amounts.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are useful for emergencies, travel expenses, and everyday purchases. Most stores and restaurants in Brazil honor major credit cards.

You may obtain a cash advance with your credit card from a bank offering this service, though this can be an expensive way to access cash. Your PIN is not usually required if the transaction is conducted inside the bank, but you must show your passport.

Visa/MasterCard

Visa and MasterCard are equally accepted in Brazil. All Banco do Brasil branches accept Visa. Most small towns have a branch of the Banco do Brasil; larger towns have a branch nearly every mile or so. Citibank is also reliable for cash advances on U.S. credit cards. Visa can be used for purchases and cash advances in nearly every country in Latin America. You can also use MasterCard for cash advances, but it is difficult to find a bank that will accept it.

American Express

American Express (AmEx) offers a number of services to its cardholders abroad, but many of these services are only available through an AmEx office. AmEx cards can be set up to work as ATM cards. Check with AmEx before departure for details.
Travelers Checks

Travelers checks are almost obsolete and cannot be used to make purchases. You are better off relying on cash, an ATM card, and credit cards. However, travelers checks can be useful in an emergency or as an alternate source of funds if you lose your wallet or if your ATM card does not work.

Purchase the checks in U.S. dollars before you depart. Be sure to make two copies of the check numbers, and give one copy to a family member or friend before you leave home. Keep the other copy for yourself, separate from the actual checks. If your checks are lost or stolen, you will need these numbers and corresponding receipts to obtain replacements.

Travelers checks must be exchanged for local currency at a Brazilian bank or travel agency. Some banks insist on changing a minimum of $300 to $500 and the process can be difficult. Banks and money exchange houses offer a lower exchange rate when cashing U.S. travelers checks for Brazilian reais.
COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

Mail

Mail to and from the U.S. takes a week to ten days (and can take longer). Letters from the U.S. are sometimes lost. There is one Brazilian stamp for international airmail. Do not try to use U.S. airmail stamps. When mailing something important, it is best to take it to the central post office and make sure to use a courier service that includes tracking.

Mail may be sent to you via ACBEU at the following address:

[Student’s Name]
Associação Cultural Brasil-Estados Unidos (ACBEU)
Av. Sete de Setembro, 1883
Corredor da Vitória
40080-002 Salvador, Bahia
BRAZIL

EAP discourages parents and family members from shipping items to you while you are abroad. Basic items such as new clothing or shoes can be seen as high-value items in Brazil, and may incur customs fees and taxes far greater than the actual value of the item. Electronic goods are even more prone to customs scrutiny. Packages sent by FedEx tend to attract more attention from customs officials than do those sent by Express Mail (Global Express from USPS).

As a general rule, you will have to pay any customs fees before collecting the item from the post office. The longer you wait to pick up the item, the more the fees will accumulate. If for some reason someone pays these fees for you, it is your responsibility to reimburse them immediately. It is not your homestay family or school’s responsibility to pay the customs fees for you.

E-mail

You are required to provide a Web-based e-mail address (Yahoo!, Gmail, Hotmail, etc.) to the Program Director. If you do not have an account already, set one up before you leave the U.S. so you will be familiar with it by the time you arrive in Brazil. These accounts can be accessed from Salvador and from Internet cafés throughout the country if you are traveling.

Cell Phones

You are encouraged to buy a cell phone in Brazil and enroll in a prepaid (pre-pago) plan. Costs vary according to the models, but you can purchase a simple phone for as little as U.S. $75. There are about four or five companies from which to choose, including Vivo, Tim, Oi, and Claro. In Salvador, you can find dealers for all the companies at Shopping Barra, the mall closest to ACBEU. A phone plan can usually be initiated for less than $20 with a passport for identification. You can purchase prepaid cell phone cards, which you can replenish with minutes using a code. With a prepaid plan, you will not be charged for incoming calls. You will pay only for outgoing calls or calls received a cobrar, much like collect calls in the U.S. Minutes are not deducted for 0800 (toll-free) calls, even if they are used to make a calling-card international call.
International Calls

Skype
You can use an Internet-based service called Skype for long-distance calls. Family and friends in the U.S. can call you on a cell phone, at low rates, using Skype from their computers. In addition, you can Skype family and friends from Internet cafés or from your laptop using a wireless Internet connection. Computer-to-computer Skype calls are free. You will need a headset and/or a microphone.
Do not have your laptop mailed to you in Brazil.

