

GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF FORTALEZA – UNIFOR.

The best private university in the
North and Northeast of Brazil.



UNIFOR
ENSINANDO E APRENDENDO
www.unifor.br

INTRODUCTION

Dear international student,

We would like to give you a very warm and Brazilian welcome at the University of Fortaleza – UNIFOR. This guide will help you get as much information about Unifor and Fortaleza as you need before you arrive here. This is a unique time in your life and we are here to encourage you to make the most of every day. We hope you will all do well and we would like to give some useful tips to make your life easier.

UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY

“Education is essential and a priority investment”, quote from Unifor’s creator, Chancellor Edson Queiroz, during the opening speech at the University of Fortaleza in 1973.

The idea of the creation of the University of Fortaleza, designed by industrial Edson Queiroz, was not merely motivated by market research that revealed the lack of educational system of the state. It was about planning a ‘living’ institution acting decisively in the development process of the region.

He wanted to bring change in social and economic status of its beneficiaries, with positive effects for families and the community. To Edson Queiroz, “the University of Fortaleza does not belong to Edson Queiroz Foundation: it belongs to everyone. The work is national in nature and all those who graduate here will be useful to the nation.”

Since then, the ideal of Edson Queiroz materialized in more than 70,000 undergraduates and 7,000 graduate degrees awarded. Of the 1,270 initial students, about 25,000 make up the current population of the student body in its 29 undergraduate and 9 executive technology graduate courses.

The University is installed on a campus of 720,000 m², where there is a mega-structure with approximately 300 classrooms and more

than 230 specialized laboratories. The campus also consists of auditoriums, video rooms, library, community center, health care center, dental clinic, sports park, theater, cultural space, office for legal practice, junior companies, university TV, kindergarten and middle school and several other core academic practice and research.

The highly qualified teaching staff, composed of 1,200 teachers, with more than 80% of masters and doctors, is responsible for overseeing hundreds of research projects in the scientific, technological, artistic and cultural fields.

Connected by several high speed internet access, all academic and administrative processes are integrated, enabling the community to monitor virtually in the same environment, didactic and pedagogical methods, access advanced databases for research and use the resources of distance education. In addition, the campus offers free wi-fi internet coverage in all its extension.

About Unifor, the Edson Queiroz Chancellor said: "I do not want to speak now of the University, but in ten, twenty years, when maybe I'm not here". Forty years later, much can be said about the institution. However, what specifically should be considered is the undisputed value that the University of Fortaleza represents in the Brazilian education scene.

The recognition of the institution and its academic maturity does not come by chance. It is the result of working professionals who struggle and wish that, through education, the teaching and the learning diary is to build a fair and humane society in the better world we want.



The International Affairs Office at the University of Fortaleza was created in 2001, first to support UNIFOR students that would like to study abroad and to give support to international students participating in eventual exchange academic programs. UNIFOR, by 2001, understood the increasing importance that globalization in general, and internationalization of education in particular, have for the creation of the International Affairs Office. UNIFOR also had to prepare and offer courses in English in order to increase chances to sign international exchange agreements with a wide range of foreign universities and attract students from abroad, as well as to cope with the internationalization process. Over the years, the International Affairs Office has been very important in terms of supporting exchange students personal development by giving them the opportunity to have different views about academic curriculum variety, experience diversity as part of foreign multicultural groups, create network with international professors and make friendships around the world.



International students at UNIFOR in a short period of time learn Portuguese and get in touch with our cultural diversity. Also, “Portuguese for Foreigners” is an undergraduate course offered to facilitate personal relationships between Brazilian and international students during the period they interact at the university and after, throughout the networks created. UNIFOR students going abroad, on the other hand, have the opportunity to experience the reputation and credibility of universities outside Brazil, and to live in a different cultural environment, as well as, learn a new foreign language. These achievements were results of the International Affairs Office efforts to consolidate the internationalization at UNIFOR.

Lately, the number of academic exchange programs at UNIFOR has increased, along with the search for them which shows the amazing work that the International Affairs Office has been performing. As important tasks, international students engaged in exchange programs have the pleasure to experience UNIFOR campus guided by the International Affairs Office staff in the first week of activities, and get information about the university and the city of Fortaleza.

