

Q13. Name

Lisa Haggerty

Q1. Which program did you participate in?

Doing Business in Brazil at FGV

Q2. Please describe the academic rigor, focus, and quality:

Academic Rigor was quite low, despite the school's best attempts! The program consisted of 12 3-hour lectures, a group city bus tour, a visit to a CPG company, a visit to a school, and a visit to a tech incubator. We were graded on a group final presentation on the last day and a 2-page reflection paper. Except for the day before the group project, no take home work was needed. There were 132 articles we were given to read before the class, but none were necessary reading. The class was very, very easy. A lot of gain would have been had reading the articles - they probably were more informative than the lectures we had that were light on content.

Q3. Professors and teaching style:

Professors were old-fashioned in their teaching style. A few professors invited class discussion, but most professors had a straight lecture for 3 hours. It was brutally slow at times. The professors didn't coordinate their content ahead of time, and 50% of each professor's lecture was repetition of another professor's lecture. One of the lectures on infrastructure was simply looking at 3 hours of blurry maps as the professor told us of every single railway and waterway in the country, while not talking about the quality of the infrastructure or the reasons for the low quality. In general all students were quite negative about the quality of instruction. It was a very talkative, engaged group, and it was a shame we could hardly have a back and forth with the professor. Many students gave up and just went on their computers the whole time.

Q4. Fellow participants (which schools were they from, how old, etc?):

There were 4 NU students (ages 30 - 38), 4 Univ. of Chicago students (ages 26 - 30), 6 students from University of Illinois - Chicago (ages 27-32), 3 students from Queens College in Toronto (ages 23-27), 1 student from Duke (age 33), two students from UNC (both 30), and one person who was in his mid-40s who was not enrolled in a school program but worked for a company beginning operations in Brazil. So all in all, 21 students. Good representation of countries of origin: most from the US, but also Germany, Austria, Japan, Peru, Paraguay, and Ukraine.

Q5. Please describe any company visits:

Natura was a great visit. It's a preeminent beauty product company in Brazil. They were well prepared for us, had a very informative presentation and Q&A session, and took us on a tour of their grounds which were beautiful. It was quite far from Sao Paulo, but it was one of the highlights of the trip because the content was very interesting and relevant.

Q6. Social outings:

We had a farewell dinner the last night which was great, and a visit to a school where we played drums and danced with students. Both were fun. However there were no other planned social activities. A lot of us thought it was quite odd that the school didn't facilitate a welcome breakfast, a welcome lunch, a welcome dinner, or even a welcome cocktail hour the first day. They left us to introduce ourselves and hit it off, which didn't really happen until week 2. FGV could have helped us get to know each other.

Q7. Accommodations:

Our airbnb was great - a 10 minute walk from school, and it was in a safe area with all the modern amenities we needed.

Q8. Best points of the experience:

Getting to know the other students at the few social events there were. Going to Rio for a side trip for a few days. The company visit to Natura. Our class monitor, Wellington.

Q9. Worst points or ideas for improvement:

Incorporate more class discussion at lectures, as well as in-class exercises and opportunities to engage with the content.

Q10. On a scale from 0-10, how likely are you to recommend this exchange program to a friend or colleague?

Not at all likely

Extremely likely

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Q11. Primary Motivation for Participating in this Program:

- Timing/Length of program (alignment with Kellogg's Academic Calendar)
- Academic focus
- Cultural interest in location
- Academic rigor
- MBA program ranking
- Interest in working in region post Kellogg
- Developing language skills

Q12. Any Additional Comments or Feedback:

I'm glad I went on the trip, but overall spending time in Brazil was a lot more interesting, rewarding, and educational than spending all that time in the classroom. More company visits and social events would be beneficial.

Location Data

Location: (42.113006591797, -87.980697631836)

Source: GeoIP Estimation



Q13. Name

Robert McDonald

Q1. Which program did you participate in?

Doing Business in Brazil at FGV.

Q2. Please describe the academic rigor, focus, and quality:

The program was well-balanced. It required quite a bit of course time, but it did not require too much out-of-course work. The focus was largely narrow (i.e. doing business in Brazil), so you felt the curriculum satisfied the course goals.

Q3. Professors and teaching style:

The teaching format was largely lecture based. The Professors were great.

Q4. Fellow participants (which schools were they from, how old, etc?):

The fellow participants were wonderful. They were largely 27-30 years old from Kellogg, Booth, University of Illinois Chicago, and a few from some Canadian MBA programs.

Q5. Please describe any company visits:

We had two main company visits; Natura (which was fantastic and well-organized) and to Cietec (a tech incubator). The visit to Natura was wonderful, but the visit to Cietec was a bit disorganized (not the fault of the program instructors, but because the director of Cietec was bit all over the place).

Q6. Social outings:

Social outing were wonderful.

Q7. Accommodations:

Q8. Best points of the experience:

I felt I got great exposure to business in Brazil and learned a lot about Brazil outside of the program as well.

Q9. Worst points or ideas for improvement:

It was a lot of lecture time.

Q10. On a scale from 0-10, how likely are you to recommend this exchange program to a friend or colleague?

Not at all likely

Extremely likely

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Q12. Any Additional Comments or Feedback:

Location Data

Location: (42.039001464844, -87.793800354004)

Source: GeoIP Estimation



Q13. Name

Joshua Sicbert

Q1. Which program did you participate in?

FGV Doing Business in Brazil

Q2. Please describe the academic rigor, focus, and quality:

The academic rigor was about right for the program. Mostly lecture, with two deliverable assignments. The focus of the program was wide ranging, covering everything from cultural analysis of Brazil, to actual examples of the current business environment. The overall program quality was good, with everything well organized and well executed.

Q3. Professors and teaching style:

Overall I would say that the Professors and teaching style was average. Some professors were very good, and offered interesting insights and engaged the class in discussion. Others, however, were very repetitive both within their own content and with the content other professors had already covered. In addition, many just lectured for 3 hours straight, with little class engagement.

Q4. Fellow participants (which schools were they from, how old, etc?):

Schools represented included Kellogg, Booth, Fuqua, Kenan-Flager, UIC, and Queens College. Overall the group was very fun, interested, and intelligent. I believe everyone was of a similar age.

Q5. Please describe any company visits:

We did 3 company visits: A business incubator, Nutra cosmetics, and a charity that helps favela children gain education through music. All of the visits were interesting, with the Nutra visit being the best. Although it was interesting to contrast a business incubator in Brazil with one here, that visit seemed a little disorganized and lost some of its value due to this.

Q6. Social outings:

Both planned and unplanned social outings were very good. The school took us on both a city tour and had a Brazilian Steakhouse dinner on our last night. In addition, classmates coordinated with each other to plan some kind of outing each night.

Q7. Accommodations:

On our own. I chose an AirBNB in Bela vista that I could highly recommend.

Q8. Best points of the experience:

Exposure to ongoing political and economic issue in Brazil as they happened. Weekend trip to Rio. Visit to Nutra. Lecture on startups and innovation in Brazil.

Q9. Worst points or ideas for improvement:

I think the overall program just needs to be a little more cohesive. We found many of the professors telling us the same thing we had heard in prior lectures. It was almost as if they needed content to fill time. I would possibly replace this with more visits/non-lecture activities. Also Sao Paulo traffic is ridiculous.

Q10. On a scale from 0-10, how likely are you to recommend this exchange program to a friend or colleague?

Not at all likely

Extremely likely

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Q12. Any Additional Comments or Feedback:

Hope people aren't scared away from Brazil by all that is happening there right now, it is a wonderful place!

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Location: (42.015197753906, -87.990097045898)

Source: GeoIP Estimation

