Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs on Cooperation with Brazilian Universities

What is the target group for these FAQs?
- **VU researchers** with an interest in developing and strengthening their research cooperation with institutions in Brazil and with a focus on PhD research and degrees. Presently, about 30 VU-researchers cooperate with Brazilian counterparts in 25+ different institutions.
- **Brazilian researchers** who want to develop research cooperation with VU researchers.
- **VU students** who want to go on exchange programs are recommended to contact the VU International Office at [http://www.vu.nl/en/programmes/exchange/index.asp](http://www.vu.nl/en/programmes/exchange/index.asp); the VU Exchange World map at [http://exchangepartners.vu.nl/#/](http://exchangepartners.vu.nl/#/); or the International Office.[1](#)
- **Brazilian students** should contact the International Relations office at their own universities in Brazil.

What type of questions are addressed?
We address FAQs related to the VU academic cooperation with Brazil, such as on the Centro Paulo Freire, possibilities for funding, degrees, student exchange, contacts in Brazil and the Netherlands, and PhD programs. Please share with us possible FAQs you would like to see addressed.

What is the Centro Paulo Freire?
The Centro Paulo Freire (CPF) was established in 2014. The Centro is named after the famous Brazilian educator and philosopher Paulo Freire (1921-1997). His Pedagogy of the oppressed (1968) is considered as one of the foundational texts of the critical pedagogy movement. His name still inspires people to improve education and to aim for a better world. The Centro is a VU-wide extension of the Paulo Freire Programme of the Faculty of Social Sciences (= 2005 – 2012). The CPF facilitates activities on teaching, research, student exchange and broader academic cooperation between Brazilian universities and the VU. The VU has signed institution-wide cooperation agreements with a number of leading Brazilian universities. These agreements facilitate the development of joint research, joint PhDs, and student exchange. See also: [http://www.vu.nl/en/about-vu-amsterdam/faculties-and-institutes/cpf/index.asp](http://www.vu.nl/en/about-vu-amsterdam/faculties-and-institutes/cpf/index.asp).
The CPF organizes the Centro Paulo Freire Seminar series at the VU, with lectures and other activities with and for students, scholars and other interested people on the academic community.

Who are contact persons for the Centro Paulo Freire?
The VU contact persons are Marjo de Theije (FSW) at marjo.de.theije@vu.nl and Marinus Kool (international Office) at m.kool@vu.nl. You are invited to contact them for any question you might have.

**With which Brazilian partners do exist agreements?**
The VU has signed *institution-wide* cooperation agreements with:
- Federal University Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre
- Federal University Minas Gerais (UFMG) in Belo Horizonte
- Federal University Pernambuco (UFPE) in Recife
- University of the State Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) in Rio de Janeiro
- University of the State of São Paulo (UNESP) in São Paulo
- University of São Paulo (USP) in São Paulo

These agreements include also university-wide student exchange contracts for exchange at Bachelor level implying a mutual waiver of tuition fees.

**Faculty agreements:** some faculties and researchers will have ‘individual’ agreements with Brazilian counterparts. The CPF does not dispose of a comprehensive list of such agreements. Interested VU staff are suggested to contact their own faculty office.

**What kind of financial support is available?**

*For students:*
- VU Fellowship Fund (VUFP) for Master students from Brazil
- Science without Borders (for Brazilians) – see below

*For PhD and post-doc-research:*
- **CAPES – NUFFIC**: See [https://www.nuffic.nl/en/education-promotion/institutional-cooperation/sources-of-funding/nuffic-and-capes-calls-for-proposals](https://www.nuffic.nl/en/education-promotion/institutional-cooperation/sources-of-funding/nuffic-and-capes-calls-for-proposals). This program offers possibilities for all academic areas. Currently closed (mid 2015) but is likely to re-open later on. The VU Faculty of Social Sciences (Anthropology) and the faculty of Arts (prof. Leo Wetzels) have been successful in tapping into these funds.

- **Science without Borders (SwB; Ciências sem Fronteiras)** at [http://www.swbholland.org/en/](http://www.swbholland.org/en/) Clicth through to PhD and Postdoc. SwB is presently in transition to a new phase 2015 – 2019. See also the Brazil website: [http://www.cienciasemfronteiras.gov.br/web/csf-eng/faq](http://www.cienciasemfronteiras.gov.br/web/csf-eng/faq) Several VU researchers have been successful in attracting SwB PhD fellowships in different modalities: full-time; sandwich. They are happy to share successful applications. Contact us for details.

- **FAPESP**: Federal State of São Paulo. [http://www.fapesp.br/en/](http://www.fapesp.br/en/) This is the São Paulo State Research Fund which funds research in a variety of areas. The partner in Brazil needs to be from the State of São Paulo.
What kind of degrees are possible?

Bachelor: Limitation: number of English language courses offered in Brazil is still limited. VU students should ideally master at least (some) Spanish and take an additional Portuguese language course.

Master: The VU Master programs are not so interesting for Brazilian students. The Master degree in Brazil has no tuition fee whereas the VU has to charge between 12 and 15 k€ / year. Dutch students can be selected for Brazilian Master programs (selection often includes a test).

PhD: is interesting for joint research; Brazilians PhDs can (also) defend their thesis at the VU. See also the next FAQ. A double degree might also be interesting for Dutch PhD students in certain academic areas.