Randal Martins Pompeu
Vice President of Extension Programs

A STRUCTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Spread out in an extensive campus of 720,000m², the University of Fortaleza has auditoriums, library, theater, audio-video rooms, laboratories, sports park, healthcare center, cultural space, student center, legal practice office, research centers and different university extension centers. Check out our campus structure and see for yourself



Library:

One of the State's largest libraries can be found at the University of Fortaleza campus, well known for its rich collection and modern infrastructure. The library is equipped with more than 250 thousand books and resources in human, law, technology, health and administration sciences.



Student Center:

Meet some friends for a snack, print assignments or maybe buy that last minute gift? A great idea is the Student Center. Besides the food court, shops and quick printing press, the Student Center has a travel agency, bank, drugstore, book shop and an audio-visual projection room. Cultural and academic events are always taking place in this special and unique space.



Celina Queiroz Theater:

Entertainment tips always include Celina Queiroz Theater's diversified program, which is located in Block T of the campus. You will quickly notice that Unifor takes art production very seriously, including shows and theater plays with local and international artists. Students, professors and staff always check out the program full of major theatrical productions.



Cultural Space:

Where is Miró, Rembrandt, Rubens and other great names of the fine arts made available to the general public at the Unifor campus? Drop by and visit our Cultural Space, which is located in the second floor of the President's Office Building. A team of students specially trained in art history receives visitors and provides a guided tour of the works of art and share wonderful stories of the artists.



Sports Park:

Unifor has one of the country's most modern and complete structure for sports. At the Sports Park you may find the MultiSports Court, a 5,000 m² sports complex with a pool, beach volley ball court, tennis court, an official football field, football society field and a track and field stadium, one of the few in Brazil to receive certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations.



Gym:

The Unifor provides wellbeing and a healthy lifestyle, offering a special discount to students. The structure offers weight lifting, gymnastics, swimming, water gymnastics and physical assessments.

THE BEST FOR YOUR EDUCATION

Centers designed for the practice of professional activities in different fields which facilitates the insertion of students into the job market



Nami:

Serving the general community, the Integrated Healthcare Center (Nami) serves as a great place to work as an intern and is a rich environment for research conducted by the students of the Health Sciences Center. Healthcare services are provided to the local community by students under the supervision and guidance of professors. The Center is a reference in the Northeast of Brazil, and has received certification in different areas of healthcare.



Dental Clinic:

The Integrated Dental Clinic is another space where theory is put into practice. One hundred dental offices are distributed in two clinics: one which is multi-disciplinary, with 64 dental offices, and another which is integrated, with 36 offices, as well as an advanced surgical center, where everything functions within the University campus and services are provided free of charge to the community.



EPJ:

If the practice of healthcare services has its own unique space, other fields also have theirs. The Legal Practice Office (EPJ) for example, offers not only legal council to the local community, but is also the perfect internship environment for Law students. Students are also provided with a complete Law Office and laboratory as well as a space reserved for the construction of citizenship and civic values.



Junior Companies:

Students studying Tourism and Hotel Management, Psychology, International Business and Administration have the opportunity to learn and experience the marketplace with Junior Companies. In these companies, students receive clients, learn management skills and have real life contact with the marketplace. The professors are always monitoring and advising the students in all the activities.



Nic and TV Unifor:

Communication and new media occupy two academic practice environments: the Integrated Communication Center (Nic) and TV Unifor. The Nic is comprised of Production Stations for Radio, TV, Photography, a Multi-Media Center, an Advertising Agency and a Journalism Laboratory. In the works since 2005 and with cable TV broadcasting to the entire State, TV Unifor is a capacity building space for students who actively participate in the production of the programs.



Nati:

How can we not mention technology structures in a time when technology innovation is the name of the game? The Applied Information Technology Center (Nati) is a space reserved for the research and development of innovative technology with the participation of students as well as an environment for professional development and training. The students develop research and skills by actively taking part in real life projects.

COURSES IN ENGLISH

Exchange students are free to choose most of the courses, regardless of their study fields after consultation with academic advisors at their home university. Course preferences must be stated in the application form. The availability, however, is subject to its demand, therefore, the International Office cannot guarantee a spot in the student preferred course.

Unifor also offers courses taught in English, most of them allocated in the Business field. They may vary from semester to semester. (Please contact International Office for an updated list).

The student must attend a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 24 credits per semester. International students may choose a mix of courses taught in Portuguese and English. They can also attend Portuguese courses as a Foreign Language I and II along the semester.

