

## International Students and the Multiculturalization of University Education

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University education in Brazil is carried out in both national and private universities. The University of San Paulo is known as the best higher education institution in South America and accepts students from home and abroad. The current number of students at the university is approximately eighty thousand, fifty thousand undergraduates and thirty thousand graduate students, and the university also carries out lifetime learning lecture programs for the general public. By gender the student body consists of 53.48% male and 46.52% female students and the faculty consists of 64.11% male and 35.89% female with 97.02% of all faculty having completed PhDs. Whereas the categorization is different from universities in Japan, there are 40 undergraduate departments and approximately 230 graduate schools. The university has its main campus, campuses in four separate locations around the city of San Paulo and educational facilities in seven towns located in six further regions around the state.

The university takes in a yearly quota of a hundred and fifty new international students with students from Central/South America and Africa making up the majority. Most of these students are accepted from universities with which San Paulo University has academic affiliations with around the world, but students also come from universities with which San Paulo does not have such agreements. Such students, like their Brazilian counterparts, do not have to pay tuition fees. While there is a student dormitory on the main campus, because of the large numbers of applicants for dormitory accommodation, not all students can live there. The student dining room can be used for a variety of activities and there are also health and hygiene facilities such as the student insurance center and the medical department's hospital.

Those in Brazil who go on to higher education make up only 1% of the overall population and up until today the number of Black students applying for places was overwhelmingly small. Brazil is a multi-ethnic state and it would not be overstating the matter to call Brazil a melting-pot of different races, but, despite this, racism has affected the make up of the student body to some extent. The reason behind such small numbers of university applicants has been thought of as poverty. A few years ago, affirmative action programs have been introduced, particularly in Brazil's national universities. A one in ten to four in ten special framework aimed at Black and Indigenous graduates of national high schools has been recognized. Whereas this system is gradually beginning to take root, some Whites have brought lawsuits claiming the system unconstitutional and a form of reverse racism, making this transition in policy a key focus point in Brazilian education.