



2017 US-Brazil Connect Fellowship Information Packet

for Kirkwood Community College Students



Application Deadline: December 15, 2016

Table of Contents

Program Overview.....Page 3

Fellowship RolePage 4

Brazilian Partners.....Page 5

Program Approach.....Pages 5-6

Qualities of Successful FellowsPage 7

Fellowship Benefits & Financial Commitments.....Pages 7-8

Fellowship Qualifications.....Page 9

Program Dates.....Page 10

Application Process.....Page 10

Next Steps.....Page 10

Additional Resources.....Page 10

US-Brazil Connect seeks exceptional candidates to join the 2017 Fellowship Program

Program Overview

US-Brazil Connect is a Denver-based nonprofit organization that engages conscious leaders, connects communities, and provides access to transformative learning experiences linking the United States and Brazil. Since 2012, US-Brazil Connect has sent over 500 U.S. Fellows and Team Leaders to Brazil to work with over 5,000 Brazilian high school students in our Conexão Mundo (World Connection) program.

US-Brazil Connect works across multiple sectors and engages diverse partners in order to achieve its mission. In addition to collaborating with the Brazilian Confederation of Industry (CNI) and its SESI/SENAI school systems, the organization has created a working consortium of community colleges, partnering organizations, and foundations throughout the United States. By engaging various partners to deliver the Conexão Mundo program, US-Brazil Connect supports dynamic leadership opportunities for emerging professionals and strengthens our partners capacity for creating international programs.

We are looking for strong Fellowship candidates who have the drive and desire to thrive in the US-Brazil Connect 2017 Fellowship Program. Fellows will be part of an innovative international education initiative designed to help Brazilian high school students strengthen their confidence as global citizens and skill communicating in English. After an initial training period, Fellows serve as English coaches to Brazilian students for a total of 18-20 weeks. Fellows develop a mentoring relationship with their assigned students through online platforms and in-person classroom time. In addition to working with the Brazilian students, Fellows train, prepare, and give and receive support with members of their US-Brazil Connect team.

In this Fellowship, Fellows:

- **Partner in responsible international development:** In direct contrast to charity projects, the US-Brazil Connect Fellowship is part of a mutually beneficial collaboration between US-Brazil Connect and its Brazilian partners.
- **Strengthen global leadership skills:** Through training, practical experience and reflection, Fellows develop and sharpen leadership skills applicable to working on teams, facilitating groups, mentoring youth, understanding innovative education design, and contributing to dynamic cross-cultural environments.

- **Work directly with Brazilian high school students:** Working as English language “coaches” with Brazilian students via social media and in-person formats, Fellows are part of an international education initiative.
- **Travel to Brazil:** Traveling as representatives of US-Brazil Connect and their sponsoring college or foundation, Fellows work in Brazil at their assigned site for 3-4 weeks of this 6-month fellowship.

Fellowship Role

Fellows serve on teams of 4-6 US-Brazil Connect Fellows selected from their sponsoring college or foundation. Each team is supported by 1-2 US-Brazil Connect Team Leaders.

The Fellowship is a transformative global learning and leadership experience for all Fellows who participate. This is a working Fellowship that is both rigorous and rewarding!

- **Training:** Actively participate in a rigorous training program that combines online and in-person modules. Training consists of a three-day in-person weekend workshop from May 19-21, 2017 in Denver, CO (travel and meals supported by US-Brazil Connect), 4 online Saturday sessions (4/1/2017, 4/22/2017, 5/13/2017, and 6/3/2017), and ongoing weekly online assignments with your team of US-Brazil Connect Fellows. The emphasis is on leadership development, teamwork, and coaching skill development for facilitating English as a Foreign Language (EFL) activities. The preparation period also examines Brazilian culture and prepares Fellows for travel to Brazil.
- **Online Coaching:** Serve as an online coach to support Brazilian students’ participation as global citizens and development of confidence in communicating in English. Fellows are required to spend a minimum of 4-5 hours per week online with students via Facebook and Google Hangouts. Online coaching of Brazilian students is required for 8 weeks prior to travel to Brazil and for 6 weeks following return. US-Brazil Connect provides support and guidance for engagement with students.
- **Leadership Development:** Fellows are required to spend at least 2 hours per week completing their weekly Fellowship assignments, completing self-evaluation and student evaluation reports and other tasks as required. Fellows must be able to consistently commit at least 8 hours per week to the Fellowship.
- **Travel:** Fellows travel to Brazil for a 3-4 week period in late June/July 2017.

- **In-Person Coaching:** In Brazil, Fellows interact with their Brazilian students for 4 to 6 hours per day, leading 2 different groups of students, assisting with daily assemblies, attending field trips with students, and working as a collaborative team member with other Fellows and the Team Leaders. Fellows should also plan to spend 2-3 hours daily for team meetings and lesson planning. The experience in Brazil is intense and challenging. All participants should expect a full and demanding schedule during this time. Weekends are generally free to explore the community.
- **Giving Back:** Upon return to the US, Fellows will be required to complete a “Pay-it-Forward” project to give back to their sponsoring college, foundation, or community through speaking, writing, or other service projects.

