



# TEACHING PLACEMENTS IN BRAZIL

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



**Sun, Samba, Energy, Capoeira, Music, Laughter and the fabulous and lavish Carnaval ... Brazil has all of this and much more.**

**If you are looking for an injection of life to make you feel alive, Brazil is the place for you!**

**This tropical paradise is alive with mad passion in every walk of life. Axe (a-chay) means energy in Brazil and nowhere else is the heart-pounding, rhythmic energy more prevalent, be it an impromptu capoeira roda on a street corner, bursting with music, excitement and physical perfection, or the sound of loud raucous laughter between two acquaintances over ice cold beer in local open sided bars.**



### **What could make for a more rewarding placement???**

Not only will you spend your time teaching children your choice out of a selection of lessons, taken from a wide range of subjects that are available to you - you'll be spending time working on increasing self-confidence, team skills and generally growing their enthusiasm to learn

and take on new challenges face-to-face!

**In Brazil you choose.** Whether you want to be helping out teaching the 'little ones', or, whether you want to challenge some of the older students (in their teens) – its up to you! All of the children could really use your time, energy and affection; whether they are just starting their education or they are preparing to go out into the world of work.

**You decide whether** your placement will be based in the modern town of Foz do Iguaçu, where you can enjoy soaking up the sun in the looming shadow of its neighbours, Argentina and Paraguay. Both countries can be found sitting just across the river from you, along with the simply awesome presence and power of the world's largest waterfall - **the grand Iguaçu Falls.**

**Or, whether you decide** to be located in the heart and soul of Brazil, in one of the world's most talked about cities, **Rio de Janeiro.** Both destinations have similarly deserving centres & children all much-in-need of your assistance, and each with bundles of girls and boys all with magnificent spirits. Which is even more amazing when you realise that most of the children are coming from poor families with far less than ideal home life's – although you would never know it as all the children are an absolute joy to be with!



## RIO DE JANEIRO – PLACEMENT CENTRES

Our placements are based in project centres which are dotted in-and-around the city of Rio de Janeiro - with some centres being situated just off the beach and others being found a little bit further in-land. Included are a couple of brief descriptions of some of the centres we work with in the city. *Additional information will happily be provided on request.*

### CIEP 06.25.204 – Rubens Gomes

CIEP first appears much the same as any other public school in Brazil with its curricular based around that of the national educational system. The centre teaches all the usual curricular subjects found in any other school in Brazil. However, it is unlike most schools, which only set out to teach children for approximately 4 to 5 hours each day. CIEP Rubens Paiva has gone much further than this basic requirement by organizing other additional activities, groups and clubs for the students to get involved with – all in the hope of supplementing their education and taking them off the streets. This means that the school actually works the exhausting time table from 7 am until 11 pm every single day, Monday to Friday.

One of the schools first objectives is to keep the children in off the streets – so to do this it provides additional activities in the hope that the children will want to stay all day, every day! And it really does work with many of the students attending and taking part in sports clubs, language courses, and cultural projects.

On top of this the children not only have the needs of their minds satisfied, they also have the needs of their body's taken care of as well – all the children are cared for and provided with all three of daily meals at the centre each and everyday. If the centre didn't provide the children with their daily meals the children may find that they would often have to go without as many of the families simply can't afford to feed their children 3 meals-a-day everyday.

Most students attending the school arrive from families suffering from various difficulties; whether they are single-parent families struggling to get by, or one of the parents has an addiction to alcohol or drugs etc.

The schools aim is simple - to help wherever it can; whether it's through providing an education to the children, or it's by providing day-to-day basic sustenance. The centre also works hard to try and reduce the continuing psychological trauma that all of these children suffer. A major goal is also to involve the parent in their child's education – many parents simply don't pay any attention or even care whether their child attends school or not. This makes the job of the centre that much harder as there is no one to re-enforce the work that the centre does. CIEP is home to just over 500 students which are split down into more manageable groups of around 35 students. It plays host to students of all ages and extends its care to include children suffering from mental disabilities. Centres caring for children with disabilities are sadly a rarity – making this centre very important.

As with many of the centres we work with, CIEP provides a wide range of activities and lessons to children of a wide range of ages. The centre accommodates children as young as three years of age all the way up to school leavers.

As such a typical day may include activities and lessons that may sometimes require you to use your initiative and creativity. There is a host of activities and projects running at CIEP with which you can get involved with. In addition there are also possibilities for several other new activities which could be implemented and run by you. Some activities for you to think about would be: English teaching (to 5 & 6





year-olds, teenagers & young adults, and perhaps even to adults from the community), teaching/assisting in lessons such as arts & crafts, dance lessons, sports lessons, drama lessons (which can be given in English, for those students learning English), music (guitar, keyboard, etc.) – to name just a few.

