Casa de Oswaldo Cruz | Fiocruz

PATHWAYS

Welcome and Guidance for International Students

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Welcome and Guidance for International Students

Rio de Janeiro, 2026 — Versão 1

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Introduction

Welcome to Casa de Oswaldo Cruz, where the history of science and health, the preservation of cultural heritage, and science communication come together to strenghten public health.

We are grateful you are considering Casa as part of your journey, whether you have already been accepted into one of our programmes or are still seeking information to join our scientific community.

This guide is structured as a practical roadmap to help make your time in Brazil a rewarding academic and professional experience, as well as a smooth one. The essential tasks below follow clear, chronological steps: from issuing documents in your home country to settling in after arrival. Each suggestion aims to ease your integration and allow you to make the most of your time with us.

We present the Fiocruz support ecosystem, highlighting the Student Support Center (CAD in the Portuguese acronym), the Fiocruz Acolhe Program for cultural integration, guidance on health, housing and language proficiency, and practical information about everyday life on campus, including transport, dining, and secretariat services.

Courses

Casa offers academic and professional training across three main areas: stricto sensu postgraduate programs, lato sensu postgraduate programs, and open extension courses. All offerings are tuition-free. Portuguese is the language of instruction for all regular modalities, with the exception of occasional international summer or winter schools, which may feature partial programming in English or Spanish. Applications are submitted through the Academic Management Systems and the Fiocruz Virtual Campus, following guidelines from Casa's Academic Secretariat. For updated schedules, open calls, timelines, and secretariat contacts, visit the Study at Casa page.

- **Stricto sensu graduate programs:** there are three accredited programs offered in person at Manguinhos campus in Rio de Janeiro. The Graduate Program in History of Science and Health (PPGHCS, in the Portuguese acronym) trains researchers at the intersection of history, science and public health across three research lines, holding a Capes score of 6 (on a scale from 1 to 7 used by the Brazilian federal agency for graduate education evaluation) and offering approximately 15 annual places for each level (academic master's and doctorate). The Graduate Program in Preservation and Management of Cultural Heritage of Science and Health (PPGPAT) is a professional master's program

with a Capes score of 5 (the maximum grade for master's programs), designed for professionals working in the management and preservation of collections and historic sites, as well as the valorisation of intangible culture. The Graduate Program in Science, Technology, and Health Communication (PPGDC) offers an academic master's degree focusing on mediation processes between science and society with a multidisciplinary profile, also holding a Capes score of 5. International candidates may express interest in research internships directly with any of the Programs outside the regular calendar by contacting the secretariat in advance (admission to regular master's and doctoral programs is subject to the dealines and rules of specific public calls for selection). There is no application fee for any course.

- **Lato sensu graduate programs:** the Specialization in Science Communication and Popularization (ESPDC) is an in-person course with a minimum workload of 390 hours, designed for professionals working at the interface between science and the public: journalists, educators, museologists, communicators, and cultural producers.
- **Open and extension courses:** the offering includes professional qualification courses, seminars, workshops, and urban itineraries in the fields of history of science and health, heritage preservation, archival science, architecture, and science communication. Most courses are offered in-person or in a hybrid format, combining in-person and online learning, with varying workloads (from 2 to 88 hours) and limited places. Registration opens periodically through the Fiocruz Virtual Campus.

Financial Resources

Studying or conducting research at Casa de Oswaldo Cruz can be funded through a variety of national and international scholarship and grant programs. Applications for opportunities offered by Brazilian agencies are free of charge and governed by specific public calls published periodically. The Brazilian programs below are the most relevant for international incoming scholars and students.

- **PEC-PG:** the Graduate Student Agreement Program funds international students from developing partner countries of Brazil in three modalities: full master's (up to 24 months), full doctorate (up to 48 months), and sandwich doctorate (6 to 10 months). Benefits include a monthly stipend, health insurance allowance, and airfare. For more information and applications, visit the PEC-PG page on the Capes website.