“I never imagined in a million years that I would get to be a part of such an awesome experience... I am sure I will take the lessons from this summer with me for the rest of my life... The program helps shape who you are as a person, and working in Conexão Mundo is one of those stories I would love to tell my grandchildren about.”

– Miami Dade College Fellow

Brazilian Partners & Conexão Mundo

[Conexão Mundo](#) is a unique collaboration between US-Brazil Connect and the Brazilian Confederation of Industry (CNI), Federations of Industry at the state level in Brazil, and their SESI/SENAI school systems. CNI is the pre-eminent Brazilian business association, with over a thousand employer associations across all 26 states of Brazil, as well as more than 350,000 member companies. State Federations of Industry represent business leadership at the state level in Brazil. Together, the state and national business leaders govern the SESI/SENAI school systems, which comprise the largest technical training network in Latin America. Supported by a 2.5% payroll tax, SESI/SENAI enroll over 7 million students annually in about 800 schools and technical institutes throughout Brazil.

CNI and the State Federations of Industry are investing in this partnership as a means to support development of global citizens and English language exposure for their students, thereby strengthening the Brazilian workforce to meet the demands of a globalized economy. US-Brazil Connect’s approach—focused on relationships and empowerment—has had tremendous impact on our participants and is customized for our partners in Brazil.

The jointly implemented international education initiative aims to fulfill 3 objectives:

1. Build global citizens and strengthen the English language skills and confidence of Brazilian high school students;

2. Provide transformative learning experiences for US college students and emerging professionals; and
3. Build capacity for exchange between emerging professionals in the US and Brazilian technical institutions.

Program Approach

Prior to Conexão Mundo, many participating Brazilian students have studied some English in grammar-based classrooms. The majority of students, however, have never met or communicated with a foreigner, especially a native or near-native English speaker. For these students, attitude and confidence, not skills, are their greatest barriers to communicating in English.

Despite ranging academic knowledge of the language, students may be nervous, shy, or even afraid to have a conversation in English. Additionally, when students have never met people from other countries, the value of being able to communicate in another language can be abstract.

The educational framework developed by US-Brazil Connect, with the support and input of our Brazilian partners, is asset-based. It is designed to help students overcome fear, take risks, grow, have fun with the learning process, build relationships with everyone involved, and expand their knowledge of career pathways.

US-Brazil Connect Fellows serve in this model as English coaches – not teachers. Their job is to help students build confidence connecting as global citizens and communicating in English. The coaching model is based on the foundation of shared growth through a common journey. Fellows are not “the sage on the stage”; rather, they are “the guide on the side”. Most importantly, Fellows are invited to a profound experience of learning and growth. Throughout the program, Fellows are challenged to overcome fear, take risks, grow, and build relationships. The program’s transformative power depends on the shared responsibility of Brazilian students and US coaches.

“I experienced a new culture that gave me a new perspective on things... I learned a lot about myself and gained leadership skills, public speaking skills and traveling skills. I had to be patient, flexible and willing to do things that may have been out of my comfort zone in the US. Truth be told, I found a part of me that was hidden, and that part of me is here to stay!”

– Northwestern Michigan Fellow

Qualities of Successful Fellows

We are looking for outstanding emerging professionals and college students who will contribute to the success of their team. Characteristics of successful Fellows include:

- **Being a Creative Partner:** This is not an experience to be 'consumed.' Candidates applying to the program should be ready to actively work, learn, reflect, give, and grow throughout this experience. The true value of this experience can only be experienced when a Fellow gives their time, energy, and heart.
- **Resourceful:** Fellows are flexible, adaptable, patient, and ready to make the most of whatever challenges come their way.
- **Team-oriented:** Fellows are able to focus on the goals of the team, collaborate effectively with other team members, and devote the effort necessary to achieve success as a team.
- **Comfortable with technology:** Fellows are familiar with social media tools or are willing and able to quickly learn. They are interested in connecting with others through use of technology and in-person.
- **Reflective:** Fellows are willing to share information, perceptions, and feedback openly while continually striving for growth.
- **Optimistic:** Fellows believe that a better world is possible and seek to understand what role they can play in contributing to positive change.
- **Principled:** Fellows possess maturity and the ability to commit to a goal larger than themselves.
- **Culturally Aware:** Fellows understand that each culture is unique. They appreciate diversity and are eager to learn and share across cultures.

Fellowship Benefits & Financial Commitments

Benefits: This program offers many resources to Fellows. Benefits include:

- **In-Country Resources:** lodging accommodations, meals or a meal allowance, local transportation to and from the school site, and international health insurance for the 3-4 weeks in Brazil.