**Calling Cards**
If you purchase a calling card, confirm the card you purchase will work for calls originating outside of the U.S. Some prepaid phone cards purchased in the U.S. do not work abroad. It is possible to purchase calling cards in Brazil that work for international calls (ask for a cartão embratel at a post office, airport, or newsstand). The rates are slightly higher than U.S. calling cards.

**Time difference**
Approximate time difference between Salvador and California:
- Mid-February through March: add 5 hours
- April through October: add 4 hours
- November through mid-February: add 6 hours (southern hemisphere summer on daylight saving time)

**Public Phones**
Public phones in Brazil are accessible and readily found on streets, in airports, and in malls. To make calls from a pay phone, you will need a Brazilian phone card (called a cartão telefônico), which may be purchased at most kiosks, newsstands, or the post office (correio).

**Phone Tips:**
- Use public phones mainly for local calls; they are not an economical or reliable way of making international calls.
- Since it is often more expensive to call the U.S. rather than the other way around, it is best to have parents or friends call Brazil at an arranged time.
- The number “six” in Portuguese is seis, but in most conversations and over the phone, the word meia is more commonly used. Meia means half, as in “half a dozen.”
- Many long-distance phone companies, including AT&T, Sprint, and MCI, provide services that allow you to call home from abroad. Some companies offer a toll-free access number that connects with an operator in the U.S. and the means to charge long-distance calls either to a credit card or to a third party. Investigate the possibilities before departure and shop around for the best services and rates.

**Homestay Phone Use**
Do not expect to use your host’s phone (even if you have a calling card or credit card). Be sure to discuss the use of the phone with your host upon arrival.

If you are allowed to use the phone, you will be billed for all phone usage.

Many hosts have phone plans that block long-distance calls (except toll-free 0800 calls) and outgoing calls once a relatively low limit of local calls has been reached within the monthly cycle. You will most likely need to use an outside pay phone to make any local calls.
Housing & Meals

You will not receive information about your Brazilian host prior to departure. You will meet your host at the required orientation in Salvador.

Where Will I Live?

You will be placed in an EAP-arranged homestay in Salvador. Placement is based largely on information included in the housing questionnaire, which you must complete before departure. You will find out about your placement once you arrive in Brazil, not before. Meeting your host is a part of the required orientation program.

ACBEU staff will make preliminary placements, but the family makes the final selection after reading the questionnaire and determining if your preferences coincide with their lifestyle. The pairing of family and student in Salvador is done carefully, but a perfect match is virtually impossible.

In this context the term “family” is used loosely; the household hosting you could be comprised of a traditional family, a single-parent family, or an older couple whose children no longer reside with them. Do not assume you will be placed in a two-parent household with small children.

In general, the homestays are all within two miles of ACBEU; your commute to class could be up to 30 minutes. Most students walk, but there are buses available for approximately 90 cents to U.S. $1.80 each way.

Homes and rooms in Brazil tend to be small with limited storage space, and amenities may not be what you are accustomed to in the U.S. The homestay offers a furnished single room (other students will not be placed in the same home), breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, and laundry. Towels and bedding will be provided, but you should bring your own toiletries.

The homestay fees are included in the EAP fees. You will not have to pay the family directly.

There is probably no better way to be immersed in Brazilian culture than to share everyday life with a Brazilian household. The homestay in Salvador is a mutually convenient social arrangement, a cultural experience, and a financial agreement between you and the host family. The home is intended to be more than just a place to stay. You are provided the opportunity to learn local customs firsthand, and your host family will come to know you personally. Ideally, you will become part of the household, but to do so requires time, patience, sensitivity, negotiation, and understanding.

One of the primary purposes of living in a Brazilian household is to improve your Portuguese language proficiency. Everyone is expected to speak Portuguese at all times. If a host family asks you to speak English, you may want to work out a reciprocal arrangement and occasionally speak in English to help your host family with the language, while remaining committed to your own acquisition of Portuguese.
A possible difficulty of living in a homestay is adjusting to your host’s rules. You may not have lived with your own family in a few years, and the rules of Brazilian family life sometimes differ from those in North American households. Some of these differences are fairly straightforward, even if they appear strict. Do not expect to have free reign in the home; stricter customs may remind you that you are a guest. Studying in the living room, for example, may be unacceptable or considered rude if your host wants to watch TV. Putting your feet on the furniture might be offensive.

Be aware that Brazilians are much more class-conscious than Californians; a host family might be uncomfortable with your choice of companions. You might feel awkward with the presence of servants in the household. Despite the situation, you need to be flexible. The responsibility to adapt is on you, not the host family.

