Introducing MSW students to structural stigma through direct interaction with LGBT youth, adults, social service providers and policy advocates.

This 10-day immersion program is offered during the spring semester. Students will experience firsthand how LGBT experiences, clinical practices and policies are implemented in Brazilian society. Different methods will be used for acquiring knowledge and skills, including lectures, discussion, guest speakers, and in-class activities that will support experiential learning.

Connect and exchange with a growing group of social leaders, LGBT NGOs, entrepreneurs, students and faculty who are working with and advocating for the LGBT community in São Paulo.

Develop awareness of salient Brazilian economic, social, political and cultural issues, in order to understand the effects that such forces have on the lives of those that identify as members of Brazil’s LGBT community.

Experience São Paulo, the 5th most populous city in the world, with one of the most active LGBT movements globally and home to the largest pride parade, where millions take to the streets each year.
**Who can participate?**

The program accepts a limited number of graduate-level social work students on a rolling admissions basis. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and have completed all foundation/generalist practice requirements. Preference will be given to students in the last year of their studies, but first year students are still encouraged to apply.

**Will I get credit for the program?**

If you are enrolled in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, you will receive 3-elective unit credits for completing the program.

**What if I am taking 15 units of credit during the spring semester?**

If you are a student in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and are enrolled in 15 units during the spring semester, you will not need to pay additional tuition for the required 3-elective unit course.

**Will this program help my chances of finding a job?**

Students will be able to translate the mode of contextualized thinking from abroad to better understand and appreciate the perspectives and experiences of LGBT immigrant populations in the United States. Their knowledge gained from the trip on Brazilian LGBT experiences should provide insights on working out creative programs to serve varied populations in the US.

**Is financial aid available?**

If you are receiving or are eligible for financial aid, you may be able to apply it toward this program. For details, contact the School's Scholarship Programs Office.

**Where will we stay?**

USC will arrange housing at a hotel in São Paulo.

**How much will the program cost?**

Program costs include daily breakfasts, weekday lunches, local transportation in São Paulo during program hours and field excursions. In addition, costs include a program administrative fee. Other fees are additional, including tuition for a required 3-unit course and a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health or other insurance plan. All participants will be responsible for their own travel to/from São Paulo. In addition, students will also be responsible for dinners, weekend meals, non-program-related transportation, and other incidentals. Students will also be required to have a valid passport and visa for travel to Brazil.

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“For Brazil is undergoing a major cultural shift in the areas of gender related issues and sexual identity, moving from a conservative, male heterosexual dominated culture to a more open, liberal, and gender equal society.”

Jeremy Goldbach, PhD, LMSW

“Several South American countries, such as Brazil, have been the unexpected global leaders in the advancement of the personal and political rights of their LGBT and ally citizens.”

Erik Schott, EdD, LCSW