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## This Guide

Working abroad sounds like an adventure to many people. However, without thorough preparation, starting with a successful application it is bound to fail. Therefore, Expertise in Labour Mobility (ELM) has prepared a set of country guides describing the main routes to employment in over 40 countries. Are you interested in working in India, Italy or Japan? Has your partner accepted a job in the UK, the United States of America, or the United Arab Emirates?


Are you looking for an internship possibility in Spain, Singapore or Switzerland? The Looking for work in... guides from ELM will help you with accurate information and practical tips on working cultures and differences in job hunting in over 40 countries.

As an extra addition to the series – following many requests – ELM introduced a new guide: Looking for work in International Organisations which explains how to successfully look for work in for instance the institutes of the European Commission, UN institutions and NGOs.

This guide contains information on Brazil. It tells you how to apply for a job in Brazil and the cultural differences that you will come across when looking for a job in Brazil. Do not underestimate those national differences. What is common in one country might be very unusual in another country. Despite globalisation, to find a job abroad you need to be aware that national differences manifest themselves not only in

different languages, but also in different recruitment practices. Thus, looking for work in another country involves more than writing your CV/ resume in another language.

No matter the country in which you are looking for work, the key focus of your CV should be to persuade the employer to invite you for a job interview. Accordingly, your CV should be regarded as a marketing tool, adapted to the market in which you intend to use it. The information in this guide, together with the sample CV, will help you to adapt your application for the Brazilian job market. However, make sure your application remains a reflection of your personality. Working abroad is one thing, but having a job that does not suit you will definitely cause homesickness!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nannette Ripmeester', with a horizontal line underneath.

Nannette Ripmeester, MA  
Managing Director  
Expertise in Labour Mobility



## Country Profile

The Federative Republic of Brazil (República Federativa do Brasil) lies in South America and is the fifth largest country in the world. It is located on the east coast of South America and covers 8.5 million km<sup>2</sup> (5281900 mi<sup>2</sup>). It borders the Atlantic Ocean and has 7,491 km (4654.9 mi) of coast line. It has ten neighbouring countries among which: French Guiana, Suriname, Guiana, Venezuela and Colombia in the north; Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru in the west and Uruguay and Argentina in the South.

The capital, Brasília, is located in the federal state of Goiás. Brazil is subdivided into 26 states of which Amazonas in the North-West is the largest and Alagoas on the East coast is the smallest.

The main cities are São Paulo (10.8 million inhabitants), Rio de Janeiro (6 million inhabitants), Salvador (2.6 million inhabitants), Belo Horizonte (2.3 million inhabitants), Fortaleza (2.3 million inhabitants), Brasília (2.2 million inhabitants) and Curitiba (1.7 million inhabitants). Most of the main cities lie along the East coast,

although also the capital city Brasilia is quite large and there is an increasing tendency for more people to move inland.

The Brazilian landscape ranges from tropical rainforests in the Amazon, to dry landscapes inland to cold highlands in the south.

### **Climate**

The climate varies greatly throughout Brazil. In the Amazon region it is hot and humid all year long. In the Northern highlands the climate is mainly very hot and dry whereas the South has frequent rain and cold winters. In the Central- and North- Eastern parts of the country the climate is predominantly tropical with dry winters and humid summers. The average temperature in the North is 28°C (82.4 F°) and 22°C (71.6 F°) in the South. With exception of the North of Brazil (where it is hot and humid all year long), the seasons are the exact opposite of countries in the Northern hemisphere.

### **Population**

The population of Brazil is approximately 190 million. In Brazil it is fairly difficult to state the population in percentages by origin, due to the integration of various ethnic groups over decades. By physical characteristics it can be divided into: Caucasian 49.4%, Black 7.4%, Afro-Brazilian 42.3%, other (includes Japanese, Arab and Indigenous people) 0.9 %. A fact unknown to many people: the largest community of Japanese outside Japan live in Brazil. In 1907 Japan and Brazil signed a treaty which permitted

Table 1.1 maximum average temperatures (C°/F°)

