Proposal for Student Study Abroad Program:
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro [PUC-Rio] (Brazil)

Proposed by
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I. Program Overview

This proposal seeks the approval of a study abroad program for students within the College of Arts & Science at Vanderbilt University whereby students can study during the Fall, Spring, or full academic year and enroll in courses offered at PUC-Rio. This program is run by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and PUC-Rio is a sister school of PUC-São Paulo where we currently send our students on another CIEE program. These two programs would be complementary operating in the two largest and most important cities in this country of 200 million. Vanderbilt students in the College of Arts & Science would be permitted to enroll in courses at PUC-Rio in the departments that correspond to the disciplines and departments within A&S. As with the current program in São Paulo, students would receive direct credit. (See Appendix 1A for a list of departments at PUC-Rio that correspond to Vanderbilt departments within the College of Arts & Science. The website for the program is located at http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/brazil/rio-de-janeiro/liberal-arts/)

II. Rationale

Vanderbilt currently offers a study abroad option for undergraduates through CIEE at PUC-São Paulo. This is an excellent program, but offering our students the option of studying in just one of the two most important cities in Brazil limits our ability to attract more students to Brazil and to grow the number of students studying in Brazil. (The metropolitan area of São Paulo is around 16 million and for Rio de Janeiro around 10 million.)

Former Chancellor Gordon Gee visited the PUC-Rio campus in 2003, and signed a memorandum of understanding with the university to further its relation with Vanderbilt. Associate Provost for Global Affairs, Joel Harrington, visited the campus in 2005 and discussed exchange opportunities with officials in PUC’s International Cooperation Central Coordination Office. Dr. Rosa Marina de Brito Meyer, Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs, has visited Vanderbilt on two occasions. Carolyn Miller, assistant director of the Vanderbilt International Office will visit PUC-Rio in mid-October.

Since the 2003 visit by Chancellor Gee, faculty have expanded research collaborations with PUC-Rio but we have not set up a means for our students to study there.

The undergraduate population with sufficient knowledge of Portuguese has rapidly grown over the last decade. After our Center for Latin American Studies was designated a National Resource Center (in 2006 and again in 2010), Vanderbilt was able to hire additional Portuguese instructors and regularly to schedule a complete sequence of Portuguese language
Professor Emanuelle Oliveira-Monte also added a very popular Brazilian culture class that has increased undergraduate interest in Brazil. Professor Frank Robinson regularly offers LAS 202, Introduction to Brazil (enrollments of 30-35 each fall).

There are currently more than 50 undergraduate students who already fulfill the minimum 2-semester Portuguese-language requisite required CIEE to study abroad at PUC-Rio, along with more than 50 undergraduates enrolled in either Portuguese 102, or the first-year seminar, Portuguese 115 (Exploration of Brazilian Culture). Consequently, by fall of 2013, there will be approximately 100 undergraduate students eligible to participate in the CIEE study abroad program in Rio de Janeiro. Notably, there are approximately 1000 students at Vanderbilt who have completed four semesters of college level Spanish, or the equivalent, which is accepted at sufficient lingual ability to participate in the program at PUC-Rio. While two semesters of Portuguese, or less in the case of Spanish-speaking students who decide to partake in the program, may seem a bit brief to participate in a direct-enrollment study abroad,

“each semester [of the CIEE program in Rio] begins with a Pre-Term Intensive Language and Culture Program (ILCP) lasting approximately one month. Following the Intensive Language program students should be equipped with the language skills needed for direct enrollment in regular PUC classes offered in Portuguese.” (CIEE.org)

-While São Paulo is the business and economic hub of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro was (until 1960) the national capital and it is historically the cultural capital of the nation. São Paulo is a good fit for many of our undergraduates, but not having the option to study in Rio de Janeiro is similar to allowing Brazilians to study in New York, but not giving them the option of studying in Los Angeles or San Francisco.

- The number of students who have enrolled in CIEE São Paulo over the course of the last two years is sixteen.

- Rio de Janeiro, in addition to its reputation as one of the most attractive cities in the world, is also an economic power, the second largest economic center in the nation. In 2014, Rio de Janeiro will host the final of the World Cup and in 2016 will host the Summer Olympics.

- Not only will more students from the department of Spanish and Portuguese study abroad in Brazil when Rio de Janeiro is an option, but also, students who may not otherwise learn Portuguese may be so drawn to Rio de Janeiro that they decide to take up this fascinating language.

- Vanderbilt has one of the largest Brazilian studies programs in the United States, so it is very reasonable that the university would have more than one study abroad option for students who want to go to Brazil.

- Finally, the fact that Vanderbilt is already partnered with CIEE, and the PUC-São Paulo, speaks volumes of the efficiency and sense of adding this specific Rio de Janeiro program. Vanderbilt has already decided that CIEE is a responsible study abroad program coordinator, and PUC courses have already been accepted for direct credit at Vanderbilt University. In reality, the Rio de Janeiro campus of PUC is ranked higher than the São Paulo
branch, has a better student/faculty ratio, and is renowned for the comprehensive operation of its international program office.

Brazil is currently the fastest-growing economic power in Latin America—and the sixth largest economy in the world—and subsequently is undoubtedly a nation of great interest to the United States. It is critical the American students interested in economics, international business, politics, and a wide array of other disciplines, gain a deep understanding of Brazilian culture. Not only is Rio de Janeiro the undisputed cultural capital of Brazil, but also, it is Brazil’s second-most populated city. Of particular importance is PUC-Rio’s thriving student culture, both academically and socially.

