



Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro

Brazil – PUC-Rio Academic Information

Higher Education

All university students take a basic cycle of studies in either humanities or science. Following the basic cycle, students enter the professional cycle of undergraduate courses. Electives classes in other fields are allowed and diversified study is encouraged.

Academic Year

The academic school year normally runs from February/March through December. The year is divided into two semesters. Some institutions, especially those that have large enrollments and are located in urban areas, offer three "shifts" of classes each day—morning, afternoon and evening.

First Semester: February/March to July

Second Semester: August to December

Number of classes students typically take per term:

PUC-Rio Students: Usually 4 subjects /20 credits (minimum 2, maximum 5)

Exchange students: 4 (minimum 2 subjects / 8 credits, maximum 5 subjects / 24 credits) (**1 of** which is mandatory. Portuguese as a Second Language Course with 6 credits).

Recommendable: not to take more than 20 credits in total (usually 3 subjects + the Portuguese Language Course).

Number of hours per week typical student spends in class: 20 or 24

Credits system:

1 credit = 1 class hour/week of lecture class OR 2 hours of laboratory class/week OR 3 hours of exercise class/week.

In Brazil, a 1 hour/class corresponds to 50 a minute session.

Number of weeks per term: PUC Rio: standard term is of 15 weeks.

Grading: Similar to US system:

Grading scales may even vary within each institution. Grading is fairly severe. The top grades are awarded to relatively few and the failure rate in a given course can be high.

Minimum grade: 0 (zero); maximum grade: 10 (ten); minimum passing grade: 5,0 (five) for undergraduate students and 6,0 (six) for graduate students.

Brazilian Grade to U.S. Equivalent

A+= 10	B+= 8,5	C+ = 7,0	D+= 5,5
A = 9,5	B = 8,0	C = 6,5	D = 5,0
A- = 9,0	B- = 7,5	C- = 6,0	F=Any grade below 5,0

Credit Equivalent

A transcript from PUC-Rio gives the number of hours spent in class per week and per semester to assist home universities in determining the number of credits for each class.

European University- ECTS

The conversion rate to ECTS as practiced between PUC-Rio and European Universities is 1 credit = 1,5 ECTS and European exchange students usually take 20 credits which are recognized as 30 ECTS, but this decision is up to the student's home institution.

Portuguese as a second language class- (mandatory for non-native speaker), there are five proficiency levels offered in the Portuguese as a Second Language program. Level I, II and III consist of 90 hours of instruction per term (6 hours per week), corresponding to 6 academic credits. Level IV and V consist of 60 hours of instruction per term (4 per week) corresponding to 4 academic credits.

Portuguese as a Second Language Levels of Proficiency at PUC-Rio and their equivalent in the CEFR Scale

CEFR PUC-Rio	PUC-Rio
A2	Nivel 1
B1	Nivel 2
B2	Nivel 3
C1	Nivel 4
C2	Nivel 5

Portuguese as a Second Language Levels of Proficiency at PUC-Rio and their equivalent in the CEFR Scale

PUC-Rio	CEFR	Description
Level 5	C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarize information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
Level 4	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognize implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
Level 3	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
Level 2	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
Level 1	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

Pre-Term Portuguese as Second Language Intensive Courses

Pre-Term Portuguese as a Second Language Intensive Courses is also offered twice a year: January/February and July (Fee paid course). It is not mandatory.

90 hours of instruction per month.

The **Pre-Term Portuguese as a Second Language Intensive course** does not provide academic credits or transcripts. Nonetheless, a certificate of completion with the final grade achieved will be provided.

Brasil - PUC-Rio Informação acadêmica

Ensino superior

Todos os estudantes universitários cursam um ciclo básico de estudos em Humanas ou Ciências. Após o ciclo básico, os alunos entram no ciclo profissional de cursos de graduação. As aulas eletivas em outros campos são permitidas e um estudo diversificado é encorajado.

Ano acadêmico

O ano letivo escolar é dividido em dois semestres, de fevereiro/março a julho e de agosto a dezembro.

Carga horária típica por semestre:

Estudantes da PUC-Rio: geralmente 4 disciplinas / 20 créditos (mínimo 2, máximo 5)

Estudantes de intercâmbio: 4 (mínimo 2/8 créditos, (máximo 5 disciplinas/ 24 créditos.)

Recomendação: não pegar de 20 créditos no total (geralmente três disciplinas + Curso de Língua Portuguesa).

Carga Horária por semana: o aluno típico gasta em sala de aula: 20 ou 24

Sistema de créditos:

1 crédito = 1 aula/semana de aula ou 2 horas de aula de laboratório/semana OU 3 horas de aula de exercício / semana.

No Brasil, uma hora / classe corresponde a uma sessão de 50 minutos.

Número de semanas por período:

PUC-Rio: prazo padrão é de 15 semanas.

Classificação: semelhante ao sistema dos EUA:

As escalas de classificação podem até variar dentro de cada instituição. A classificação é bastante grave. As notas superiores são atribuídas a relativamente poucos e a taxa de falha em um determinado curso pode ser alta.

Classificação mínima: 0 (zero); Nota máxima: 10 (dez); Nota de aprovação mínima: 5,0 (cinco) para alunos de graduação e 6,0 (seis) para alunos de pós-graduação.

Equivalência de crédito

A+= 10	B+= 8,5	C+ = 7,0	D+= 5,5
A = 9,5	B = 8,0	C = 6,5	D = 5,0
A- = 9,0	B- = 7,5	C- = 6,0	F=Any grade below 5,0

O Histórico Escolar da PUC-Rio dá o número de horas passadas na aula por semana e por semestre para ajudar as universidades em casa a determinar o número de créditos para cada classe.

Universidade Europeia - ECTS

A conversão para o ECTS praticada entre a PUC-Rio e as universidades europeias é de **1 crédito = 1,5 ECTS** e os estudantes de intercâmbio europeus geralmente adquirem 20 créditos que são reconhecidos como 30 ECTS, mas esta decisão depende da instituição de origem do aluno.