- **Reverse Sandwich Doctorate and Visiting Researches:** the Foundation for Research Support of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Faperj) offers two relevant grant modalities for international visitors. The Reverse Sandwich Doctorate funds stays of 4 to 12 months for doctoral students enrolled abroad at institutions in the State of Rio de Janeiro. The Visiting Researcher Grant (APV) covers transportation, food, and accommodation expenses for top-tier researchers for up to 90 days. In both cases, the application must be submitted by a researcher affiliated with an institution based in the State of Rio de Janeiro. The submission schedule is published annually. Learn more on the Faperj website regarding the Sandwich Doctorate and APV.
- **International Capes Scholarships and Grants:** the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (Capes) maintains a broad portfolio of funding programs for foreign students and researchers in Brazil, organized by country of origin and institutional affiliation. Options include bilateral and multilateral programs of varying durations, degree levels, and fields of knowledge. Further information is available on the Capes website.
- **Capes Global.Edu Institucional Internationalization Program:** Fiocruz participates in the program by coordinating a network formed by five universities: Federal University for Latin American Integration (Unila), Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS), Federal University of Western Pará (Ufopa), Federal University of Piauí (UFPI), and Federal University of Rondônia (Unir). Launched in 2026, the 5-year program provides resources for student and faculty mobility. Learn more at Fiocruz Virtual Campus.
- **TWAS-CNPq Graduate Program**: the partnership between the National Council for Scientific and Techonological Development (CNPq) and the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) offers full doctoral scholarships for young scientists from developing countries (excluding Brazil) wishing to conduct research at Brazilian institutions. Fellowships last up to four years on a full-time basis and target candidates with a completed master's degree and good command of Portuguese, Spanish, or English. Candidates from all developing nationalities are accepted, with special attention to researchers from countries with lower scientific and technological advancement. Applications require an acceptance letter from a Brazilian institution ranked 5 or above by Capes. Calls should be monitored on the TWAS website.
- **Capes Programs for Latin American Students**: the Move La America program and the CAPES/AUGM Program (Association of Montevideo Group Universities) grant scholarships to master's and doctoral students enrolled at higher education and research institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Offered in sandwich master's and doctoral modalities in Brazil, these enable students to undertake internships, research, extension activities, and course enrollment in

Brazilian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or Research Institutes within their field of study.

Housing allowance

Fiocruz offers the Graduate Housing Allowance (AME-PG), a monthly financial assistance of R$ 800.00 aimed at master's and doctoral students (both academic and professional) in situations of socioeconomic vulnerability. The benefit is available to Brazilian and international students who have relocated from their home cities to study at the institution.

The program operates on a rolling basis (applications are open at any time throughout the year) and has a fixed limit of 75 active slots simultaneously.

Key eligibility criteria:

- Be regularly enrolled in an in-person stricto sensu graduate program at Fiocruz.
- Have no employment or engage in any paid activity.
- Have a monthly per capita family income of up to 1.5 Brazilian minimum wages.
- Residence of origin located in another state, over 100 km from campus, outside the Metropolitan Region (for Rio campuses), or in a foreign country socioeconomically defined as part of the Global South.
- Hold an individual checking account at a traditional (brick-and-mortar) bank (digital banks are not accepted).

The application form and the list of required documents can be requested directly from the Student Support Center (CAD) by email at cad@fiocruz.br or via WhatsApp at +55 21 3882-9066.

Travel Checklist

Planning your move to Brazil is the first step toward a successful experience at Casa de Oswaldo Cruz. Below is a practical timeline outlining essential bureaucratic and logistical milestones before departure and upon arrival.

Timeline	Action Items & Requirements
3 – 6 Months BEFORE Travel	• **Visa:** obtain a temporary visa at a Brazilian embassy/teaching (VITEM I) or study (VITEM IV). Without the correct visa the traveller enters the country as a tourist, which prevents

	them from receiving grants from Brazilian agencies, signing contracts, and, most critically, requires them to leave the country after 90 days. Further information is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. • **Passport:** ensure a minimum remaining validity of six months. • **Health:** vaccination proof is not mandatory for entry, but purchasing national health insurance is recommended (SUS public healthcare is free and universal). • **Portuguese Proficiency:** obtaining the Ceple-Bras certificate is not mandatory, but recommended. More information is available on the INEP website. • **Housing: s**earch for apartments in the city and check your eligibility for the housing allowance with the Fiocruz Student Support Center (CAD) via email at cad@fiocruz.br. Requests can be submitted at any time (more information in the Financial Resources section).
1 – 2 Months BEFORE Travel	• **CPF Registration:** apply for a CPF (Individual Taxpayer Registry) at the Brazilian consulate before traveling. This is essential for contracts apps, and scholarship stipends. • **Payments:** set up multi-currency cards or notify home banks of international card usage.
Immediately BEFORE Boarding	• **Arrival Logistics:** arrange transport from the airport and download offline maps of Rio. • **Documents:** carry passport, visa, CPF, acceptance/invitation letter from Casa/Fiocruz, and scholarship proof in carry-on luggage. • **Currency:** keep a small cash amount (R$ 200-300) for immediate expenses.
Immediately UPON ARRIVAL	• **CRNM Card:** mandatory for stays over 90 days. Schedule an appointment at the Federal Police to issue the National Migration Registration Card (CRNM). • **SIM Card:** get a local SIM Card or activate an eSIM. • **Mobility:** download transport (Uber, 99) and food delivery apps (iFood, 99).

