

## **Postgraduate studies in Brazil**

**The Program for Partner Graduate Students** (PEC-PG, in the Portuguese acronym) is a government cooperation program that offers vacancies for foreigners in postgraduate courses free of charge. The admitted students also receive financial aid to assist in daily expenses. The student selection process for masters and PhD studies in Brazil is carried out by the Ministry of Education through the analysis of adequacy of the application with the program's formal requirements as well as the quality and merit review of the candidate's project. The 3 main requirements are: an acceptance letter of the university the applicant wants to attend, the submission of a research project or study plan and the Certificate of Proficiency in the Portuguese Language (CELPE-BRAS) at any level.

The National Postgraduate System in Brazil involves the offer of masters and doctorates in higher education institutions in all regions of the country. All postgraduate programs in Brazil are evaluated every four years by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Post-graduate Education (CAPES), in partnership with the academic and scientific community. This guarantees: the training of teachers and lecturers for all levels of the education system; training of highly qualified human resources for the non-academic market; strengthening of the scientific, technological and innovation (S,T&I) bases of the country; production of knowledge attuned to the advances in S,T&I; all associated with internationalization of higher education and research.

Those that receive a score of 6 or 7 are considered of excellent quality at both national and international level. In practice, this means scientific production with strong insertion in the upper strata of scientific journals (status granted to publications acknowledged for their excellence by the scientific community), national and international awards, exchange of researchers and professors between leading institutions in their areas of knowledge, internationalization of their research projects, faculty with a high level of education and experience, a structure designed to meet research demands, including international standard infrastructure and a high degree of social insertion. **There are 3678 postgraduate programs** (Masters and Doctorate) in Brazil of which 416 received maximum scores.

**Nature's journal worldwide ranking of scientific production shows Brazil in 23th position, as publicized on the link** <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-worlds-best-countries-science/>.

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