

GHP 542 – Harvard-Brazil Collaborative Public Health Field Course



Course Dates: January 3rd – 19th, 2024

Location: Manaus, the capital of the state of Amazonas. Located in the center of the largest tropical rainforest in the world, Manaus has the largest indigenous population in Brazil according to the latest 2022 census. The historical, geographical, and cultural context offers enormous potential for sustainable development initiatives, while at the same time facing low socioeconomic levels and significant structural and logistical challenges in the health system. In particular, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the region faced extreme difficulties, including a crisis of oxygen shortage in hospitals and limitations on the number of intensive care beds. Students participating in the course will have the opportunity to learn from hands-on experience about local efforts, as well as about the Brazilian Health System, public health policies, and disease burden in the country.

Course format: The course combines lectures, discussions, site visits (e.g., health facilities, governmental institutions, secretary of health, community-based programs, NGOs,), and group work. Five specific topics will be covered in the course: HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, health systems, and nutrition.

Participants: 15 students from Harvard and 15 students from Brazil will be selected. Faculty from Harvard and several Brazilian institutions will lecture, lead discussions, and mentor group work.

Overall objectives: Enhance participants' abilities to:

- Critically analyze environmental and socioeconomic factors in Brazil that are associated with a high prevalence and geographic distribution of diseases.
- Identify population characteristics associated with disease morbidity and mortality.
- Foster lasting academic collaborations and joint research projects between HSPH and Brazilian participants, strengthening personal networks throughout Brazil and internationally.

Budget: Expenses might vary depending on personal spending habits and the currency exchange rate (Brazilian *Reais* per US dollar). The tentative budget includes:

Course fee	\$1,350
Includes: lodging, all group transportation related to course activities, all breakfasts, lunches on weekdays, opening and closing reception	
A \$300 deposit is needed to secure enrollment	
Visa	\$80
You will need to obtain a VIVIS visa to enter Brazil, depending on your citizenship. For a list of countries whose citizens need a Visa to enter Brazil, please check https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/consulado-atlanta/english/visas/visa-requirements-by-country .	
For consulate information on visas, please check: http://boston.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visa_requirements_by_country.xml	
Airfare (estimate)	\$1,050
Estimate	\$1,400
HSPH 25% airfare subsidy - Students receive 25% of the economy round-trip airfare (as funded by the Office for Students) up to a set limit, based upon the airfare between Boston and the location of travel, regardless of where the student originates the trip	
	\$350
Food (estimate)	\$0
Estimate with dinners & other expenses	\$300
HSPH contribution to per diem expenses (estimate of \$100 per week)	\$300
Vaccinations (yellow fever)	\$100
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	\$2,580

Questions: Marcia Castro (mcastro@hsph.harvard.edu) and Vinicius Prado (vprado@g.harvard.edu)