



## **Degree Programmes**

This study placement is available for Aston Business Students

Number of places: 2

## **Application Process**

To apply for this opportunity, please email your **CV** and **motivation letter** to [internationalplacements@aston.ac.uk](mailto:internationalplacements@aston.ac.uk) **Deadlines are published on [Aston Futures](#).**

Students can apply for up to three universities; please specify your order of preference in your motivation letter. You only need to send one motivation letter for your three university choices, and there is a template available on Blackboard in the overseas folder. Please include your full name and degree on your application email. Don't worry about contacting the partner university directly, as all the applications are processed by Aston's International Placements Team.

## **The University**

**University of São Paulo**

**Faculdade de Economia, Administração e Contabilidade (FEA)**

**(School of Economics Business and Accountancy)**

**Av. Prof. Luciano Gualberto, 908 –FEA 1 – D105-05508 010**

**São Paulo, Brazil**

[Website in English](#)

[FEA Website in Portuguese](#)

**The University of São Paulo (USP)** consists of 18 Schools spread over a number of campuses. The Faculdade de Economia, Administração e Contabilidade (FEA) is located in a suburb of São Paulo. USP was founded in 1934 and is the largest and most important higher education institution in Brazil and the third largest in Latin America. It is a public, autonomous university, founded by the State of São Paulo. The FEA was created in 1946 and has about 4,000 students.

[What it is like to study at USP](#)

**Student comment:**

“The study exchange program at the University of Sao Paulo is very popular with around 60 students from Europe taking part each semester, plus several from Columbia and other South American countries. It is a great opportunity to meet people from an unbelievable wide array of cultures. Furthermore, Europeans are a minority at the university and in the city of Sao Paulo, therefore making you more appealing and interesting to people from other backgrounds.

Sao Paulo is perfectly located in South America to study for a year. The city is situated on the Tropic of Capricorn, making it warm for most of the year, yet not as unbearably humid as the equator. In terms of travel we have Buenos Aires in Argentina and Uruguay's capital city Montevideo only a short plane ride away. Rio de Janeiro is accessible in 5 hours in a luxury coach for less than £20 or by plane in around one hour. Other cities are also near enough to Sao Paulo to make weekend trips there feasible. For example, Florianopolis in the south, and Brasilia, Brazil's super-modern administrative capital located in the interior.

When studying at the university, it is surprising how helpful other students are. Whether you have trouble understanding the material, or the language barrier is becoming too much, local students will always be willing to help out. Despite USP being such a huge university, it also has a close-knit community feel. The university holds parties every weekend with a different faculty or department hosting each one. This brings people

together in outside classes, and is a good way to meet new people in a less formal environment. Teachers are also very helpful at USP, for example if you need extra material in English, they will be more than willing to point you in the right direction.

'Clube Internacional' or International Club is a team of 6 people who spend time introducing all exchange students at USP-FEA into Brazilian life and culture, as well as bringing the foreign students together. They arrange the first meeting of students as a meal, and then nights out, day trips, museum visits and parties. This group, main up of Brazilians who have finished or almost completed their studies, also help with other things such as finding accommodation, registering as a foreigner or anything where good language skill are required as between them they speak English, French, Spanish and of course, Portuguese.

Spring break is a week's holiday at the start of September where students have the opportunity to do what they choose for 9 days, with an obvious choice being to travel. This is something we do not have in Great Britain, mainly because the semester terms are much longer in Brazil. Example of what people do in this week include, Flying to Buenos Aires and spending the week in the Argentinean capital. This city is much cheaper than Sao Paulo and has a much more European culture. Another option, cheaper but just as much fun is to take buses up the east coast of Brazil and visit cities like Rio, Salvador, Recife and Fortaleza. There is a lot of colonial history about these cities and the North-East of Brazil has some of the most appealing beaches in the world. Other options include staying in Rio and visiting Copacabana every day for a week or the ecosystems of The Pantanal. It may also be possible to visit the Amazon rainforest during this week. The benefits of having such a large group of international students is the different options it creates, not only when traveling, but within day-to-day activities in Sao Paulo.

