Federal University of Bahia
School of Philosophy and Human Sciences
Graduate Program in History

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
International Masters' and PhD Students

The Graduate Program in History at the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA) is offering international students a tuition-free opportunity to pursue their postgraduate studies in Brazil.

The Selection Committee will appoint up to 3 international students for our Masters' program (2 years) and up to 3 international students for our PhD program (4 years). Students from the Global South are especially encouraged to participate. Brazilians or foreigners already living in Brazil are not allowed to participate in this call.

REQUIREMENTS

To apply, you should:

- not be a Brazilian citizen (even if dual national);
- currently live outside of Brazil;
- hold an undergraduate degree in History or any other discipline within the Humanities, Arts or Social Sciences;
- for those applying for the PhD program, hold a Masters' degree in History or any other discipline within the Humanities, Arts or Social Sciences.

OUR POSTGRADUATE COURSES

In Brazil, both PhD and Masters' students are expected to conduct original research under the supervision of a professor.

Your first year will be dedicated to attending classes (2 or 3 60-hour courses each semester, between mandatory and optional subjects) and an undergraduate-level supervised teaching internship. The remaining time will be focused on your research and the writing of your thesis or dissertation.

You are expected to present provisional results of your research in first-tier academic venues in Brazil and abroad. Limited funding may be requested to help cover travel expenses. PhD students are expected to publish at least one academic article in an indexed journal.THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HISTORY AT UFBA

Our program has three main Research Sections students should choose prior to application.

The SOCIETY, POWER RELATIONS AND REGION Research Section focuses in the field of politics and power relations, combining the analysis of historical and historiographical phenomena in different territories and periods, while valuing the articulation of local and regional historical processes with national and global ones. As an aggregating concept, power is discussed not only as an instrument of action, repression, and coercion, but also as a device or strategy for the re-creation of social differences, hierarchies and inequalities through experiences and discourses.

The SLAVERY AND THE INVENTION OF FREEDOM Research Section is interested in African and Afro-Diasporic historical experiences, focusing on social identities regarding race, gender, class, ethnicity etc., and their relations to resistance, rebellion and struggles for freedom and rights, on the one hand, and mechanisms of social and racial domination and collective control, on the other. The Research Section promotes research in Africa, Brazil and other American societies, from the age of slavery to post-emancipation, and from colonial to post-independence times.

The CULTURE AND SOCIETY Research Section draws from Cultural and Social History to investigate culture, understood as the shared –or disputed– fabric of ideas, memories, representations, codes, fictions and sentiments. The focus on culture reveals the cracks and imbalances that motivate confrontations and clashes inherent to forms of social organization and their representations. Topics include religious history and modern empires, intellectual history, the history of women and gender relations, the history of labour, festivities, the political Right and Left, social movements, and human rights, among others.

LANGUAGE

Applications can be submitted in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese.

Please note, however, that learning Portuguese is absolutely necessary for selected students. Classes and readings will normally be only in Portuguese. Ordinary Brazilians do not usually speak foreign languages, and most of your classmates will probably have only a limited command of English.

UFBA offers Portuguese classes for international students, starting with a two-month online introductory course that you may take before your travel to Brazil. Upon your arrival, you will be required to enrol in additional Portuguese classes.

If you are familiar with other neo-Latin languages, especially Spanish, but also French or Italian, it will probably be easy to learn Portuguese.

LIVING AND STUDYING IN SALVADOR DA BAHIA

UFBA does not charge tuition, research fees or any other kind of fees from its regular students. You will have free access to the University libraries and may have your meals in the University subsided restaurants. UFBA does not provide accommodation, though. Since campuses and facilities are located inside the city

and are easily accessible by public transportation, this should not be a problem. There are plenty of furnished flats and rooms for rent and sharing accommodation with other students is also common.

Salvador is a historical seaport city founded by the Portuguese in 1549, in Northeastern Brazil. Until the end of the eighteenth century it was the capital of colonial Brazil and the biggest city in the Southern Hemisphere, the centre of an export economy based on the labour of enslaved Africans and indigenous peoples. As a result of massive forced migration from Africa along more than three centuries, Salvador is also the city with the largest black population outside of Africa, being considered the cradle of black culture in Brazil.

The cost of living in Salvador can be estimated in this website.

FUNDING

Brazilian federal and state government funding agencies provide a certain number of scholarships yearly, but they are usually not enough to cover all enrolled students. Depending on next year availability, the quality of your research proposal, and your socioeconomic profile, you might be eligible to a scholarship.

Monthly allowances are R$ 2,100.00 (~US$390) for Masters' students and R$ 3,100.00 (~US$570) for PhD students. Scholarships are usually awarded at any moment during the first year, and are paid until the end of the expected duration of the course.

Funding for extended off-site research (e.g. fieldwork, longer archival or bibliographic research in other cities or countries etc.) is usually not available. However, limited funding for presenting papers at major academic conferences in Brazil or abroad, as well as week-long research trips, may be awarded upon request.

APPLICATION

Applications should be sent to the email address poshisto@ufba.br, stating "Application - International Students" as the subject field. Attach PDF copies of the following documents:

- a filled and signed application form (see below);
- a cover letter presenting your academic trajectory and the reasons you want to study at the Graduate Program in History at UFBA (max. 2p.);
- a research proposal, clearly identifying your research subject, outlining your conceptual framing and methodological options, and describing the historical sources you intend to research, as well as their location and availability (max. 6p.);
- a curriculum vitae (including publications);
- certificates and transcripts of your previous academic degrees;
- a letter of recommendation (e.g. from your previous supervisor);

a proof of residence (utility bill, bank statement, or a self-signed declaration that you do not currently live in Brazil);

an official document of identification with a photo (preferably, a passport).

Documents may be submitted in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese. Documents in other languages should be accompanied by a simple translation into one of the accepted languages.

Make sure all documents are in PDF format and your e-mail message does not exceed 5 MB total. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICANTS

October, 17th, 2026 at 11.59 p.m., Brasília time (GMT-3).

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Short-listed candidates will be contacted by e-mail by October 31st, 2026, and invited to an online interview. Final results will be published online and communicated to all candidates by December 12th, 2026.

Classes start in late February or early March 2027.

APPLICATION FORM

[fill and sign]

Name (same as in the official identification document):	
Social name (as you wish to be called):	
Sex: [ ] male [ ] female [ ] other	**Telephone (with country code):**
E-mail:	
Current address:	
City:	**Country:**
Country of birth:	**Date of birth:**
I am applying for: [ ] the Masters' program [ ] the PhD program	
My research proposal best matches the Research Section: [ ] Society, power relations and region [ ] Slavery and the invention of freedom [ ] Culture and society	
Date and place	

Signature