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Universidade de São Paulo
Escola Superior de Agricultura
"Luiz de Queiroz"

International Student Guide

2018

Av. Pádua Dias, 11 – Caixa Postal 9 – Cep 13418-900 – Piracicaba, SP – Brasil
Fone (19) 3429-4110 – Fax (19) 3422-1733
http://www.esalq.usp.br

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We are proud to welcome the international students in our College!

As students from CALQ ("Luiz de Queiroz" Academic Center) would say, this is a very especial school, which hides history in every corner along with a lot of work, strength and dedication of each one of those who have crossed the borders of this enchanted place. That is how this centenary agriculture school have become one of the most important in the world.

You are invited to explore ESALQ/USP's many programs, services, professors, internships, social works, departments, fraternities, sports practices and all kinds of activities. Have your schedule full! Your involvement in the campus life will make you feel at home right away, help you make new friends, enhance your knowledge of our culture and enrich your academic experience. At the same time, you will give us the opportunity to get to know you and learn from your diverse experiences and perspectives.

Find out what ESALQ has to offer…

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A. PRE-DEPARTURE

1. ADMISSION AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Bachelor courses

As an exchange student, you can apply for courses in any of the seven areas offered by ESALQ: Agriculture, Forestry, Economics, Food Science, Biological Sciences, Environmental Management, and Management. You can find more information at http://www.en.esalq.usp.br/undergraduate.

We recommend exchange students to apply for 20 local credits per semester. Each credit at USP lasts for 15 contact hours. Please check with your home institution if they ask you for a specific workload before applying for courses.

Grading system ranges from zero (0) to ten (10) where zero is the lowest grade and ten the highest one. To pass a course, you must score from five (5) and above. Each professor has his/her own evaluation criteria, usually involving tests and reports, which are detailed in the first class.

Please notice that grade is not the only requirement to pass a course: a minimum attendance is mandatory! You must attend at least 70% of classes for each course you enrolled.

As an exchange student, you must write reports and answer exams in Portuguese.

You can find a relation of courses in English separated by department at:
http://www.en.esalq.usp.br/undergraduate/programs/undergraduate-courses

You just need to pay attention to the semester in which the discipline is found. If the course is available in the **1st semester**, it means that it will be taught between January and July; if it is available in the **2nd semester**, then it will be taught between August and December.

You can also set up your time grid previously using the disciplines code. To do so, visit the MatrUSP site (in Portuguese) at http://bcc.ime.usp.br/matrusp/, set up your grid

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and send us by e-mail. By doing this you can choose your schedules. If you do not send us previously, the International Relations Office will do it without considering your preferences.

If you have already taken all these steps, you can go for your Visa!

2. GETTING THE RIGHT TYPE OF VISA

Once accepted to an exchange period at ESALQ, the International Office will send you the Letter of Acceptance, which is necessary for the Student Visa ("Temporário IV"), that will be required by the Brazilian consulate in your home country. **Please note that a tourist visa is not valid. Students without student visa cannot be enrolled in courses.**

The foreign card is required to all foreign people who will stay in Brazil more than 90 days. The requested documents are:

- Original Visa order expedited by a Brazilian Consulate or Embassy in your home country;
- Passport photocopies;
- 2 colored photos size 3 cm (wide) x 4 cm (tall): with white backdrop, looking towards the camera and not smiling;
- Payment of a fee (around R$ 320) for the Immigration Department (provided in Brazilian territory). We will provide more information when you get here.

3. MAKING TRAVEL PLANS

Email us your flight and bus arrangements to international.esalq@usp.br so we can know the exact day and time of your arrival in Brazil and in Piracicaba.

4. WHAT TO BRING

Temperatures in Piracicaba vary from 37°C (maximum) to 12°C (minimum) throughout the year. During wintertime (July, August and September), it gets chilly and windy, with an average temperature of 16°C. The month with the highest temperatures is

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February, which has an average temperature of 30°C. Therefore, we strongly advise you to bring some few warm clothes, but prepare yourself for hot temperatures, especially if you arrive in the first semester of the year.

5. HEALTH INSURANCE

Students must insure themselves from their home countries before arriving in Brazil. ESALQ-USP will not take responsibilities for any accidents since it is students' responsibility to arrange the proper international health insurance. Please check the insurance companies' rules before leaving your country.

B. ARRIVING IN PIRACICABA

1. THE CITY OF PIRACICABA

Photo: Rubens Chiri/Banco de Imagens do Estado de São Paulo

The place is named after the waterfall river that bisects the city. Piracicaba literally means "place where the fish stops" in the Tupi language (language that was spoken by the native people of Brazil). The main motor of its economy is the cultivation of sugar cane. A large company that has a center of research on genetic improvement of sugarcane, CTC, helps to fuel this growing industry. Piracicaba also holds a place for large industries, such as Caterpillar, ArcelorMittal and Hyundai. The city is also known for its many Higher Education Institutions: Luiz de Queiroz Superior School of Agriculture of the University of São Paulo (ESALQ/USP), Piracicaba Odontology Faculty of the Campinas State University (UNICAMP), Piracicaba Methodist University (UNIMEP) and Technology University of Piracicaba (FATEC), among others.