Course Credit (Unit): "crédito"

Lecture hours per Credit: 1 "crédito" = 18 hours/class

Number of Credits per Course: It varies, but usually courses tend to be 4 to 6 credits.



EXCHANGE APPLICATION PROCESS

The academic exchange program brings together students from the University of Fortaleza and other universities all around the world. They get to know each other, study together and exchange experiences. Unifor offers courses to these students and provides the interaction between them and Brazilian students.

To become an enrolled student at UNIFOR, the international student must submit the following documents:

- Unifor's application form
- A letter of intent (describing the interest in studying at Unifor)
- An updated transcript outlining the completed studies at the university of origin
- Curriculum Vitae
- Passport's photocopy: including picture and passport number
- Health Insurance Policy's photocopy*
- 3 photos 3x4 with a white background

*You must apply for a private one in your home country. This health insurance has to cover repatriation of remains in case of death and sanitary emergency or medical evacuation.

The hard copy of the documents must be sent to Unifor's International Office:

Universidade de Fortaleza – UNIFOR
Vice-Reitoria de Extensão e Comunidade Universitária
Assessoria Para Assuntos Internacionais
Av. Washington Soares, 1321 Edson Queiroz
60811-905 Fortaleza – CE Brasil

ACADEMIC SYSTEM

GRADING SCALE

At Unifor, each student's academic performance will be expressed in grades, according to the following scale:

The grade scale: 0 - 10

10 - Excellent

9 - Very Good

8 - Good / Average

7 - 4 - Below average / Insufficient

Under 4 - Fail

To be approved, the student's average should be at least 8,0. At Unifor, the students' average is measured by the sum of Partial Grade 1 (NP1) and Partial Grade 2 (NP2) divided per two.

If the student does not reach an overall average of 8,0 it is required to take the Final Test (NF).

*Final Test (NF)

Grade scale: 0 - 10

Below 4 - Fail

Number of Credits per Course: It varies, but usually courses tend to be 4 to 6 credits.

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

UNIFOR offers welcome and orientation sessions for the new international students. The sessions cover themes such as the University's online system, student and library cards, public transportation and safety tips, among others. They usually take place 2 to 4 days prior to the beginning of classes. Students and Partner University are informed the exact date by e-mail.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

February to Mid-June: 1st Academic Semester

August to Mid-December: 2nd Academic Semester

Please contact International Office at international@unifor.br for a detailed academic calendar.

ACCOMMODATION

UNIFOR does not offer housing on campus. However, it is offered to the student a list of apartments to rent. (Please Contact International Office for an updated list). Estimated cost of living: Students usually spend from R\$ 1.500 to R\$ 2.000 per month.

VISA INFORMATION

Foreigners that want to study in Brazil - without any immigration goals or intent to perform paid activities that are not internships - need to apply for a special temporary visa at the nearest General Consulate or Brazilian Embassy. Student visas in Brazil are called Temporary Visa IV, or VITEM-IV.

The VITEM-IV are valid for up to one year at a time, depending on which course the student is enrolled in, and can be renewed as many times as necessary in order for the student to finish the course. The request for extending the visa must be done at a Federal Police Department or at the Ministry of Justice within 30 days before the current visa expires. It is important to mention that those who come to Brazil with a VITEM-IV are not allowed to engage in paid activities that are not internships.

Contact your local Brazilian consulate for further information.

BUDDY PROGRAM

Are you a new international student looking for guidance and friendship in Fortaleza? Unifor has the perfect program for you.

The Buddy Program is designed to create a mutual learning opportunity for new international students and Unifor students. It consists of a team of Unifor students who volunteer their time as mentors. They will help you adjust to the university and the city environment. The Buddy Program is a great opportunity for educational and cultural exchanges to take place throughout the exchange period.

You will be assigned to one of our students whom will contact you by email before the beginning of the semester. This person will be your mentor and will help you in your adaptation process at Unifor and in Fortaleza.

RNE

What is the RNE?

The RNE (Registro Nacional de Estrangeiros) is the equivalent to a Brazilian citizen's identity card and is considered as such whenever a person is asked for proof of identity in Brazil. It testifies the identity of the foreign citizens with a temporary or permanent residence in Brazil. It allows them, for example, to open a bank account, buy a scholar pass or perform any activity that requires the confirmation of prolonged stay in the country.

