Are you an undergraduate interested in Brazil? Whether already engaged or simply intrigued, the Duke Brazil Initiative (DBI) invites you to explore establishing ties with Brazilian universities and public and private institutions by applying for a developmental exchange grant focused on your research, passions, and interests. This competition is open to all Duke freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Portuguese language proficiency is not a requirement although students should address it in establishing the credibility of their application.

What is the award amount? When should the exchange take place?

The award will range from $2,500 to $3,000 depending on the proposed activities. Students are expected to stay for a minimum of 10 days. The exchange should take place between May and August, 2015.

What type of grant applications are you looking for? Unlike most traditional research grants available to undergraduates, these DBI exchange grants open the door to well-organized and thoughtful non-research proposals across all disciplines. Successful proposals must present realistic and meaningful artistic, scholarly, or alternative projects that may develop as a result of the initial exchange.

Note: We are especially interested in broadening Brazil exposure by recruiting motivated undergraduates involved with student government, the Chronicle, the arts, Mi Gente, the Black Student Alliance, and the Center for Documentary Studies as well as reaching out to the world of students involved with sports.

What if I don’t have contacts in Brazil? DBI faculty members will assist undergraduates in developing this exchange, including suggestions for the best use of the grant, institutional connections in Brazil, fieldwork advice, etc. Contact DBI faculty members well in advance of the deadline.

What is expected of a grant recipient? Exchange participants are expected to participate in presentations, training, or teaching at the host institution; those awarded grants will also be expected to:

a.) present and participate in the annual Brazil conference at Duke.
b.) use these exchanges as a jump off for participation and engagement in other campus opportunities focused on Brazil (Global Brazil Lab, new courses, Portuguese language study, etc.)
c.) document and share their experience with the broader Duke community.

Who is Eligible to Apply: The grants are open to freshman, sophomores, and juniors enrolled at Duke in any discipline or school. Students must complete the exchange grant before they graduate or transfer from Duke.
What’s the first step and how will the decision be made? Undergraduates will be assisted in developing proposals—including selection of possible institutions and collaborators—that will, in turn, be reviewed and selected as part of an open and competitive process balanced across themes and schools. These are understood as seed grants to foster new knowledge through exchanges that could possibly lead to collaborative externally funded research in the future. Decisions will be made by a faculty steering committee with administrative support provided by CLACS. *Please come and speak with DBI directors and faculty members about your ideas well in advance of the deadline.

When are applications due and what has to be included? The deadline is March 2, 2015 and decisions will be timely. Applications should include

1.) an 800-1000 word narrative which includes: an academic or artistic objective and why the Brazil exchange is necessary to achieve your goals; a list of potential institutional partners and personal contacts in Brazil; a tentative plan on how you intend to pursue this project once you return from Brazil;
2.) Duke participant(s) CVs or resumes;
3) Official Duke transcripts and;
4) a supportive email/letter from a faculty member who agrees to serve as your mentor for the exchange.

Please send application materials to Antonio Arce, DBI co-director at ama2@duke.edu or Campus Box 90254 (Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies) or DBI c/o Antonio Arce, John Hope Franklin Center, 2204 Erwin Rd., Durham, NC 27705.

The Duke Brazil Initiative (DBI) is co-sponsored by the Office of Global Strategy and Programs and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Web-site: http://latinamericancaribbean.duke.edu/signature-programs/duke-brazil-initiative