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2. HOW TO GET HERE

You can come to Piracicaba by bus: for this type of transportation, you'll find two options:

a) From Guarulhos Airport to Campinas bus Station to Piracicaba

- Take a bus inside Guarulhos Airport (ask for "VB Transportes" – at Terminal 2 - ASA "C") to Campinas Bus Station (the ticket costs around R$ 45,50). For information about the timetable, please check the following website (In Portuguese), and select 'Cumbica (Guarulhos)' tab: http://www.vbtransportes.com.br/servicos/traslados/

- Take a bus from Campinas bus station (ask for "Viação COMETA") to Piracicaba (the ticket costs around R$ 20,00). The bus leaves Campinas to Piracicaba Bus Station every hour from 5h00 to 23h00.

b) Tietê Bus Station (São Paulo City) to Piracicaba

In case you are in São Paulo downtown, you can take a bus at Tietê Bus Station (ask for "Viação Piracicabana") to Piracicaba Bus Station (the ticket costs around R$ 50,00). The bus leaves Tietê Bus Station to Piracicaba Bus Station.

Please, inform our International Office the exact date of your arrival.

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C. GETTING SITUATED ON *CAMPUS*

1. ORIENTATION

As it says in the Academic Calendar Topic, you and all the other exchange students will have two days of Orientation to get further information. On these days, you will be able to ask any question about topics that may still not be very clear to you.

2. MEALS

a) Students' Restaurant

ESALQ has a restaurant for students that charges around R$2 per meal, and most students use this facility. It is a self-service restaurant, popular known as "Rucas" (University Restaurant), with a menu prepared by a nutritionist. It serves two meals per day, and the opening hours are:

- Lunch Time (Monday – Friday): 11:00am – 01:30pm
- Dinner Time (Monday – Friday): 17:30pm – 07:00pm
- On Saturdays: 11:30am – 13:00pm

b) Faculty Restaurant

Although called the Faculty Restaurant, it is open to everyone in the campus who would like to pay a bit more for a sophisticated food and a high-quality service. It is also a self-service type of restaurant and the price is R$ 39.90 per kilo.

3. COST OF LIVING

- **Accommodation** prices range from R$ 300 to R$ 1000 per month, with different types of options.
- For **food** the price of the university restaurant is R$ 2 per meal. In the city there are several types of restaurant and the average price is R$ 30/kilo.
- **Transport** prices vary according to the service provided (taxi, uber, urban bus etc.). In the city of Piracicaba the ticket of the public transport costs R$ 4.

4. HEALTH MATTERS

If you get sick or if you just do not feel well physically or psychology, you should contact your health insurance company to check which hospitals are available in the city.
You can also use the public health service. For this you need to create a **SUS Card**.
To create it you need to present your passport and a proof of residence (water, electricity, telephone bill etc) in a health post (UPA or Santa Casa).
Here are some addresses that you can use:

UBS Independência (7am to 4pm)
Address: Rua Pedro Chiarini, 144
Phone: 3433-0148

UPA Piracicamirim (24 hours)
Address: Rua Rio Grande do Norte, 135
Phone: 3426-4973 / 3411-3100 / 3426-5973

Santa Casa Saúde de Piracicaba
Av. Independência, 940 - Ground floor - Bairro Alto

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- **Banking**

If you are staying only for 1 or 2 semesters, we do not recommend you to open a bank account. However, you can do withdraws in the Santander Bank, located in the campus, where they have an ATM machine.

6. ACADEMIC MATTERS

a) Supervised Internship

Internship in which you will be working in a research project along with an adviser professor.

b) Extension Internships

Internship in which you will be part of a group of students that work together in a research/project/business run by the students. As most of the internships selects

people throughout a selection process, the international student might not be able to be part of it officially, but you can always try to get involved and help them with the matters that interest you. Besides, you can also work with a professor in any of the department laboratories. More information of some of these internships is available in the topic explaining each department.

To see all the extension internship groups we have in our campus, access the following link (in Portuguese):
http://www4.esalq.usp.br/svcex/grupos-de-extensao

7. RECREATION/ENTERTAINMENT

a) Athletic Events

Founded in 1903, the A.A.A.L.Q ('Luiz de Queiroz' Academic Athletic Association) organizes the sports practices and competitions for ESALQ students. Their office is located in the gymnasium court and you are more than welcome to go there to check out all sports timetable or look for one of its members. They also sell t-shirts, shirts, coats, jackets and all kinds of pieces of clothes with their symbol on it. Their store is located by the snack bar and the opening hours are during lunchtime.