Non-exchange students. Brazilian free movers (that is: non-exchange students) pay VU tuition fees and collect ECs as part of a degree programme. They need sufficient knowledge of English as part of the regular admission requirements.

What is the most convenient way towards a degree?

Bachelor: see above; very few – if any – students will do a full Bachelor program in the other country. Exchange students collect ECs within the exchange contract, which they carry over to their home institution.

PhD: In principle, there are two options:

(i) Double Doctorate (co-tutela in Brazil) or

(ii) a Joint Doctorate.

The VU conditions are described in the attached VU PhD regulations; Section 10, Articles 34 and 35 respectively. Examples of relevant documents are available. For specific PhD regulations in the VU Faculty of Exact Sciences / Earth and Life Sciences: contact Dr. Nicolien van der Grijp (nicolien.vander.grijp@vu.nl).

What about Bachelor student exchange?

What are the actual numbers?

- Incoming Brazilians: 70 in Bachelor programs in 2015/2016, most through Science without Borders and a small number who come as regular exchange students.
- Outgoing Bachelor VU students: handful
- Master students from Brazil: handful.
- PhDs: 18 Brazilian PhDs at the VU since 2009; on average: 4 / year since 2011.

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1 For this reason, we will pay less attention to Master programs. Also, the Science without Borders program does not finance Master students and concentrates on Bachelor, PhD and post-docs.
What are relevant contacts in Brazil?
- NESO-Brazil. [www.nesobrazil.org/](http://www.nesobrazil.org/). Very knowledgeable on Science without Borders. Also space for advertising research positions and research ideas. Also information on fellowships.
- International offices at partners; formal aspects of the cooperation need to pass through their offices and the Rector’s office. Procedure involving central administration may take up to 4 months in Brazil. Just Google on (f.i.) : “International Office USP”. Or just ask Centro Paulo Freire for names and e-mail address.

What are relevant contacts in The Netherlands?
- NWO has a program for international cooperation: [http://www.nwo.nl/en/our-ambitions/international+collaboration](http://www.nwo.nl/en/our-ambitions/international+collaboration); a special program on Brazil – Biobased economy had a call for proposals in 2013. 6 projects were funded; at the moment this gate is closed ([http://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/programmes/Cooperation+Brasil+(CNPq)+Biobased+Economy/Background](http://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/programmes/Cooperation+Brasil+(CNPq)+Biobased+Economy/Background))

What can the Centro Paulo Freire do for you?
We can:
- ... facilitate in making contacts and expanding networks in Brazil and at the VU
- ... connect you with VU researchers who have very, very extensive contacts in their own academic field which can be helpful to other VU colleagues
- ... organize seminars and other events
- ... assist in tackling administration problems
- ... assist in getting visa and accommodation (via Mobilities of VU International Office) for visiting Brazilian scholars ([immigration@vu.nl](mailto:immigration@vu.nl) and [accommodation@vu.nl](mailto:accommodation@vu.nl))

What can you do for the Centro Paulo Freire?
You can:
- ... disseminate, promote and help to make CPF a real Centre for academic cooperation with Brazil
- ... answer questions and provide information on ongoing activities in research, PhD cooperation, Master students etc.

More ......
Please contact us and give us more questions and even more answers!
ARTICLE 34 THE DOUBLE DOCTORATE PROGRAMME AND DOUBLE PHD CEREMONY

1. A double doctorate programme at the University may only take place with the prior written permission of the Rector Magnificus. The Rector Magnificus may attach conditions to the agreement concluded between the institutions involved.

2. A request for a double doctorate programme must be submitted in writing to the Rector Magnificus as part of the PhD candidate’s Training and Supervision Plan. The request shall be submitted by the supervisor and the Chair of the Doctorate Board of the faculty that has appointed the supervisor. The request must demonstrate that the dissertation was prepared within the context of a formal collaboration between the two universities concerned and as part of a joint research programme.

3. The request for double doctorate programme must be drawn up in accordance with a model developed for this purpose.

4. The requirements which apply to the conferral of a doctorate at the University are fully applicable, in addition to the following stipulations:
   a. A professor at the University and a professor at the university participating in the formal collaboration referred to in paragraph 2 shall be appointed as supervisors.
   b. The dissertation must be approved by the Doctorate Board of the University and by the Doctorate Board or equivalent body at the foreign institution for academic higher education in question.
   c. The dissertation shall be defended at both the University and the foreign institution for academic higher education within 120 days.
ARTICLE 35 THE JOINT DOCTORATE PROGRAMME AND JOINT PHD CEREMONY

1. A joint doctorate programme at the University may only take place with the prior written permission of the Rector Magnificus. The Rector Magnificus may attach conditions to the agreement concluded between the institutions involved.

2. A request for a joint doctorate programme must be submitted in writing to the Rector Magnificus as part of the PhD candidate's Training and Supervision Plan. The request shall be submitted by the supervisor and the Chair of the Doctorate Board of the faculty that has appointed the supervisor. The request must demonstrate that the dissertation is to be prepared within the context of a formal collaboration between the two universities concerned and as part of a joint research programme.

3. The request for joint doctorate programme must be drawn up in accordance with a model developed for this purpose.

4. In the case of a joint doctorate programme, the College of Deans shall appoint a professor at the University and a professor at the partner university as supervisors.

5. The joint doctorate programme is subject to the rules and regulations of the institution where the dissertation is to be defended.

6. The degree of doctor shall be conferred by the College of Deans, together with the equivalent body at the partner institution.