



"Living Routes gives students a real experience of sustainability and community together. This is an example of what Gandhi called 1+1 equaling 11."
 – Rand Selig



Students study and get hands-on experience in natural building and ecological design

Brazil Permaculture at Ecoversidade

Summer (3 weeks*)

Study abroad in South America and investigate new ways of creating sustainable human habitats at 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.



Learn by doing: superadobe construction at Ecoversidade

Field Study

- ⚙️ Visit a World Heritage Biosphere, home to endemic rare flora and fauna
- ⚙️ Explore renewable energy and its viability in different settings
- ⚙️ Develop alternative solutions to everyday challenges in Latin American society
- ⚙️ Visit Caxambu, Furnas and Lagolandia – neighboring rural traditional and intentional communities
- ⚙️ Become a Certified Permaculture Apprentice

Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Course: Permaculture (Plant and Soil Sciences 398P)

Summer June 28 - July 19* (approximate)

* Students may extend their stay and participate in Bioconstrunido, a renowned natural building course that attracts students and professionals from all over the world. The course takes place from July 24-31, at an additional cost of \$300.

Ecoversidade and the Region

Ecoversidade Center 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 the realities of 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.



Ecoversidade is located in the Cerrado ecosystem, an important transition zone near the Amazon

Brazil's Cerrado, home to Ecoversidade, 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.



Through coursework and practical application, students learn to plan, build and integrate dwellings into the local environment

Application Deadline

Summer **April 30**
(contact us for late availability)

Cost (approximate)

Tuition, room & board, in-country travel \$1,800
College Credit \$335
Bioconstruido \$300

Faculty

Andre L.J. Soares, master's candidate in environmental education at Griffin University, 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.

Lucy Legan, M.Ed. candidate in science and the environment at Deakin University, 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.

Course Topics

Sustainable Shelter

Concepts and themes of design; Natural building and architecture; Renewable energy; Appropriate technologies

Aquaculture

Water technologies; Earth movement; Dry composting toilets; Water harvesting, storage and distribution; Recycling water; Desertification and the salting of soils

Community Development

Indigenous, intentional, alternative and traditional communities; Economic strategies; Globalization; Visits to various communities in the region

Cultivated Ecosystems

Organic Gardening; Food forest; Small animal systems; Tropics and sub-tropics; Dryland strategies; Cold climate systems

Portugese language (optional)