Apart from these there are the extra activities organized for the students and family members, such as cultural events (presentations, shows, parties, and meals), social events, study groups, tours, and fundraising activities such as street parties. The range of activities that can be developed there is endless.

### Ballet de Santa Tereza



As the name suggests the Ballet de Santa Tereza involves Ballet! But guys don't worry we won't get you in a leotard just yet! The centre isn't just about ballet there are other dances taught as well – no truly the centre is involved with a host of activities. And whether you are a dancer or not we are sure you will agree once you have visited the project and spent a day working with the children that it is more than worthy of being included in on the list.

Ballet de Santa Tereza is a non-profit institution providing a range of extra-curricular programs to children, teenagers and families that live in surrounding areas. Many of the areas are considered of being at risk/vulnerable to the less desirable aspects/sub-cultures of modern day city life.



The institutes mission and focus revolves around providing social stability through engaging and encouraging the participation of the local community in activities which stimulate social and cultural awareness and thereby encouraging stronger integration among community members. The aim is to achieve such goals through the medium of artistic expression and social education.

Most of the team working at the centre is formed of volunteers who are generally taken from the local community. All of the volunteers are very willing, and provide help where ever it maybe required. According to the volunteers attending the centre the level of satisfaction drawn from seeing the smiling faces of the children is worth more than any amount of money in the world.

*As we mentioned earlier – Ballet Santa de Tereza isn't just a centre for dance, but (!), it is fab and you will want to get stuck-in and help out! Especially as unfortunately sometimes lessons have had to be called off because of the lack of teachers available – so you will certainly be helping to make a difference and help to keep the centre going through taking part during your placement.*



Your involvement at the centre may change with the activity that you are undertaking; classes may be organised by age or they may be organised on ability – sometimes as with the ballet classes you may simply be inundated and find that you have a group offering you a real mixture of ages and abilities – its an all-inclusive motto that the centre tries to put forward wherever suitable.



As mentioned the centre is more than worthy of its inclusion simply because the breadth of the activities and the level of involvement – all of which go to make volunteering at the centre a simply fabulous experience – and one that you will certainly remember. You will be able to get involved in and perhaps help to develop lessons in drama, English, art (usually painting), assisting with dance classes such as ballet, along with more traditional dances. There are also music lessons where you can “jam” and “get-down” with the children. The institution is desperate to receive volunteers whether it is to teach English or take ballet classes (one

of their more popular programs).

### Solar Meninos de Luz

This is a truly wonderful centre and one which extends its care to children of all ages; the centre takes in children starting from as young as 3 months – who then go on all the way up to the late teens. The centre accommodates almost four hundred children, many arriving from very poor families from communities in the surrounding area. The children attending are then split into groups of around 25 students.

The centre has an abundance of activities it provides to the children; giving courses in languages, IT, as well as giving lessons in sports (including among others basketball, football, rugby etc), dance; including capoeira, drama (it even boasts its own amphitheatre), arts and music. They also work hard to provide additional schooling to the children to help them achieve their goals. Solar have also built up an impressive library. Of course final but not least there is also the crèche.

*This centre truly performs a wonderful service to the children and local community that it serves.*

### ADE - Agência de Administração Estadual

ADE's work focuses on providing a brighter future for the children attending. The majority of the people working with the ADE are volunteers, with only a small proportion of members receiving any payment for the work they undertake.

Although the building is quite small comparatively, the infrastructure is well organised and manages to utilise every available resource, such as the sports complex of a nearby school, and of course not forgetting the nearby beach! You will also have access to a computer lab, a classroom (dedicated to classes teaching languages among other subjects), a room dedicated to dance. There's also some space out in the open-air just outside which is utilised.

Traditionally the English lessons have always been taught by Brazilian volunteers, but not now! Everyone at the centre is very excited about having native English speakers teaching the kids. It helps to add a new flavour to the lessons and brings so much more to the children aside from just the obvious.

There is also some scope for organising extra activities which can be taken outside of the institution. Possible activities could include arranging a practical conversation lesson such as an active participation class teaching English in a setting such as at the shops. The beach is just 3 blocks away from the centre (10 minutes walk) – so you may also have the opportunity of working right on Flamengo beach. You could find yourself coaching sports such as volleyball, football and perhaps even an adaptation of rugby (into games like "tag" - it can be great fun). You'll spend time building confidence, moral, and improving team bonding. You'll be doing all this whilst looking to teach technique, skills and strategy – save this one till last as it can take a little bit of time, energy and patience – well after all the kids are just the same as the kids back home - they are simply overflowing in enthusiasm.

