



## **Study Abroad Program with Brazil**

The NFREC, in cooperation with the Soil and Water Science Department and IFAS International Program Office on the Gainesville campus, directs a unique study abroad program for graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Florida and at two major U.S. universities (University of Georgia and North Carolina State University).

In return we are accepting a similar number of Brazilian students from three major Brazilian universities to study at our U.S. institutes.

The program offers a Certificate in the topic of

### **FOREST AND SOIL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

Details on the program can be found at the program website at <http://soils.ifas.ufl.edu/courses/soilservices/>

The purpose of the program is to:

- 1) Help students develop a proficiency in Portuguese by studying at a Brazilian University
- 2) Provide the opportunity to develop an expertise in Forest and Soil Ecosystem Services by engaging in a 12 hour curriculum that encompasses study both in the United States and in Brazil; and
- 3) Teach students about life in another country/culture in order to foster a long-term collaboration between Brazil and the United States in this field of endeavor.

From 2007 to 2011, our goal within this US Department of Education project is to send a total of 36 American students to Brazil while accepting the same number of Brazilian students into the U.S.A.

Our students are attending one of three Brazilian universities (see map for locations):

- 1) Federal University of Viçosa
- 2) Federal University of Paraná
- 3) Federal University of Tocantins



In order to earn the certificate, students are required to take a minimum of 6 credit hours in approved courses (see website) from one of these universities in Brazil. To financially assist those students, our program provides **\$2250** as a mobility stipend.

Another 6 credit hours are taken from the home U.S. institute. Of these 12 credit hours, a foundation course entitled Forest and Soil Ecosystem Services is required.

Our foundation course is offered on-line in a distance education format and taught jointly at all six universities in both countries at the same time. Our students interact through discussion sessions, trading ideas and experiences from both countries.

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