- **Modest stipend and program certificate:** Upon successful completion of the Fellowship, Fellows will receive a stipend of \$200 and a certificate of completion.
- **Mentoring & Leadership Development:** Fellows receive mentoring and support from our trained Team Leaders that focus on professional development and coaching skills. Our Fellowship curriculum is designed to cultivate leadership and cross-cultural skills so participants learn and grow throughout each phase of the program. Fellows gain experience working with both U.S. and Brazilians teams in an international setting.
- **Weekend workshop:** US-Brazil Connect provides support for meals and travel for the Denver workshop.
- **Support from a community of sponsors who invest in your growth as a conscious global leader:** The US-Brazil Connect Fellowship is possible through the support of the sponsoring college or foundation, our partners in Brazil, and the generous support of donors to US-Brazil Connect. Fellows pay no fee to participate and benefits of the Fellowship are valued at over \$10,000 per Fellow.

Financial Commitments: Although this program is very affordable, it is not “all-inclusive”. Fellows are responsible to pay:

- **Spending Money:** Personal costs while in Brazil, such as choosing to eat out in restaurants, souvenirs/gifts, weekend excursions, etc. While all day-to-day costs are covered, Fellows should bring a minimum of \$300 for use in the case of emergency.

Fellowship Qualifications

- Genuine interest in cross-cultural exchange, learning about Brazil, and connecting with Brazilian high school students while sharing American culture and life experiences.
- Commitment to personal growth and developing skills in global leadership.
- Commitment to serving as an online and in-person coach to Brazilian students.
- Ability to access necessary technology (computer with reliable internet connection, webcam, and microphone) several times per week.
- Ability to consistently dedicate a minimum of 8 hours per week to the fellowship in Phase I and Phase III (4-5 hours of direct coaching to students, 2-3 hours on fellowship assignments, student evaluations, and other tasks as assigned). Please note, there will be a greater time commitment in weeks with the Saturday morning online training session and weekend workshop.

- Willingness to commit to 6-8 hours per day to the program in Phase II (includes time at the school and planning time/team meetings).
- Ability to use online tools and social media platforms including Facebook, Google Hangout video chats, Google Drive, and other applications.
- Comfortable leading small groups independently and facilitating group activities.
- Ability to complete all aspects of training, including a three-day in-person weekend workshop from May 19-21, 2017 in Denver, CO , 4 online Saturday sessions (4/1/2017, 4/22/2017, 5/13/2017, and 6/3/2017), and ongoing weekly online assignments with your team of US-Brazil Connect Fellows.
- Respectful of cultural diversity and eagerness for a cultural immersion experience.
- Ability to work cooperatively in a team and maintain a positive attitude.
- Possession of excellent reading, writing, and speaking skills in English.
- Flexibility to live and work in Brazil for 3-4 weeks at an assigned site. Please note, site assignments range from thriving urban centers to remote rural areas.
- Ability to represent US-Brazil Connect and your college (if applicable) to Brazilian institutional partners, Brazilian students, and the broader community during the Fellowship.

No teaching experience or Portuguese skills are required; individuals in the US with a wide range of backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Program Dates

US-Brazil Connect and the Brazilian State Federations of Industry are currently finalizing Brazilian sites for the program. Distribution of participating Brazilian states and their availability to host will dictate exact program dates.

Established Program Dates:

- Application Deadline: December 15, 2016
- Fellowship Candidate Interviews: January 2017
- Invitation to Selected Fellows and confirmation of site and dates for travel to Brazil: February 6, 2017
- Deadline to apply for passport (if necessary): February 13, 2017
- Online distance sessions: April 1, 2017; April 22, 2017; May 13, 2017; and June 3 2017
- 3-day workshop in Denver: May 19-21, 2017

The 3-4 week in-person phase in Brazil will take place between June 26, 2017 and July 30, 2017.

Application Process

All interested candidates must complete the US-Brazil Connect application and submit it to college contact. The application period runs from October 17, 2016 to December 15, 2016. Interviews will be conducted in January of 2017. Final selection of Fellows will be made on or by February 6, 2017.

Next Steps if Selected

If you are selected, your next steps are:

- Apply for a passport immediately if you don't already have one, or if it expires before December 2017.
- Complete the US-Brazil Connect Fellowship enrollment paperwork, including a background check.

Additional Information

To learn more about US-Brazil Connect and our partners, check out these websites:

- www.us-brazil.org (our new website!)
- <http://www.portaldaindustria.com.br/cni/en/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/usbrazilconnect.org>

**Thank you for your interest in the US-Brazil Connect 2017 Fellowship.
Good luck with your application process.
APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 15, 2016**



"This was one of the most positive and exciting experiences of my life. Sometimes I feel like it was all a dream. Being in Brazil felt so comfortable and yet every day I was exposed to something new to learn about the culture... It's hard to put into words, but even in just a short amount of time, I felt like I learned so much about traveling, working in a team, leading, and teaching."
– 2015 US-Brazil Connect Fellow