*Variety is the spice of life and the variety available with ADE makes for a very popular placement for all our volunteers which go there – which goes hand-in-hand to give great job satisfaction! All this means that you have a better placement which hopefully means that the kids get more out of you! So everyone wins. All you need to bring is energy, ideas, and enthusiasm and of course a little bit of patience goes a long way, especially when dealing with a new culture – not to mention overcoming the language barrier.*



## São Martinho – Núcleo Comunitário Vicente de Carvalho

São Martinho founded back in 1984, with the main objective of rescuing dignity and installing the inherent basic human rights of the children and teenagers attending, whilst seeking to offer the possibility of a brighter future through physical, mental, and moral development in free and neutral surroundings. São Martinho is a non-profit organization and has many centres spread through out the city of Rio de Janeiro and the city of Niterói. It's an institution that works with social projects, such as school reinforcement, housing for homeless children, sports projects, among many others. The Núcleo Comunitário (Community Centre) is just one arm of São Martinho's work. In total among its many centres the institution assists a total of about 4,000 children every year.

The first contact with the institution usually occurs through the Socio-Educational Centre (SEC). SEC supports children and adolescents from 6 to 18 years of age who are living or working in the streets. The main goal is always to reinstate the child's ties to their family in the hope of seeing them return home. Where this isn't immediately possible, the children go on to São Martinho's homes with the hope of reintroduction with the family at a later stage - although this isn't always possible and many of the children are still at the centre when they reach the age of 18. The child is then assumed to be an adult in the eyes of the law, and they are reluctantly asked to leave. However in the time the children are with São Martinho the centre expends an endless amount of energy, working hard to ensure that as each child grows up, on towards adulthood - they are hopefully ready to step out and face the world around them.

São Martinho aim to provide a wide variety of organised activities for the children including (among others) activities that compliment their schooling, cultural activities, music, craft workshops, jewellery making, sewing, art, and sports; volleyball, handball, basketball, and Futsal (Indoor Football).



## RIO DE JANEIRO – PLACEMENT AVAILABILITY

The majority of the centres based in the City of Rio revolve around the national calendar; breaking for two weeks in the month of July and then again for an extended break from the middle of December through until after the carnival has finished, which is normally by mid-to-late February. However don't be despondent, during the break in July and also from mid-January onwards, there are still some very good options for centres all who are very much in-need of your help and are still operating as normal during such periods – one of those such centres is the Ballet Santa Tereza. The centre keeps its doors open as long as it is physically possible – a great testament to the concern, and commitment shown by the coordinators and the team of volunteers that work there.



## RIO DE JANEIRO – FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

You'll stay at the *Turístico Hotel*, roughly 10 minutes from downtown Rio, located in the glorious *Glória village*. It's remarkably easy to get around whether you choose the bus - with buses running to everywhere imaginable within Rio, or, you choose to ride the underground – with the hotel lying just across the street from the Glória underground station.

You are situated close to the nearby area of *Baía de Guanabara*, in *Aterro do Flamengo* - the region is well-known for being a favourite among tourists. The hotel has a very welcoming atmosphere catering to tourists and backpackers alike; coming to Rio from all over the globe – helping to provide the hotel with a wonderfully social atmosphere.

Twin rooms come as standard, and all the rooms are usually well-equipped boasting their own TV, fridge, air-conditioning and bathroom. In the hotel you will likely share a room with another Travellers volunteer/s (depending on the type/s of room available).

Past experience has shown us that most of our volunteers' regard eating out as one of the highlights of living in South America. You are located in the heart of Rio so there is an almost endless variety of dishes and restaurants available to you to sample - which is why we've provided the accommodation with only breakfast included – this helps keep the cost down for you and allows you the freedom to go out and be adventurous! Although it must be said that the breakfast, with the Brazilian twist added to that of its continental counterpart really is fantastic with its natural fruit juice, fruits, coffee, milk, bread, cheese, ham, butter, jams, and sweet cakes (popular in Brazil for breakfast) among other things – should ensure that you will be well set to start your day.



Meals in local restaurants will vary greatly; you can spend a couple of pounds or a couple of hundred pounds...if you really wanted to. The range of fair in Rio rivals that found in any city the world over. For those budgeting there are some very inexpensive options available and you'll dine out handsomely on about £4 (\$6); although you could be lucky and get away with spending even less and still be eating well. The trick is to keep your eyes peeled for the bargain eateries offering specials such as buffet lunches. Also don't forget the supermarkets are a good option and are comparable in standard to those found back home.