**Important Questions to Ask Your Host**

There may be some unspoken conditions and responsibilities to a homestay involving everything from use of the kitchen to possible curfews. To avoid any confusion, communicate with your host family about the following:

- **Entering the home/keys:** Will you be issued keys to the house? Does the host expect you to be home at a certain time? Be aware of noise levels and be considerate as to your arrival times at night and in the early morning.

- **Bathroom:** What are your rights and responsibilities concerning the bathroom facilities? If possible, set up a schedule. Considerate water usage is recommended.

- **Meals:** What should you do if you know you will miss a meal? What should you do if you miss a meal unintentionally? Do you have access to the kitchen and the household food? Discuss your special dietary needs and the host’s scheduled meal times. If you are a vegetarian, plan to be flexible.

- **Bedroom:** Who is to clean the room? Make the bed? Change the linens?

- **Laundry:** Who is responsible for doing the laundry and what laundry will be done? In some situations the host will do all laundry except underwear. Ask how they would like you to give them your laundry.

- **Guests:** Are you allowed to have guests? Are you allowed to have overnight guests? What about parties and social gatherings at the home?

- **Phone:** Are you allowed to use the phone? How will you pay for the phone bills? If you use the Internet and it connects through a phone line, how will that impact the host’s needs and how will you arrange to pay for it?

Communicate immediately with the Program Director if any problem or misunderstanding arises between you and the host family. Air your concerns immediately to avoid having a small instance build up into a major concern. Something that upsets or even enrages you might be the result of a cultural misunderstanding that the Study Center can help explain.
**Meals**

The cost of the homestay includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. Most students choose to eat lunch at home; otherwise, lunch on or near the ACBEU campus will cost approximately $3 to $6.

Meal times in Brazil are generally the same as those in the U.S. Breakfast is served between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., lunch is the main meal of the day and is usually eaten between noon and 2 p.m., and dinner (similar size to lunch in the U.S.) is served from about 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Brazilian diet incorporates a variety of foods (meats, fish, poultry, grains, beans, vegetables, fruits, etc.). A typical meal might include beans and rice, salad, vegetables, and chicken or beef. Beans and rice are almost always served at lunch. Your host family will provide bottled or filtered drinking water.

When eating out, you will find grilled or roasted meats and fish, seafood and fish stews, and even pizza, hamburgers, and French fries.

**Vegetarians**

If you are a vegetarian, clearly note this on your EAP housing questionnaire. Be specific. Past vegetarians reported that their hosts were extremely accommodating to their needs when the family knew the student’s preferences in advance. Restaurants in Brazil may not be as accommodating to vegetarians.

**Food Precaution**

No doubt you will be eager to sample the local delicacies, but use common sense in choosing what to eat, especially if you buy food from street vendors. In some restaurants, it may be unwise to eat salads or uncooked vegetables, especially during the first few weeks of the program when your digestive system is getting used to the new local conditions and foods. Do not drink tap water. Many people filter their own water.
Extracurricular Activities

Get Involved

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while on EAP is an excellent way to meet people, improve your language skills, and integrate more fully into the community.

Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad.

Outside of the program, there is plenty to do and see in Salvador. The beaches are easily accessible and surfing is popular. The beaches are flanked by cafés and restaurants that stay open late into the warm evenings. There is a vibrant nightlife, with various kinds of music and dance available. Brazilian dance classes and capoeira lessons are popular with students, and theater, cinema, sports, and exercise opportunities are also available. ACBEU staff can assist with planning trips, purchasing tickets for events, etc.

While you are encouraged to make the most of your experience abroad, remember that this is an academic program. Unexcused absences from class can result in a lowered or failing grade. Do not plan to travel on class days or days that group events have been scheduled. There will be numerous opportunities on weekends and national holidays to travel without missing classes.

Community Service

Past students report that their most fulfilling experiences in Salvador came from their involvement in volunteer projects organized by the Study Center. Most of these opportunities are with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other local organizations that work to improve the situation of low-income residents.

Several of the guest speakers for the program are connected with social service organizations, and students who choose to volunteer their time for these or other service opportunities gain insights into Brazilian language and culture that would be difficult to obtain in other ways. Past students have tutored math or English in low-income communities in Salvador, taught art using recycled materials with an NGO, worked in an NGO that opposes sexual tourism and the exploitation of women, and volunteered in an orphanage. Projects vary each year. Your language level will affect your ability to participate in such activities. Details will be available only after arrival in Brazil.
**Health**

See the Housing & Meals chapter for health precautions regarding food.