“Ranked by the Brazilian Ministry of Education as the best private university in the country in 2009, PUC-Rio has approximately 12,000 undergraduate students and 2,500 graduate students. The forested campus is centrally located in the south zone of the city in the Gavea neighborhood, and has a student community area with restaurants, coffee shops, library, free wireless, access to sports facilities, and a major public bus stop.” (CIEE.org)

III. Selection and Requirements

A. Selection of students will be done by the home university and CIEE.

B. Each student will submit an application through both the Vanderbilt Global Education Office and the CIEE website. Upon acceptance of the GEO application, the student will be eligible to participate in the CIEE program for direct credit through Vanderbilt, granted that CIEE accept said student. The final acceptance decision is thus designated by CIEE.

C. Each student who wishes to participate in the program must:
   a. Hold a 2.75 GPA
   b. Have completed at least two semesters at Vanderbilt.
   c. Have completed 4 semesters of college-level Spanish (SPAN 201) and/or 2 semesters of college-level Portuguese or the equivalent before departure for the program.
   d. Be in good academic and disciplinary standing at Vanderbilt University.

D. Non-discrimination

As with all Vanderbilt University programs this study abroad program will not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, military service, or genetic information in its administration of educational policies, programs, or activities; admissions policies; scholarship and loan programs. In addition,
the program will not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

IV. Program of Study

A. Courses taken abroad must be self-contained and completed within the semester or term. These are courses offered to Brazilian students within PUC-Rio and are not specially designed for American students (except for the Portuguese language training).

B. One, pre-term, 90 hour Portuguese class will be taken during the month prior to the beginning of the Brazilian academic calendar in order to fully immerse participants in the Portuguese language and assure their proficiency and readiness to directly enroll in PUC classes.

C. During the semester, participants will enroll in one Portuguese language class, for which, depending on the level (I, II, III are 90 hours and thus valued at 6 credit hours. IV, V are 60 hours and valued at 4 credit hours), he or she will be awarded either 4 or 6 Portuguese credits at Vanderbilt.

D. A typical load of four courses normally comes to 16 credit hours. Note: Vanderbilt University will not grant more than 18 credit hours for a semester abroad and requires that students take a minimum of 12 credit hours. Vanderbilt students would need to request permission of the appropriate Dean to enroll for more than 18 credit hours per semester.

E. GPA from courses taken abroad will be factored into the student’s cumulative Vanderbilt GPA.

F. It is the responsibility of the student participant to provide Vanderbilt with syllabi and course descriptions of courses taken abroad, in order for Vanderbilt to evaluate and give credit for said courses.

V. Housing

Students have the choice of two housing options, and breakfast is included with both.

- Family Homestays—CIEE works with homestay families in Rio. Homestay families live in a radius of three to four miles from campus which can be accessed using public transportation. Sharing in the life of a family through a homestay provides an excellent opportunity for interested students to deconstruct stereotypes and observe real life in action. It also creates opportunities for dialogue about issues raised in their courses and to practice their Portuguese language skills.
- Group Homestays—the group homestay option is best for students who prefer to live with another student or a small group of students in a secure and friendly environment. Participants share rooms in homes along with a Brazilian family or overseen by a local
Brazilian resident assistant. Students enjoy independence and student camaraderie in a convenient urban location.

VI. Fees

The fee structure for this program will be very close to the fees for the CIEE program in São Paulo. The Global Education Office currently estimates costs for one semester in São Paulo at $27,070 (including tuition, fees, health insurance, meals, and personal expenses).

VII. Safety and security

Students and parents can find security and safety information about particular study abroad locations at the following websites, and, based on the information provided therein, students and parents can make informed decisions about whether to participate in a study abroad program.

GEO travel warnings and alerts:

Information for parents of students planning to study abroad:

Student International Travel Policy:

CIEE, Health and safety:
http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/why-ciee/health-safety/

CIEE, Travel alerts:
http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/alerts/

CET:
http://cetacademicprograms.com/before-departure/safety/
APPENDIX 1

Undergraduate Departments & Programs at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro

Link to PUC-Rio website in English
http://www.puc-rio.br/english/

Suggested for students of the program:

Arts
Communications
Economics
History
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology
Portuguese
Physics
Chemistry
Theology

Also available:

Accounting
Arquitecture
Biology
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Computer Science
Education
Industrial Design
International Relations
Math
Mechanical Engineering
Petroleum Engineering
## APPENDIX 2

### Structure of Academic Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER/TERM</th>
<th>PUC-Rio de Janeiro</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1:</td>
<td>January to July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 2:</td>
<td>July to December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Year:</td>
<td>January to December</td>
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APPENDIX 3

Fact Sheet on Pontifical Catholic University-Rio de Janeiro

Facts and Figures

- 12,703 undergraduate students
- 2,272 graduate students
- 428 full-time and 804 part-time faculty; 774 with PhD in field of instruction
- 23 departments
- 13 labs
- 1 central library
- 6 sectorial libraries

According to: U.S. News and World Report University Rankings of Latin America, in 2012
PUC-Rio was in the 18th position in the ranking, among the 200 evaluated universities.
> 8th in Brazil
> 1st private in Brazil

Best Universities Prize 7th Edition by Abril Publisher Student Guide (Brazil) 2011
evaluated 10,392 courses of 2,035 higher education institutions. PUC-Rio was ranked:
1st position in the categories:
> Exact Sciences and Informatics
> Social and Human Sciences
> Engineering and Production
3rd position in the category:
> Communication and Information