	• **Academic Secretariat:** visit your program's secretariat to obtain your ID badge and access credentials for Fiocruz's digital environments, confirm your study plan, receive guidance on course offerings and registration, and address any questions about the academic calendar.
First Month IN BRAZIL	• **CPF Activation:** if not obtained via consulate, apply online via Receita Federal website or in-person at Receita Federal, Post Office (Correios), Caixa, or Banco do Brasil. Applicants must present their passport, proof of address, and pay the issuance fee. • **Bank Account:** if receiving a Brazilian grant, open a local bank account using your CPF and CRNM. • **Student Support Center (CAD):** the CAD offers compreehensive support to Fiocruz students, with a focus on well-being, integration and academic continuity. Get in touch to learn about welcome initiatives and general guidance on academic life at Fiocruz via the Fiocruz Virtual Campus, Instagram, and email cad@fiocruz.br. • **Fiocruz Campus:** explore campus services cultural agenda, health facilities, and internal transportation.

Living in Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro is a city of contrasts and generosity. During your stay, you will discover that the forest and the sea meet within the city, that music drifts out of windows on weekends, and that the cost of living well can be affordable with some planning. The section below gathers some practical information for your life in Rio.

Cost of Living References

- Meal on Fiocruz campus: R$ 15–50
- Off-campus meal (buffet by weight or daily special): R$ 35–65
- Monthly grocery shopping: R$ 600–900
    - Coffee (500g): R$ 33

    - Chicken breast (1kg): R$ 18
    - White rice (1kg): R$ 6,50
    - Spaghetti (500g): R$ 4
    - Soybean oil (900ml): R$ 8
    - Sliced bread (450g): R$ 7
    - Butter (200g): R$ 10
- Housing near campus (rent + condo fee)
    - 1-bedroom flat (São Cristóvão, Centro): R$ 1.200–2.800/month
    - 1-bedroom flat (Tijuca): R$ 2.000-3.500/month
    - 1-bedroom flat (Santa Teresa, Glória): R$ 2.000-4.200/month
- Public Transit
    - Metro (single fare): R$ 7,90
    - Public bus, Bus Rapid Transit (or BRT in the Portuguese acronym) and Light Rail Transit (or VLT): R$ 5 (modal integration with a single fare available via the Riocard or the Jaé app)
- Ride-hailing
    - Uber/99: R$ 20–45 average ride
    - Fiotáxi: 20% disctount on taxi rides for the Fiocruz community, making fares equivalent to UberX.
- Cultural activities
    - Museums: R$ 0-30
    - Cinema: R$ 22–50
    - Concerts and theatre: R$ 30–150
- National minimum wage (2026): R$ 1.621/month

Sources: Imovelweb, Top 25 PFs no Rio (O Globo), Rio Municipal Decree nº 57.473/2025; MetrôRio; Decree nº 12.797/2025; IBGE Individual Basic Basket Survey, Extramercado.com.br. Values were researched in June 2026 and are subject to change.

Housing

Finding accommodation is one for the first practical tasks upon arrival. The Manguinhos campus is located in Rio's North Zone. Most popular neighborhoods among students prioritazing proximity are Centro, São Cristóvão, and Tijuca. For greener surroundings, Glória, Catete, and Santa Teresa are viable alternatives with higher living costs.