The modalities offered in the campus are:

- Futsal
- Handball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Table Tennis
- Basketball
- Softball/Baseball
- Rugby

You can also practice in our percussion music group known as To.Ba.L.Q.

For more information, please access (in Portuguese): http://aaalq1.wixsite.com/aaalq

b) ESALQ's Symbol

The A-shaped symbol represents our University at any sport competition, meeting or event. It was created in 1932, by Delphim da Rocha Neto, a famous sport's

chronicler back in those times. The symbol reminds a Bulldog, for its position of defense.

c) "Luiz de Queiroz" Choral/Orchestra

If you are good at singing, enjoy singing or play any kind of instrument, you should attend the ESALQ's Choral group.

For further information access: http://www4.esalq.usp.br/svcex/grupos-musicais.

d) CALQ

"Luiz de Queiroz" Academic Center (CALQ) is a student organization founded in 1909 that deals with all students' political views towards their courses or towards the campus. They also promote events to get funds, such as barbecues, concerts, on their own place, located out of the *campus*.

D. ACCOMMODATION

On-*campus* accommodation is not available. Although ESALQ has a dormitory building, the rooms are reserved only for low-income family students in Brazil.

The International Office can help you on finding accommodation. There are two possibilities on that matter:

1. **Off-campus houses ("república")**

Student residences (male or female). Costs vary from R$ 300 to R$ 1000, depending on the available facilities. Some of them have included meals, internet, housekeeper, furniture, etc. You just have to bring linen and towels. It is important to say that, in most cases, you would have to share a room with some other students. The "repúblicas" can be compared to fraternities, in which you will be introduced to all fraternity's friends, and they will help you with anything you might need.

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In this website you can access all the information about ESALQ students' houses: https://www.conselhoderepublicas.com/.

2. Rooms

You can also rent private rooms that are usually individual rooms normally with bathrooms in residential houses; the kitchen is usually shared with other tenants. There are female and male houses. Costs vary from US$250 to US$ 350.

Traditionally most exchange students prefer to live near ESALQ, in nice and safe places, a 10 to 20 minute-walk distant from the campus.

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E. ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND ORIENTATION DAYS

1. Orientation Day

➢ IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

All international students should arrive in Piracicaba at least one week before the start of the classes for the Orientation Day. In the first semester, it usually happens in the last week of February and in the second semester the last week of July. During the orientation days, we will deal with administrative procedures, which have to be done right after your arrival in Brazil, such as:

- Enrollment procedures;
- Orientation for Registration at Brazilian Federal Police.

2. ESALQ Summer School

Every year, during the month of July, we have the ESALQ Summer School. All the international students can participate without any costs.

This program aims to introduce an academic experience in Tropical Bio-based Production Systems to undergraduate and graduate students from partner universities interested in identifying research opportunities in collaboration with ESALQ.

If you are here in Piracicaba during this month and feel interested in participating, just let us know.

Students visiting a Raízen sugar cane field, Summer School 2017

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3. 2018 BRAZILIAN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Date	Weekday	Holiday Name	Holiday Type
Jan 1st	Monday	New Year's Day	National Holiday
Feb 10	Saturday	Carnival Saturday	Observance
Feb 11	Sunday	Carnival Sunday	Observance
Feb 12	Monday	Carnival Monday	Optional Holiday
Feb 13	Tuesday	Carnival Tuesday	Optional Holiday
Feb 14	Wednesday	Carnival end (until 2pm)	Optional Holiday
Mar 20	Tuesday	March equinox	Season
Mar 30	Friday	Good Friday	National Holiday
Apr 1	Sunday	Easter Sunday	Observance
Apr 21	Saturday	Tiradentes Day	National Holiday
May 1	Tuesday	Labor Day / May Day	National Holiday
May 13	Sunday	Mother's Day	Observance
May 31	Thursday	Corpus Christi	Optional Holiday
Jun 12	Tuesday	Brazilian Valentine's Day	Observance
Jun 21	Thursday	June Solstice	Season
Aug 12	Sunday	Father's Day	Observance
Sep 7	Friday	Independence Day	National Holiday
Sep 23	Sunday	September equinox	Season
Oct 12	Friday	Our Lady Aparecida/ Children's Day	National Holiday
Oct 15	Monday	Teacher's Day	Observance
Oct 28	Sunday	Public Service Holiday	Optional Holiday
Nov 2	Friday	All Souls' Day	National Holiday
Nov 15	Thursday	Republic Proclamation Day	National Holiday
Nov 20	Tuesday	Black Consciousness Day	Observance
Dec 21	Friday	December Solstice	Season
Dec 24	Monday	Christmas Eve (from 2pm)	Optional Holiday
Dec 25	Tuesday	Christmas Day	National Holiday
Dec 31	Monday	New Year's Eve (from 2pm)	Optional Holiday

4. Final Greetings

I hope you have wonderful moments in our university and in our beloved country. Make the most of all the features available. We are sure you will!