

INSPER - INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Factsheet

2025





International Experience Office



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Inspier - Where Innovation Meets Impact

At Inspier, education goes beyond textbooks and lectures—it is about transforming **lives** and **shaping the future**. As a private **non-profit, world-class higher education** and **research institution**, we reinvest all resources into our mission:

- Empowering innovative leaders;
- Advancing applied knowledge;
- Driving positive change in Brazil and beyond;

Inspier stands among the world's leading institutions, recognized for its **academic excellence** and **international accreditations**. We are proud to hold the **Triple Crown** Accreditation (**AACSB**, **EQUIS**, and **AMBA**)—a distinction held by less than 1% of business schools worldwide. Additionally, our engineering programs are accredited by **ABET**, reinforcing our commitment to high-quality education in applied sciences and technology.

Here, students do not just acquire knowledge; they engage in critical thinking, solve complex real-world problems, and collaborate with some of the brightest minds. Our graduates pursue careers in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, equipped to lead and create meaningful impact.

With strong faculty engagement and a focus on leadership development, Inspier provides students with the tools to navigate complexity and act with integrity in an ever-evolving world. By integrating knowledge from multiple disciplines, we prepare professionals to make a lasting impact in a globalized society.

Education at Inspier is not just about acquiring a degree, it is about developing the skills, mindset, and network to drive transformation.



Degree Programs offered at Insper

- **Undergraduate Programs:** Business Administration, Economics, Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronic Engineering, Computer Science and Law (Elective courses in English are available for exchange students);
- **Master's in Business Management/Diploma** (Classes in Portuguese);
- **LL.M. Programs** (Classes in Portuguese);
- **Master's (MSc.) Programs:** Business, Economics, and Public Policy (Classes in Portuguese);
- **Executive MBA** (Classes in Portuguese, with short-term modules in English);
- **Ph.D. in Business and Economics** (Classes in English);
- **Advanced Programs:** Finance, Data Science & Decision, Public Management, Control & Accounting, and Social Urbanism (Classes in Portuguese);
- **Executive Education:** Open enrollment, customized, and online programs (Classes in Portuguese);

📌 **Note:** The only courses available in English are undergraduate electives. All other programs are taught in Portuguese and **require language proficiency**.

Academic Calendar at Insper

In Brazil, the academic year officially starts in January and ends in December. The seasons in the Southern Hemisphere are opposite to those in the Northern Hemisphere. However, the courses we offer in English follow the academic calendar below:

First semester

January to mid-June

Winter Break

Mid-June to July

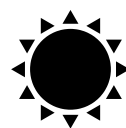


Second semester

From July to December

Summer Break

Mid-December to Mid-January



Key Dates

Semester Fall-2025	
Application deadline	April 15th, 2025
Welcome Week	July 28th to Aug 1st, 2025
Beginning of classes	August 1st, 2025
Semester finishes at	December 20th, 2025

Semester Spring-2026**	
Application deadline	October 17th, 2025
Welcome Week	26th to 30th of January
Beginning of classes	February 2nd
Semester finishes at	June 26th

 **The dates provided are tentative, based on previous academic calendars, and may be adjusted as needed. If any changes occur, partner institutions will be duly notified.

Nominated students will receive detailed information about Insper, the application process, required documents, accommodation options, and life in São Paulo after their home institution submits their nomination.

Required Documents for Enrollment at Insper

- **ID Photo:** A clear photo of the student's face (a simple selfie is acceptable) for registration purposes;
- **Photo of a Hobby:** A creative photo showing the student engaging in an activity they enjoy or one that represents them;
- **Passport Copy:** A clear and legible copy of the student's passport;
- **Transcript of Records:** An official copy issued by the student's home university.

Important Guidelines:

- All documents must be of high quality and submitted in JPG, PNG, or PDF formats (HEIC format will not be accepted) and **must be sent in ZIP file**;
- Students must ensure that all requested documents are submitted, as they are required to formalize the enrollment at Insper. Failure to provide them may delay the start of the visa process;
- Students must be nominated through an online form available [here](#).

***Once the nomination process is finalized, students will be contacted to complete the application by the end of March.**

Visa and Immigration

All international exchange or visiting students must obtain a student visa (VITEM IV) before arriving in Brazil. The visa must be requested at the Brazilian Embassy or Consulate in the student's home country after receiving the Letter of Acceptance from Insper. You can find a list of Brazilian embassies and consulates worldwide [here](#).

A tourist visa **is not valid** for studying in Brazil and **cannot be converted** into a student visa once the student has left their country of origin. Students who do not hold a valid student visa **will not be able to enroll at Insper**.

Visa processing times may vary depending on the consulate, so we strongly advise students to start their application as soon as they receive the necessary documents.

Additionally, some consulates may require that the student's passport be valid for at least six months beyond the end of the study period at Insper.

For more information, please visit the official website of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs [here](#).

✦ **Note:** We will send the acceptance letter via email two weeks after the application deadline. A physical copy will only be sent to countries that require it, and it will be delivered to the International Office of the home university.

If the student is unable to collect the letter from the International Office, they must notify Insper in advance and provide an alternative address for delivery.

Academic Information

Language Requirements

Students **do not need to speak Portuguese** to study at Insper. Each semester, we offer 25 to 35 courses taught in English.

Courses are available in English or Portuguese. While Insper recommends that exchange students have at least a CEFR B2 level of English, we do not require proof of proficiency. However, classes are academically demanding, and students are expected to **actively participate** in discussions, projects, and assessments, as participation is a key component of the final grade.

If students wish to take courses in Portuguese, **they must provide proof of proficiency**. This can be a letter from their home university confirming their ability to attend classes in Portuguese.