The main platforms for property search are:

Full flats

- QuintoAndar — a digital platform with a simplified process, no guarantor required, with contracts and payments managed online.
- Zap Imóveis — large database of rental listings across Brazil
- Viva Real — aggregator with a wide offering in Rio de Janeiro
- OLX — direct listings from landlords with more affordable options

Rooms in shared flats

- WebQuarto: search for shared accommodation, ideal for students and young professionals
- Rentola: student housing for rent in different sizes and locations
- Uliving : individual and shared accommodation

When signing a rental contract, it is important to pay attention to a few practical points. The contract should be in the student's own name and contain full details of the property, the monthly rent, and the rental period. For questions about contracts or tenant rights, the CAD can help: cad@fiocruz.br

Temporary accommodation

For those who need short-term accommodation upon arriving in Rio de Janeiro, Fiocruz may make available, as an eventual option to be confirmed in advance with your Academic Secretariat, the Espaço Carlos Chagas/Casa Amarela, designed primarily to receive researchers passing through the campus. Students on short-term research placements may also inquire about availability, though priority is given to visiting researchers. The space is shared (four beds per room) and operates on a paid nightly basis. Bookings can be made by email: casaamarela@fiocruz.br. Please provide your full name, intended dates (with expected check-in and check-out times for daily rate calculation), the reason for your request, your contact details, and your home institution.

Transportation

The metro (Line 2, Triagem station), Supervia train (Manguinhos station), and BRT (Fiocruz station on Av. Brasil) are the fastest public transit options to campus. The BRT connects Fiocruz to Gentileza Terminal, linking to VLT light rail and interstate buses at the Bus Terminal.

The single metro fare is R$ 7.90; the municipal bus fare is R$ 5.00; the BRT follows the same fare table as municipal buses. Students with a monthly income of up to

R$ 3,205.20 may access the metro Social Fare (R$ 5.00) by registering their Intermunicipal Single Ticket (BUI) with their CPF. The academic secretariat can advise on the current student travel pass. For more flexible travel, Uber and 99 charge between R$ 20 and R$ 45 for average-distance journeys within the city.

Fiocruz provides free internal shuttles connecting campus sectors and nearby transit hubs (such as Triagem metro station every 30 mins between 7:00 - 8:30 AM, and afternoon returns at 4:15, 4:45, and 5:15 PM).

Transport and mobility apps

- Moovit — app for real-time route planning across bus, metro, BRT, and train
- Jaé — official Rio de Janeiro app for topping up and using metro, bus, BRT, and VLT with a single fare
- Uber and 99 — ride-hailing apps widely use across the city

Leisure

Rio offers a vibrant culture with free or budget-friendly options. Spaces suchs as the Museum of Art of Rio (MAR), the CCBB, and Museum of Tomorrow offer free admission on specific days. Shows of Samba and Brazilian Popular Music (or MPB, which is a post-bossa nova genre, not any mainstream pop) in Lapa are a tradition from Thursday to Saturday, and the Circo Voador in the same neighbourhood is one of the city's main stages for concerts and festivals. The street carnival, with hundreds of blocos spread across the city from January to March, is entirely free. For updated listings, consult Rio's main news outlets or the Visit Rio portal.

For those who prefer outdoor leisure, Rio offers exuberant nature just a few kilometres from campus. The Botanical Garden and Parque Lage are neighbours; the former offers a discount for city residents and the latter has free admission. The Tijuca National Park, the world's largest urban forest, offers trails for all levels of difficulty, with access to waterfalls accessible by metro or bus.

Contacts

- **Academic Secretariats**
  - Covers Stricto Sensu, Lato Sensu, and Extension courses at Casa de Oswaldo Cruz. General information is available on the Study at Casa page. Queries may be sent to secadcoc@fiocruz.br or directed by phone to +55 21 38652234.

- **Fiocruz Graduate Student Association (APG)**
    - Founded in 2012, the APG's main purpose is to represent all students enrolled in Fiocruz lato and stricto sensu programs, both collectively and individually. Students from Casa de Oswaldo Cruz regularly hold positions in the APG, which produced a welcome booklet in 2024 and maintains an Instagram profile.
- **Student Support Center**
    - The Student Support Center (CAD) is a Fiocruz body dedicated to dialogue and welcoming all of its students. Affiliated with the Vice-Presidency of Education, Information, and Communication (VPEIC), it is responsible for managing the Housing Allowance (see Financial Resources section), proposing and executing initiatives that foster well-being and student integration, and providing support in situations that may impact academic and professional performance. The main contact channels are WhatsApp +55 21 3882-9066, cad@fiocruz.br, and Instagram.
- **International Cooperation Advisory Office (Casa)**
    - Welcomes international scholars and manages institutional partnerships. Main contacts: coc.cooperacao@fiocruz.br and +55 21 38652263.