Who needs a RNE?

Any foreigner admitted in the country on condition of temporary, permanent, under asylum or refugee must be registered in the country and recognized by the justice ministry. This also applies to exchange students.

After arriving in Brazil, the student has thirty days to register themselves at the federal police, requesting their RNE. If this time passes and the person do not start the process, the bureaucracy of getting an RNE becomes a very costly and time consuming process.

EVENTS

The international office of UNIFOR promotes a few events to integrate international and Brazilian students during the semester. Such events like the "International Fair", in which International Students have a space to talk about their country and university; Brazilian students that are interested in participating in exchange programs have the opportunity of asking natives questions about culture and studies.

"Cultural Connection", in which International and Brazilian students have the opportunity to discuss the differences between education, culture and professional experiences in their countries and Brazil. Another form of integration between international and Brazilian students is the "Sports Day", one day in which international students have the opportunity of playing sports with Brazilian during a day. The international office is always trying to promote new events of integration, a few other invents are probable be implemented every semester.

STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS



"I've always wanted to study in South America, but a big problem was that I could never find any courses available in English. So I looked up on our partner universities and I found out Unifor had courses in English, which was really good for me, because if you have German as a mother tongue, it's really hard to go straight to a good level of Portuguese. I'm going to stay here for two semesters. This first one I'm having classes in English, which will give me time to learn a better Portuguese. On my second semester I will be able to take the courses in Portuguese. Unifor was the

only University I could find that had courses in English. Also there's a double degree program between Unifor and my university, so that's really nice. As an exchange student, it was easy to make friends with other exchange students, but also with the Brazilians. They are so nice. At my first day on campus I opened my eyes so wide, because it's só big and beautiful, the springs, birds. I've never been on a campus this beautiful". **Antjie Schmidt is an exchange student from the Berlin School of Business and Law, in Germany.**



"I've decided to come to Unifor back in 2013. At the time it was raining a lot in Germany and that's why I chose Fortaleza. Also I was constantly in contact with other Brazilians and wanted to experience this other reality. In Germany I go to the Deggendorf University of Applied Sciences and I study International Management and here, Foreign Trade. I have five classes and they are all in English, because I couldn't speak any Portuguese before I came. I really like the campus here. It's really huge and

green, you can see birds. I don't get that on my home university. The professors are great. You can really talk to them and ask if you have any questions. They are nice and helpful". **Anna Karl is an exchange student from the Deggendorf Institute of Technology, in Germany.**



"I came to Brazil on an exchange program because my university has a partnership with Unifor. This is my second semester studying here. In my opinion Unifor is one of the best universities I've ever known. The campus is beautiful, very relaxing, a great place to study. I like it a lot here and this experience will definitely worth a lot, especially because I will be able to validate the disciplines when I get back to France. Another thing I would like to point out is that I was able to study in English on my first semester. Now, that my Portuguese is better I chose to study in Portuguese. So, I had the

opportunity to study on both languages and it's great to be able to choose in what language to study". **Cédric Marin is an exchange student from University La Rochelle, in France.**



"I'm from Barcelona, Spain, where I study Production Engineering. My university has a partnership with Unifor so I will be able to validate the disciplines I study at Unifor. I think the spaces here are really nice. The campus is open, wide and peaceful. I chose Fortaleza because I wanted to get to know a different culture. I like Brazil very much, especially the people, always helpful". **Pol Tortras is an exchange student from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, in Spain.**

THE CITY

Capital of the state of Ceará, located in Northeastern Brazil, Fortaleza has become one of the preferred beaches of Brazilian and Latin-American visitors due to the combination of a privileged nature with an excellent infra-structure, sophisticated tourist equipment, good reception and services. With an area of 313.14 km² and population of 2,571,896, Fortaleza is the 5th largest city in Brazil, also counting with the tropical climate, which guarantees an average annual temperature between 26 °C to 28 °C.

More about the city in the Official Website (available only in Portuguese): <http://www.fortaleza.ce.gov.br/turismo>



EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Here are some emergency phone numbers, valid in the whole country.

Medical Emergency (Ambulância): 192

Fire Service (Corpo de Bombeiros): 193

Federal Police (Polícia Federal): 194

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE'S CONTACT

International Office

+ 55 85 3477.3127

international@unifor.br

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60811-905 Fortaleza - CE Brasil



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