I have tried to make Brazil sound appealing, which is not hard and I think I could write much more. I have written it more as a guide than from a first person view. That is why I didn't include much about my trip to the Amazon, which is what I did for spring break. I could write a small passage in first person if you would like me to. I think I can write about my experiences without overlapping any of what I have already written. I was lucky that a group of people already wanted to go to the Amazon, so when they invited me I thought, why not. Although we didn't actually enter the thick of the rainforest jungle,

we did see some amazing things, as well as experience the difference of cultures between the north and south of Brazil, which is completely different. There are other benefits I haven't mentioned such as networking with other Europeans and making friends for life. I have already been invited to Italy, France, Holland, Columbia and back to Brazil for holiday next year. Also, being the only British person seemed scary at first, but now I'm sure it is better. There are about 23 French people so it's not special to be French. Some people just call me 'English' which is strangely refreshing"

## **Location**

**Time difference: GMT – 3 hours**

**São Paulo** is the largest city in Brazil, with a population of 18 million, and is the industrial and financial center of Brazil. It is located in the Brazilian mountains about 100 km from the sea and about 450 km from Rio de Janeiro.



## **Academic Year**

### **Semester dates**

Winter (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) semester:	August – December
Summer (1 <sup>st</sup> ) semester:	February – June
Orientation week:	last week in July

### [Academic Calendar](#)

### [Courses Available](#)

Aston students will normally study for two semesters at São Paulo, and will follow modules in English and Portuguese from the undergraduate programme of the FEA. They can take modules from any department within the Faculty (Business, Economics, Accountancy and Actuarial Sciences or International Relations). There is the opportunity to take a Portuguese for Foreigners course. This is an extra-curricular course, for which a small fee is charged, but credits can be awarded for it.

For further information on courses offered, please [see](#).

Exchange students attending the FEA Undergraduate Programme can write tests and reports in English or Spanish. Several courses use English bibliographies.

## **Workload**

Up to 14 local credits from modules taught in English and Portuguese. Portuguese language can count for up to 8 of these.

## **Possibility of Internship**

Exchange students are allowed, if they are interested, to take an internship during the exchange period. There's no specific application procedure or a specific period for this – students have to look for the internship by themselves if they wish so. But that's only possible while they are enrolled in FEA courses (during the period of classes only – not before or after). They can take classes in the morning and the internship in the afternoon, for instance – like many local students do. And exchange students cannot change their list of courses in case they find an internship in the middle of the semester. In accordance to Brazilian laws, internship for students should last 4 to 6 hours daily.

## **Living in Brazil**

- **Accommodation**

On campus accommodation is not available, but the International Office will assist in finding temporary accommodation for the first few days.

- **Cost of Living approximate**

<b>Per Month in R\$ (Reais)</b>	<b>£1~R\$3.69 (09/14)</b>
Accommodation	R\$750.00
Food	R\$300.00
Local transport	R\$100.00
Study materials	R\$50.00
Other personal expenses	R\$150.00

## Next steps if you are successful

1. You will be invited for a face-to-face or phone interview with the Placements Team
2. You will be nominated by us to the partner university
3. Then you will need to apply directly to São Paulo, using the application form that can be downloaded from the website. You will need to send with it:
  - Two photographs
  - A copy of your academic transcript
  - An up to date CV
  - A photocopy of the main page of your passport
  - A financial statement guaranteeing that you (or your sponsor) can provide you with sufficient funds for the year
4. Once you have received an acceptance letter from São Paulo, you will need to apply for a student visa to your local Brazilian Embassy or Consulate. Please note that there will be an arrangement fee for this. After receiving your visa you must enter Brazil within 90 days.
5. Read the Study Plan (available on Blackboard from June)
6. Complete a Learning Agreement once your modules have been approved by your Placement Tutor

## Visa

Once you are in Brazil you will need to apply for a Foreign ID (RNE – Registro Nacional de Estrangeiro). As well as your visa, you will require certified copies of your passport and two color photographs. There is a fee for arranging this. The RNE is required in order to open a bank account.

Please ensure that you have an up to date passport before applying to study in Brazil.

Check the website for the [Brazilian Embassy](#) in London for more information.

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[www.aston.ac.uk/careers](http://www.aston.ac.uk/careers)