**Local Medical Services**

Medical facilities in Salvador are equipped to handle most medical problems. The Study Center can provide you with a list of doctors and hospitals in the area. In an emergency, you can visit either the Portuguese or Spanish hospitals in Salvador (Hospital Portugês or Hospital Espanhol). Private medical service is administered on a cash or credit card basis, payable when services are rendered. Have sufficient funds available to make up-front medical payments if necessary.

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact the Program Director immediately. The Program Director can recommend a clinic to visit, provide the necessary medical insurance claim forms, and assist if arrangements need to be made with your professors due to an extended absence from class.

**Prescription Medications**

- If you have any preexisting medical conditions, carry a letter from your attending physician describing the medical condition, treatment, and prescription medications, including the generic names of the prescribed drugs. Transport any medications carried from the U.S. in their original containers and make sure that they are labeled clearly.

- Do not have medications shipped to Brazil; Brazilian customs authorities will not accept them. Plan to take enough prescription medication to last the length of your stay.

- If you cannot take enough medicine to last throughout the program, make an appointment with a physician in Brazil and use the letter from your U.S. physician (describing your treatment and indicating the generic name of the medications) to make an appointment with a local doctor who may be able to prescribe the same, or similar, medication.

- The UCEAP assistance provider, Europ Assistance, can provide information about whether a specific prescription medication is legal and available in Brazil. Call them before your trip (1-866-451-7606) with the name of the medicine.

**Psychological Health**

Students who are experiencing difficulties in the U.S. (relationship, emotional, substance abuse, etc.) sometimes feel that a change of environment will help them to move past the current problem. However, living and studying in another country can be stressful and may compound or exacerbate existing conditions. Emotional distress can have an impact on academic progress, personal relationships, and a successful UCEAP experience. It is important to be able to recognize triggers and signs of emotional distress and act immediately to get help. Know the warning signs, learn some techniques and skills to manage stress, and reach out for help.

**Insurance**

The required UCEAP Insurance Plan is included in your EAP fees. Details about the plan are available in the UCEAP Insurance Plan brochure.
SAFETY

Your Role in Safety Preparedness

Many students and their families have concerns about safety and security abroad. Study abroad, like most other things in life, involves risks. UCEAP expects you to exercise personal responsibility, demonstrate extreme situational awareness of the world around you, and adjust your behavior so you can improve your safety and welfare.

Keep in mind the following about UCEAP and how that affects your role in safety preparedness:

- UCEAP cannot guarantee the safety of participants or ensure that risk will not at times be significantly greater than on a UC campus.
- UCEAP cannot monitor the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of individual participants any more than is the case on the UC campus.
- UCEAP makes reasonable efforts to establish a safe environment abroad and to counsel students on potential risks and necessary precautions.

The decisions you make before and during your program, and your daily choices and behaviors while on UCEAP will have a major impact on your personal health and safety.

Pay careful attention to the following information regarding safety in Salvador. Flexibility and an informed perspective will be critical to help you adapt to your new environment. An understanding of the social reality and close attention to your surroundings may help you to avoid potential problems.

With a population of about 3 million people, Salvador presents the unavoidable aspects of urban living: increased crime, pollution, sexual harassment, social disparities, and standards of living that are not comparable to life at UC. While dealing with these differences and adjusting, you may experience tension and disappointment, but do not let that discourage you from studying abroad.

Crime

Crime is the primary security threat for persons residing in or traveling to Brazil. A discussion on personal safety will take place during the on-site orientation.

To help minimize your risks, follow all recommendations from the Program Director and staff about behaving appropriately, exercising sound judgment, and abiding by UCEAP policies and procedures.

Even though UCEAP devotes significant resources to help you minimize safety risks during on-site orientation, and with on-site support, there are many variables beyond UCEAP’s control that may impact your welfare; it is not possible to eliminate all the risks.

Street crime remains a problem for visitors and local residents alike, especially at night. Foreign tourists are often targets of crime and U.S. citizens are not exempt. Armed street robberies occasionally occur, even in the commonly visited areas of Barra and Pelourinho. Thieves regularly steal cell phones, electronic devices, and money. This can happen to anyone, at any time, and anywhere. If you are confronted by a thief, comply and do not resist. While this is a personal decision, statistics show that resistance will likely lead to injury. While it is in the thieves’ best interests not to hurt their victim, they have been known to do so to those who do not cooperate.
**EAP STUDENTS SAY...**

Be aware of your surroundings to avoid being a victim of a pickpocket. It’s inevitable for you to stand out in a foreign country, so always wear a purse that goes over your shoulder and lays on your stomach so you can hold down the zipper/button.