### RIO DE JANEIRO – YOUR PROJECT STAFF

Our local Brazilian staff are brother & sister team Fabio & Ana Castilha. Fabio (pictured left enjoying lunch with staff at one of the centres we work with) is based in Rio and will be your main local contact for this placement. Fabio is a kind, happy and enthusiastic guy with lots of charisma and even more energy! He's a capoeira nut, and will most likely try to get you involved in the sport at some point during your stay. He's not happy unless he's busy, and has endless time to spend with volunteers, making it his mission to make them feel at home in his country. Fabio was raised in Foz do Iguaçu, but moved to Rio to set up the Travellers projects here a couple of years ago.



**“Fabio you are fabulous ... Thanks Rio, thanks Travellers for arranging all this but mostly thanks to the children and the people who have made us so welcome here .... Tops Fabio, Keila [Fabio's**

**wife] and Cayo (and members of his family too numerous to mention). It says a lot that I am fighting back the tears as I say cheerio for now folks, love you all, please stay safe” –**  
A tearful final message from Vera Tyler, Rio volunteer

### FOZ DO IGUAÇU – PLACEMENT CENTRES

The majority of the project centres that we work with in Foz du Iguaçu (and Rio for that matter) are all in a similar situation - that they desperately need voluntary assistance!

Some of the centres can be found just outside your door at a short hop, skip and a jump, with others requiring a short bus ride to reach them. All are very deserving regardless of location – if you have to make a short trip out you are helping to ensure that all the centres receive the same great assistance and helping to make your placement their even more worthwhile! Again, included are a couple of brief descriptions to give you a better idea of what to expect.

*Additional information will happily be provided on request.*



#### New Wave

First established in July 1992 and now boasting four 'schools' (in the UK we would call them adult education centres). You will be teaching conversational English to students who range in age from about 14 upwards. The

wonderful thing is that the students are very aware and greatly appreciate the benefits of learning English and the effect it will have on their working lives and their future, thus teaching them is very satisfying indeed.

The schools all have a lovely atmosphere and group sizes are never larger than 16 - usually you can expect around 8 to 12 in a group, although sometimes you may find yourself teaching individuals. This makes class sizes easily manageable and helps create a friendly and inviting atmosphere. It also means that class time can be intimate and make for very productive lessons.





To start with the classes are normally taken by a New Wave Teacher and you will just be asked to assist – this may mean standing up in front of the class to aid pronunciation and assist in teaching conversational English to the students - you are not expected to be an expert on grammar or literature; the important thing is to help people speak English and familiarise them with correct pronunciation. Slowly you will be given a more active role as both you and time progress – this allows you to ease yourself into the teaching slowly – it really helps to build confidence and takes away the fear factor from leading a group.

You'll also receive lots of help in the structuring your lessons and in-general through assistance with your lessons. The training wheels we be taken away slowly - leaving you confident and in full control.



### **Fundação Nosso Lar**

This is a small, but wonderfully warm and inviting centre! Everyone here works extremely hard to create an environment that nurtures an overwhelming feeling of wellbeing; allowing the children to feel free to join in and express themselves. The centre is run by Ivânia Ferronato, with volunteers supervised by Geneci Ribeiro Padilha.

The children attending the centre are aged from 7 to 16, its located a short distance from the town of Foz. Travel to and from the project is by bus and generally takes around 20 minutes. The cost of your travel is provided for.

The centre accommodates around 30 students making for very small class sizes of usually only 6 – 8 students per group. The children have a very limited knowledge of English if any at all so you will be helping to lay the very first building blocks – a crucial stage in developing not only their comprehension but perhaps more importantly their enthusiasm. This really is a wonderful centre to become involved with.

### **APMI – Associação de Proteção à Maternidade e à Infância**

You will be able to walk to the crèche from your accommodation each day as it's just a couple of blocks away. The children at the centre range from 3-6 years old. The APMI crèche takes in around about 250 children each day which leaves the centre simply bursting at the seams. Class sizes are also bursting with around 45 children per class.

The centre is open Monday to Friday with the children arriving early at around at 7:30 am. This gives the children time to receive their morning breakfast which is served daily at 8:00 am. Classes begin by 9:00 am, before stopping for an hour off for lunch, which is taken at midday. Again the children are able to enjoy food prepared by the centre. Then the children enjoy an hour off for a siesta mid-afternoon - one of the benefits of being of such a young age. There's a few more activities before the children are then picked up from the centre; leaving at around 5.30 pm.

