

Brazilian Higher Education Cheat Sheet

Educational Path:

Early Childhood Education	Educação Infantil	Pre-school	<i>Pré-escola</i>	Ages 3-4
		Kindergarten	<i>Jardim de Infância</i>	Age 5
Basic Education	Educação Básica	Elementary School	<i>Ensino Básico</i>	Ages 6-14, Grades 1-9
		High School	<i>Ensino Médio</i>	Ages 15-17, Grades 10-12, must take Vestibular or ENEM during this time
Higher Education	Educação/ Ensino Superior	Undergraduate	<i>Graduação</i>	Students apply to and are accepted to their major specifically, not just to the university as a whole
		Graduate	<i>Pós-graduação</i>	Masters or Doctoral work
		Extension	<i>Pós-doutoral</i>	Similar to post-doctoral work here

Educational Terms in Portuguese

Bacharelado- a bachelor's degree;

versus *licenciatura*- a bachelor's degree that also certifies the recipient to teach in the field at the elementary and high school level; college/ university professors need a master's or Ph.D degree

Bolsa- a university grant or scholarship

Bolsista- a student who receives financial support from the university to help with permanence (transportation, room and board, etc)

Colégio – a high school, not a college. Private high schools, with high tuitions, are often considered better than their public counterparts

Cota- Though individual universities, starting with the State University of Rio de Janeiro in 2003, have developed their own quotas systems for admission, Law 12.711 (the “Law of Social Quotas”) adopted in 2012 under President Dilma, requires the federal higher level public educational institutions and federal technical and vocational high schools to reserve at least half of their seats for applicants from public high schools. Half of these reserved seats are reserved for students whose families make less than the equivalent of one and a half of the minimum monthly wage. Within both income levels, enrollment must proportionally represent state level demographics for students who self-identify as Black, mixed race, or indigenous.

Curso – a student's major, not a class taken. Includes fields like law and medicine.

Ensino Superior – “higher education,” undergraduate, graduate (master's and PhD), and extended graduate work (post-doc)

Entrada/Trancamento/Saída/Retorno de Matrícula – *Entrada de Matrícula* refers to the student beginning

coursework in a particular major at a university; *Trancamento* is a temporary suspension of the student's coursework at a university, without the student losing their seat in the university; *Saída* refers to the student stopping their coursework, either indefinitely via *evasão*, or temporarily via *trancamento*; *Retorno* refers to the student returning to their coursework after a *trancamento* *5

Evasão Superior – withdrawing from or dropping out of a college/university program

Faculdade – an institution of higher education that does not include graduate level programs, a college

Pre-vestibular/ Pre-ENEM- college entrance exam prep course. Can be administered by public and private civil society organizations and/or the local and state governments

Universidade Federal– “Federal College/University,” a public college or university funded by the federal government, tuition-free, seen as more prestigious than private colleges and universities

Universidade Estadual– “State College/University,” a public college or university funded by the state government, tuition-free, seen as more prestigious than private colleges and universities

Universidade Privada/Particular– “Private College/University,” typically a for-profit college or university, though can be a non-profit with a religious affiliation such as Catholic universities, seen as less prestigious than public state and federal universities

Vaga- an open seat available for new students in a specific major at a college or university, which applying students must compete for. Ex. If there are 50 *vagas* available for a certain major and 500 students apply to that major, there are 10 students competing for one *vaga*

Vestibular – entrance exam for acceptance into a specific college or university; as if Duke created its own entrance exam to determine eligibility for acceptance into each major as an alternative for students to the SAT or ACT; not all universities have their own independent entrance exam, since 2009 all federal and some state and private universities use the standardized ENEM *2

Education Acronyms

CAPES- Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior, “Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel,” a Foundation with the Brazilian Ministry of Education that provides grants and training support to doctoral candidates, pre-doctoral short term researchers, and post-doctoral scholars. *12

EAD – Ensino à Distância, Distance learning, university work done online

EJA – Educação de Jovens e Adultos, basic education, similar to a GED, meant for older students who are older who dropped out for a time or started school late so they can gain high school equivalency *11