Campus and Services

The Manguinhos campus is a singular space combining science, historic heritage, and culture in a single territory. It spans over 75 buildings along Avenida Brasil, blending cutting-edge laboratories, research institutes, classrooms, restaurants and cafeterias, daycare, banking services, and early 20th-century historical architecture. For navigation purposes, consult the illustrated campus map.

For international visitors, exploring this campus is also a way to connect with the history of public health in Brazil and Latin America. Visitors can access historic buildings and the Fiocruz Museum of Life. The campus collections are also open to everyone, both in person and online, making them a valuable resource for researchers and the general public alike.

Key attractions and research facilities include:

- Information on the historic buildings
- Fiocruz Museum of Life: in-person visits
- Base Arch: digital repository for searching historical archive collections.

- Virtual Libraries: collection of historical documents, personal archives, iconography, and intellectual works by scientists and on the history of science, public health, and medicine in Latin America.
- Rare Books Library / Digital Library of Rare and Special Works: housed on the third floor of the Mourisco Pavilion, the library is itself a heritage site worth visiting, with its ceiling and walls covered in relief plasterwork featuring neo-Moorish geometric patterns. The collection of historically significant works can be consulted in person or online.
- Manguinhos Library: main scientific information hub and research support center.
- Fiocruz Library Network / Plataforma Mourisco: access to national and international scientific information sources, including Dynamed, Lancet, Medline, Portal Capes, UpToDate, and others.

On-campus identification

Upon arrival, you should immediately report to your Academic Secretariat to issue your physical ID badge (for campus access) and obtain login credentials for academic management platforms (SIGASS for stricto sensu students and SIGALS for lato sensu students). The secretariat also provides information regarding course enrollment, transcripts, thesis defenses, and conference participation grants. Programmes have a limited number of scholarships, and the rules governing their implementation follow the norms of funding agencies or criteria established by the programmes themselves, in the case of Fiocruz-funded grants. For further details, consult your programme coordinatorship.

Dining

Campus options include student cafeterias (Bandejão), canteens, and bistros:

- **Tia Penha Canteen (Arthur Neiva Pavilion)**: Mon-Fri, 7:00A Mh –5:00 PM
- **Gourmet Area (Reception Center):** Mon-Fri, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM; SAT, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- **Asfoc Snack Bar & Restaurant:** Mon-Fri, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- **Arthur Brandão 2 Restaurant (Asfoc Building)**: Mon-Fri, 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM
- **Sports Court Restaurant:** Mon-Fri, breakfast (7:00 AM – 11:00 AM), Lunch (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM)
- **ENSP Restaurant**: Mon-Fri, breakfast (7:30 AM – 9:30 AM), lunch (11:00 AM – 2:30 PM), afternoon snack (3:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

- **Copa Cozinha Cafe & Bistro (Manguinhos Library):** Mon-Fri, 8:00 AM – 4:45PM

Healthcare

Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS) provides universal, free medical care to anyone in national territory, including foreigners, regardless of visa status. Even so, it is advisable to take out a health insurance policy with national coverage before travelling, particularly to cover situations requiring private care, prolonged hospitalisations, or elective procedures. On the Manguinhos campus, students, grant holders, and researchers with an active Fiocruz affiliation also have access to on-campus health posts, immunisation, and interdisciplinary support in cases of accidents.

- **Occupational Health Unit (Nust, next to the Asfoc Building):** Mon-Fri, 8:00 AM –5:00 PM. Provides first aid, urgent care for emergencies at level 3 (in-person care where there is no risk to life or loss of function) and level 4 (telephone medical guidance), immunisation, and accident support. Open to all with an active Fiocruz affiliation, including grant holders and students. Contact: +55 21 38362203.
- **ENSP Outpatient Clinic (main ENSP building):** specialised care for respiratory, dermatological, and occupational or environmental hearing loss conditions. Contact: +55 21 25982839.
- **24-hour Campus Ambulance:** serves workers, students, and visitors in cases of sudden illness or accident. Fiocruz civil firefighters provide first aid and arrange transfer to the nearest public emergency unit. Contacts: +55 21 22099141 and +55 21 22099153.

Moving to a new city or country can be a very enriching experience, but it can also be quite challenging. We hope this guide will help make your arrival smoother and that you will find Casa and Fiocruz to be welcoming environments, open to diversity and conducive to learning, building new connections, and having a wide range of new professional experiences. Welcome! We wish you an excellent and rewarding journey with us!

Casa de Oswaldo Cruz

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