Everything at the centre is coordinated and run by the adoring nuns. Classes are supervised by staff members who are affectionately referred to as 'tias' or aunties. Your role will be primarily to assist the 'tias' with the class. As your placement develops, so will your role in the classroom. The crèche has a playground, a video recorder and a cassette player which you can utilize. They do not have access to anything more sophisticated, such as internet or a library etc. Football and games of any sorts are appreciated within the lessons and will make you even more popular amongst the kids!

The kids of APMI love having the volunteers there, and they learn remarkably fast.



### Crèche Mamãe Carolina - Associação Benedita da Providência

Crèche Mamãe Carolina is one of our smallest and poorest centres. It's located in down town Foz and is only a short walk from your accommodation at just a couple of blocks away. The centre opens Monday to Friday and cares for around 100 children in all from helping pre-school children aged 3 to 6 years in age, extends to care to children aged from 7 all the way up to 14. Class sizes are small, but large for the overall number of children attending the centre; often averaging around the mid-twenties.

Although the centre lacks many of the facilities provided by similar centres it more than matches them in its commitment to the children it serves. Volunteers are received gratefully at the centre and any help you can provide during your placement will be extremely beneficial. Activities that you will be able to get involved with include painting lessons, very Basic English lessons – as the children have very little understanding of English, organising recreational activities and structuring free time with games and songs.

### CAIA – Centro de Atenção Integral ao Adolescente & SCNSA

CAIA offers you the opportunity to interact and bond with the children that go there. There is already a strong desire among the staff to get the children involved and actively participating – so you'll be able to get involved with sports such as Football, Basketball, Volleyball and even Chess - of course not forgetting helping to organise the recreational activities that go hand-in-hand with many "classroom" lessons.



### Escola-Bairro Leonel de Moura Brizola

This centre is brand new for 2006 - so much so that at the time of writing this additional information the paint was still drying on some of the centres classroom walls. The institution is working by helping children, who are drawn from a range of backgrounds, from the surrounding area. Their primary aim is to broaden the horizon and awareness of the children whilst also providing much needed encouragement. The project is supported by city hall and is leading the way, being the only project in the country of its type.

Most of those attending the centre are children who arrive during the week with their local schools. As well as welcoming children, the centre is open to the general public during the weekends and during holidays. It's available to anyone wanting to use the centres facilities, whether it is for practicing sports or developing other interests & hobbies.

There is a huge range in the types of activities that are taught at the centre including computer courses, chess, table tennis, football, basketball, volleyball, swimming, music and martial arts to name just a few.

Volunteers will be asked to assist with the sports coaching and during the holidays to also work as part of the intensive language course teaching English.



### FOZ DO IGUACU – PLACEMENT AVAILABILITY

The majority of the centres based in Foz the centre revolve around a calendar which includes a two week break in the month of July and an extended break from the middle of December through until after the carnival has finished, which is normally by late February.

### FOZ DO IGUACU – FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

You'll stay in a very comfortable hotel downtown - very conveniently located for your transport needs, local centres / schools, supermarkets, shops, 'dining & wining' - close to the hub of all the activity, and perfect for

all your needs. The staff are all very helpful & friendly, and they are good sources of information about what to see and where to go in the region. You will share a room with one or maybe two other Travellers volunteers depending on the type of room provided. You will, if sharing, be paired with someone of the same sex, who is also a Travellers volunteer - unless of course otherwise requested (please do so well in advance!).



### FOZ DO IGUAÇU – YOUR PROJECT STAFF

Our local Brazilian staff are brother & sister team Fabio & Ana Castilha. Ana (pictured left with UK Project Co-Ordinator Elizabeth) is based in Foz and will be your main local contact for this placement. Ana is a kind, thoughtful and smiley lady who has one of the biggest hearts in Brazil... Ana was born and raised in Foz do Iguaçu, and so she knows everything there is to know about the projects there. She'll take care of you throughout your placement and make sure you feel at home in Brazil.

**“Ana is wonderful! She was so helpful at the start of my placement when I didn't know what was going on. Then when I found my feet she was there if I needed her but also let me find things out for myself”** – Christina Homer, Foz Volunteer 2007

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### THE NEXT STEP

If you would like to join us on one of our exciting projects then please fill in either an online application form at our website ([www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)) or one that is attached to our brochure. Once you have booked and confirmed your place we will send you detailed pack information regarding your placement and country.

**I do hope you join us and please do call or email if you have any questions at all about this or any of our other projects – 01903 502595 or email [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)**

**If you would like to know more about Travellers in general, or about any of our other projects we run in over 18 countries worldwide, please visit our website at [www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)**

### TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE

7 Mulberry Close  
Ferring  
West Sussex,  
BN12 5HY, England  
Tel: +44 (0)1903 502595  
Fax: +44 (0)1903 500364  
Email: [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)



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