Cities	Summer			Autumn		
	jan	feb	mar	april	may	june
Belém	31/88	30/86	31/88	31/88	31/88	31/88
Belo Horizonte	28/82	28/82	28/82	27/81	26/80	25/77
Brasília	27/81	27/81	27/81	26/80	26/80	25/77
Curitiba	26/80	26/80	25/77	23/73	21/70	19/66
Florianópolis	29/84	29/84	28/82	26/80	24/75	22/72
Fortaleza	31/88	31/88	30/86	30/86	30/86	30/86
Goiana	29/84	29/84	30/86	30/86	29/84	29/84
Manaus	31/88	31/88	31/88	31/88	31/88	31/88
Natal	31/88	31/88	31/88	31/88	30/86	30/86
Recife	30/86	30/86	30/86	29/84	28/82	28/82
Rio de Janeiro	29/84	29/84	28/82	27/81	25/77	24/75
Salvador	30/86	30/86	30/86	29/84	28/82	27/81
São Paulo	28/82	28/82	27/81	25/77	23/73	22/72
Cities	Winter			Spring		
	juli	aug	sep	okt	nov	dec
Belém	31/88	31/88	32/90	32/90	32/90	32/90
Belo Horizonte	24/75	26/80	27/81	27/81	27/81	27/81
Brasília	25/77	27/81	28/82	27/81	26/80	26/80
Curitiba	19/66	20/68	20/68	22/72	24/75	25/77
Florianópolis	21/70	22/72	22/72	24/75	26/80	26/80
Fortaleza	30/86	30/86	30/86	31/88	31/88	31/88
Goiana	29/84	31/88	32/90	31/88	30/86	29/84
Manaus	32/90	33/91	33/91	33/91	33/91	32/90
Natal	29/84	28/82	30/86	30/86	31/88	31/88
Recife	27/81	27/81	28/82	29/84	29/84	29/84
Rio de Janeiro	24/75	24/75	24/75	25/77	26/80	28/82
Salvador	26/80	26/80	27/81	28/82	29/84	30/86
São Paulo	22/72	23/73	24/75	24/75	26/80	26/80

Japanese workers to immigrate to Brazil. Now the population of Japanese Brazilians is estimated to be 1.5 million. Most of them live in the state of São Paulo and the state of Paraná. The third and second generation of Japanese Brazilians are fully integrated and most of them see themselves as Brazilians, while retaining some of their Japanese culture. In São Paulo city, the neighbourhood of Liberdade is where most Japanese Brazilians are situated and it is designed to match Japanese design.

### History

Brazil's first inhabitants were native tribes. Exactly how many inhabitants there were before the Portuguese arrived is not certain. A conservative estimation has been given of 2.4 million, although estimates of 5 million have been given as well. It is difficult to determine more precisely how many native inhabitants Brazil had, as many died due to diseases brought by the Portuguese. On April the 22nd in 1500, the Portuguese arrived in Brazil under the leadership of Pedro Álvares Cabral. After the discovery of the wood type *brasil* the country was given the name still used today: Brasil. Initially the indigenous people were curious and hospitable towards the newcomers. The Portuguese used the local natives to help extract natural resources from the new found land, paying them in gadgets such as mirrors and rattles. Later on, after the indigenous tribes had traded sufficient goods and were no longer interested in such labour, the Portuguese started using them for slave labour. Unfortunately

diseases brought by the Portuguese and the harsh methods of slave hunters drastically decreased the number of indigenous people in Brazil. Today they are still a minority of the Brazilian population. Many are still fighting in order to preserve their indigenous land.

The Portuguese used Brazil as a trade colony, its main objective being the production of sugar cane and extraction of precious minerals. In the treaty of Tordesillas of 1494 with Spain, South America was divided into a Spanish and Portuguese part. The new land was attacked by the French, Dutch and English but was able to withstand all of the attacks. It was due to these attacks that the Portuguese decided to officially colonise Brazil.

In 1549, the Portuguese governor-general, Tomé da Souza, founded the city of São Salvador and established the first Portuguese government in the New World. The main export products were sugar, cotton and tobacco. Also a lot of gems, gold and other precious materials were extracted from mines in the state we now call Minas Gerais. The surge in popularity of sugar cane as an export product and the strong resistance of indigenous people were the main reasons for the import of slaved labour from Africa. While in 1570 there were an estimated 3000 slaves from Africa, in 1587 their number had risen to 14,000. They then consisted of 47 percent of the Brazilian population compared to the European inhabitants. A total of approximately 371,615 slaves were brought from Africa