



# Brazil

## Permaculture at Ecoversidade Summer Term

study abroad in South America and investigate new ways of creating sustainable human habitats at IPEC/Ecoversidade – a grassroots ecological institute in tropical central Brazil. Learn permaculture principles and create your own unique ecological design as you study and apply sustainable community development theory in a real-world environment. The course offers a unique opportunity for students to gain environmental and international experience and the inspiration to adapt appropriate technologies and sustainable agriculture techniques to their own climates and cultures.



Students study and practice natural building and ecological design techniques.



Expert faculty and outdoor classrooms facilitate learning about sustainable living.

### Program Highlights

- ☀️ Become a Certified Permaculture Apprentice and create a permaculture design that will benefit the local community
- ☀️ Visit a World Heritage Biosphere, home to endemic rare flora and fauna
- ☀️ Learn Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of sacred dance, acrobatics and martial arts
- ☀️ Get hands-on experience in natural building techniques from around the world
- ☀️ Visit neighboring traditional communities of Caxambu, Furnas and Lagolandia

### Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts—Amherst



Course: Permaculture (Plant and Soil Sciences 398P)

Summer. . . . . June 20 - July 11\* (subject to change)

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by .

\*Students may extend their stay and participate in **Bioconstruindo**, a renowned natural building course that attracts students and professionals from all over the world. The workshop is offered by IPEC (in Portuguese) directly following the permaculture course at an additional cost. Upon acceptance to the Living Routes course, students will be given information to contact IPEC about Bioconstruindo.

## Ecoversidade/IPEC and the Region

Ecoversidade, part of IPEC (Permaculture Institute and Ecovillage of the Cerrado), is dedicated to sustainability education by fostering a profound understanding and direct experience of the natural world. Ecoversidade serves as a model of viable rural settlement, incorporating appropriate technologies, living systems and sustainable community life from a holistic perspective. The community is a dynamic place where residents and students take part in community activities, including Portuguese instruction, yoga, meditation, Women's Food Cooperative events and Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of sacred dance, acrobatics and martial arts. IPEC is also host to a yearly Green Building Workshop called Bioconstruindo, which has transformed the community into a showcase for ecobuilding and design.



The Cerrado ecosystem, home of IPEC, is an important transition zone near the Amazon

Brazil's Cerrado, home to IPEC, is the second largest ecosystem in South America and represents the ecological transition zone between the Amazon and the Atlantic Rainforest. It is a tropical savanna with fauna and flora with high levels of endemic speciation. The remaining Cerrado forests, which are dangerously threatened by the use of fire, are classified as a World Heritage Biosphere by the UN.



In coursework and practice, students plan, build and integrate dwellings into the local environment

## Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions—contact us for late availability)

March 31

## Cost (subject to change)

Tuition, room & board, in-country travel . . . . \$2,750

~~Living Routes~~ credit . . . . . included

## Faculty

**Lucy Legan**, master's candidate in science and the environment, Deakin University, Australia

Legan is an experienced environmental education teacher and permaculture designer. She has been working in Brazil since 1997, and is the co-founder of IPEC. More recently she has published an environmental educators manual called *Sustainable Schools - Eco-literacy and the Environment*. She has developed several permaculture training programs for training centers in Australia and Brazil.

**Andre L.J. Soares**, master's candidate in environmental education, Griffith University, Australia

Soares is a teacher, natural builder, permaculture designer and author. Since returning to Brazil in 1997 he has been a field consultant for the United Nations Development Program, a member of the Brazilian Organic Certification Board and the current director of the Mollison School for Sustainable Studies. His courses have attracted thousands of students.

## Course Topics

### Sustainable Shelter

Concepts and themes of design, natural building and architecture, renewable energy, and appropriate technologies

### Aquaculture

Water technologies, earth movement, dry composting toilets, water harvesting, storage and distribution, recycling water, and desertification and the salting of soils

### Community Development

Indigenous, intentional, alternative and traditional communities, economic strategies, globalization, and visits to various communities in the region

### Cultivated Ecosystems

Organic gardening, food forests, small animal systems, tropics and sub-tropics, dryland strategies, and cold climate systems

Portuguese Language (optional)