



## Study in Brazil

Interview with Renée Zicman, the Executive Director of the Brazilian Association for International Education (FAUBAI)

By: Khalid ALKhalailah



Brazil welcomes students abroad through university programs and government exchange initiatives. (PC: Goodfon).

Brazil, an oasis with sandy beaches, the Amazon rainforest, vibrant music, dance and delicious cuisine, is also emerging as a top destination for international students seeking an intimate university experience.

Renée Zicman, Executive Director of the Brazilian Association for International Education (FAUBAI), spoke proudly about the 240 higher education institutions in Brazil.

“This association was created in 1988 ... and brings together all sorts of higher education institutions,” she said. “What this means is we have the very best, research-oriented Brazilian universities.”

About 10 per cent of higher Brazilian education institutes are universities, according to Zicman, with most institutions being smaller colleges that serve the local communities. Research and international programs are primarily targeted in the public universities.

“We have a lot of demand for higher education in the country, and therefore we have a huge number of higher education systems partaking in international activities,” Zicman said.

Although Zicman is unsure of the number of international students currently in Brazil, she estimates about 30,000, and is hoping that through government initiatives, more students abroad will come and study in Brazil.



From dancing, live music and beautiful scenery, students are encouraged to appreciate the beauty of this country.  
(PC: Kyle Goldsmith)

While Brazil is not a major destination for international students, Zicman emphasized that they welcome students through university programs and government exchange initiatives. She also said that Brazil does not view internationalization as a revenue-driven opportunity, but rather a chance for cooperation and exchange.

The focus is to build partnerships and relationships with other countries like Germany and France, instead of attracting students for monetary gain, she said.

“We have very important scholarships from the Brazilian government, bringing students especially from Africa and Latin America,” she said in response to what the government is doing to bring people to Brazil.



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