ENEM – *Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio*, the “National High School Exam,” first developed in 1998 under the Cardoso administration as a national standardized high school completion assessment exam to improve education policy at the higher school level, the Lula Administration converted the ENEM in 2009 to a national standardized college entrance exam, similar to our SAT or ACT. It has since replaced the individual *vestibular* for entrance into all federal and some state level private universities.*2

ENADE – *Exame Nacional de Desempenho dos Estudantes*, the “National Exam for Student Performance,” an exam taken by students in their first and last years of their undergraduate education; the results of this exam are recorded on their student record, and the results of all students are collected as data and meant to determine the quality of education in each undergraduate program in the country; data may also serve to demonstrate improvements in quality of education; all undergraduate programs in Brazil must participate in this exam, according to law N° 10.861/2004. *1

IES – *Instituições de Ensino Superior*, “Institutions of Higher Education,” any institution, public or private, providing a college/university education

IFES – *Instituição Federal de Ensino Superior*, a federal college or university

IM – *Instituto Multidisciplinar*, the Multidisciplinary Institute, a satellite campus of UFRRJ located in Nova Iguaçu established in 2006.

UFRRJ – *Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro*, the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro. Founded in 1910 as an agricultural university for students from throughout Brazil, akin to land grant universities in the US. The main campus is located in Seropédica, a municipality that historically was not considered part of the Baixada, but has since been incorporated into the region due to increased urbanization.

Political Terms and Acronyms

ANDES – *Sindicato Nacional dos Docentes das Instituições de Ensino Superior*, a national union based in Brasilia, which represents teachers and professors employed by federal institutions of higher education, basic education, and technical/technological education *6

Baixada Fluminense – also called the Baixada; an area of 13 municipalities outside of the city of Rio de Janeiro that is historically poorer and less developed than the city proper. See Appendix A. *4

FIES – *Fundo de Financiamento Estudantil*, provides loans to students attending private universities; a loan agreement where Brazil’s banks pay tuition fees for certain students, on the expectation that the student will pay back the loan

MEC – *Ministério da Educação*, “Ministry of Education,” comparable to the United States’ Department

of Education

Nova Iguaçu- a municipality in the Baixada Fluminense. Many other municipalities in the region originally formed part of the colonial territorial unit Vila de Iguaçu

PEC 55 – approved on December 13, 2016; *Proposta de Emenda à Constituição 55*, Proposal for Amendment to the Constitution 55, an act which effectively “[froze] social spending by fixing budgetary increases to social-assistance programs to inflation, rather than to GDP, for the next 20 years, severely impacting public health and education” (Long, 2016)

PNE – *Plano Nacional de Educação*, the “National Education Plan” in Brazil under the Ministry of Education, renewed every ten years, meant to delineate the goals for the quality and style of education in the country, and strategies for educational policy which will be implemented to meet those goals *7

PROUNI – *Programa Universidade para Todos*, created in 2004 by the Ministry of Education, provides full and partial scholarships to students enrolled in private IES *8

PT – *Partido dos Trabalhadores*; born from opposition to the coup d’etat of 1964 and the following military dictatorship; a left-wing party launched in 1980; governed Brazil from 2003 until August 2016, when it was ousted by the current president, Michel Temer, who is seen by supporters of the PT as an illegitimate president; a supporter of the PT is referred to as a “*petista*.”

ONG – *Organização Não-Governamental*, Non-Governmental Organization, NGO, an organization not funded by nor run by the government

REUNI – *Programa de Reestruturação e Expansão das Universidades Federais*, created in 2007 by the Ministry of Education, implements measures meant to expand access to and increase retention within higher education. This included increasing seats available in IES’s, an increase in programs scheduled in the evening, changes in pedagogy aimed at reducing withdrawal, and the foundation of 14 new universities country-wide *9

UNE – *União Nacional dos Estudantes*, active for over 70 years, a union for college and university students to organize around and fight for common desires and rights in higher education. *10

References

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12. <http://www.iie.org/Programs/CAPES#.WNPIODvyu00>

Appendix A.