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**How to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Crime**

- Do not travel with valuables such as jewelry, etc., and never carry large amounts of cash.
- Use the buddy system; go in groups. Walking alone anywhere, especially in remote areas, is not advised. Should you feel in any way at risk, proceed to a public location (e.g., police station, shopping center, store, bank, service station) where help is available.
- Stay alert to what is happening around you and be aware of your personal safety at all times.
- Practice good safety precautions and avoid putting yourself in an uncomfortable or unsafe situation.
- Take special care with your purse, wallet, and backpack in all public places, such as marketplaces and discotecas.
- Wear a flat money belt that fits underneath your clothes. Use this to keep your money, credit card, etc. Backpacks are common targets for pickpockets.
- If you choose to carry a bag, also carry a small amount of money in your pocket or money belt. This way, if your bag is stolen, you still will have some money to get home or make a phone call.
- When in bars and clubs, never drink excessively and do not leave your drinks out of sight.
- Do not walk on the beaches, dark alleys and streets, or in parks after dark. Assaults are common in these areas.
- Do not carry your passport with you in Brazil; leave it at your homestay in a safe place.
- Make a photocopy of your passport pages containing the passport number, name, photograph, location issued, and expiration date. In addition, make copies of important records, such as travelers check numbers and credit card numbers. Keep these copies with your belongings and leave one copy in the U.S. If you lose your passport, immediately report this to the local U.S. embassy or consulate.

**Police Response**

Police forces in Brazil are typically underfunded and poorly trained. To combat this trend, new units under the command and control structure of the military police have received special training, including human rights courses. This represents for Brazil a significant step towards community and preventative policing efforts. In Salvador, in addition to the military and civil police, there is a tourist police force (DELTUR) with English-speaking officers.

While the ability of Brazilian police to help recover stolen property is limited, we strongly advise you to obtain a boletim de ocorrencia (police report) at a delegacia (police station) whenever any possessions are lost or stolen. This will facilitate your exit from Brazil and assist with insurance claims.
Illegal Activity and Criminal Penalties

- Alcohol or drug abuse will not be tolerated. Putting at risk oneself, fellow students, or the reputation of the program are causes for dismissal from UCEAP.

Penalties for possession or sale of illegal drugs in Brazil is punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Judges may also impose fines at their discretion; your U.S. citizenship will not minimize the impact or enforcement of Brazilian law.

Breaking local laws and ordinances are grounds for dismissal from the program (refer to the EAP Student Conduct and Discipline Policy). If you are inclined to use illegal drugs or engage in other illicit activity, unpack your bags and stay home.

Road and Transportation Safety
Take security precautions when using public transportation in Brazil. Criminal activity plagues the public transportation systems of major cities in Brazil. Taxis are a reasonably secure means of transport in most urban areas. It is safer to use radio-dispatched taxis.

Resources
Before departure, sign up online for the U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to obtain updated information on local travel and security. You will need your U.S. passport. If you do not register online before departure, you can register with the American Consular Agency when you arrive in Salvador. The Program Director is a member of the U.S. Embassy’s Warden’s Network to receive safety information.

Visit the U.S. Department of State website for travel information and publications.

Carry the local emergency contact information at all times. If you have a health or safety emergency and do not have access to local or Study Center emergency contact information, call the EAP 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762.
Emergency Contacts

What Constitutes an Emergency?
Emergencies are circumstances out of the ordinary, unplanned, or unexpected, which threaten the health, safety, and well-being of you and/or your fellow students. The following are considered true emergencies:

- Any situation that places a student or students at risk, including illness or harm, or other traumatic incidents that require immediate response
- A student who has been arrested
- Civil unrest or a natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency
Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.
- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact the Operations Specialist at the EAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad and need immediate local emergency assistance:

- Ambulance ......................... 192
- Fire Department ...................... 193
- Federal Police ....................... 3204-1697
- Military Police ....................... 190
- Tourist Police ....................... 3116-9817/6512

If necessary, call the 24-hour emergency number of the U.S. Embassy in Brazil: (0-71-61) 3312-7400 or the emergency number of the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro: (0-71-21) 3823-2029.

There is also a Consular Agency in Salvador, but it is open on a limited schedule:

Consular Agency, Salvador
Av. Tancredo Neves, 1632
Sala 1401-Salvador Trade Center-Torre Sul
Caminho das Árvores
41820-020 Salvador, BA

Phone: (55-71) 3113-2090/2091/2092
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
E-mail: amcon99@terra.com.br