Courses and Registration

The list of courses offered in English may vary each semester, as they are part of the 4th year of the undergraduate program. Course availability is limited, and registration follows on a **first-come, first-served** basis. Students must have their course selection **validated by their home university** by early June for the Fall semester and by the end of November for the Spring semester.

The updated course list for the upcoming semester will be available by the end of October (for the first semester) and April (for the second semester). However, you can check courses from previous semesters as a reference for what is typically offered. [Click here](#) to access past course lists.

Grading system - Undergraduate program

Grading Scale: 0 – 10, with 5.0 as the minimum passing grade:

Group	Scale	Description of the grading system
Approved	9-10	Excellent
	8-8.9	Very good
	7-7.9	Good
	6-6.9	Satisfactory
	5-5.9	Sufficient
Not approved	3.1-4.9	Fail
	0-3	Fail

Conversion of Insper Courses to ECTS

Insper does not use the ECTS credit system. Our courses have a workload of either 40 or 80 class hours, which include classroom activities, exams, tutorials, and office hours. These courses are part of the regular undergraduate curriculum, which typically lasts four to five years.

Most courses available for exchange students have 40 class hours, with a few options of 80 class hours. Below is the recommended ECTS equivalence:

- **40 class-hour courses:**
 - One class per week;
 - Total workload: 125 to 150 hours;
 - Recommended equivalence: 5 ECTS;
- **80 class-hour courses:**
 - Two classes per week;
 - Total workload: 250 to 300 hours;
 - Recommended equivalence: 10 ECTS;

To be registered as an exchange student at Insper, students must enroll in at least **25 ECTS**. This typically means taking **five 40-hour courses** or a combination including **80-hour courses**. We do not recommend enrolling in more than eight 40-hour courses per semester.



Welcome Week for Exchange Students

The Welcome Week at Insper is an essential and exciting part of the exchange experience, designed to help students integrate into the academic and social environment.

Throughout the week, participants will explore the campus, receive important information about course registration, and engage in interactive activities alongside local and international students. It is also an opportunity to immerse themselves in Brazilian culture and get acquainted with life in São Paulo.

Participation in Welcome Week is mandatory, and students must arrive before it begins. Arriving early allows for a smoother transition, providing time to adjust to the city and complete any remaining registration procedures before classes start.

Insper looks forward to welcoming its exchange students to an unforgettable experience!



Buddy program

At Insper, we offer the **Insper Buddy Program**. Buddies help facilitate connections with local students both on and off campus, offering opportunities to immerse themselves in Brazilian culture, enjoy meaningful experiences, and build lasting friendships.



Student Life

Inspire provides a **comprehensive support system**, available in English, to help students adapt to university life, build interpersonal relationships, explore personal interests, and overcome challenges in a healthy way. The goal is to foster balanced, resilient individuals who thrive both professionally and as engaged citizens.

Student Support & Well-being

Inspire is a welcoming space that prioritizes **mental health, well-being, and social integration**. Through active and personalized support, ensures a smooth transition into university life and creates an inclusive and supportive environment.

- **Accessibility & Inclusion**

Dedicated to ensuring **equitable learning opportunities**, this center provides specialized support and necessary accommodations for students with specific needs, fostering a diverse and inclusive academic experience.

Student Journey

- **Career Center**

A hub for career guidance and professional **development**, connecting students and alumni with employers, networking events, career fairs, and workshops to enhance their career paths, from internships to career transitions.

- **Student Experience & Engagement**

Enhances student life beyond the classroom by fostering **leadership, community engagement, and a sense of belonging**. This area manages student organizations, events, and initiatives that strengthen connections and provide valuable personal and professional growth opportunities.

- **Student Organizations Support**

Provides comprehensive assistance to student organizations, from their creation to event **planning and management**. These groups offer students a unique space to develop leadership skills, teamwork, and engagement, enriching their academic journey.

- **Ethics & Disciplinary Process**

Oversees academic integrity and ethical conduct, ensuring compliance with Insper's policies and fostering a respectful and responsible university environment.

Facilities

Insper has a modern and innovative campus with three buildings, offering fully equipped infrastructure for students. Facilities include classrooms, auditoriums, restaurants, coffee shops, a parking lot, Wi-Fi access, a Student Lounge, labs, sports facilities, and more.



Accommodation

Inspir does not provide on-campus housing, but students can explore various accommodation options through the resources below:

- **4Student**
- **Kasa** – Located near Inspir, offering excellent services in a vibrant area with a strong international and local student community.
- **Uliving** – Options available in Jardins and Paulista.
- **Housi**
- **Share Student Living**

Life in São Paulo for International Students

São Paulo is Brazil's largest and most vibrant city, offering a diverse cultural scene, top universities, and a dynamic student life. Home to museums, theaters, and a world-class food scene, the city blends tradition with innovation.

Students enjoy lively neighborhoods like Vila Olímpia, Jardins, and Vila Madalena, known for their cafés, coworking spaces, and nightlife. Public transport and ride-hailing services make getting around easy.

Whether exploring Avenida Paulista, relaxing in Ibirapuera Park, or experiencing São Paulo's rich cultural mix, international students will find an exciting and welcoming environment to study and live!



Cost of living

São Paulo is the largest city in South America, with a metropolitan area of over 21 million inhabitants. The official currency in Brazil is the Brazilian Real (R\$).

Opening a bank account as a foreigner in Brazil can be a lengthy process, so we recommend that students rely on alternative financial options during their stay:

- **Prepaid Travel Cards** (such as WISE or Revolut – highly recommended);
- **Credit Cards**;
- **Cash** (currency exchange offices are easy to find);

Living expenses (per month)	R\$ (Brazilian Reais)	US\$	€
Housing – double room (from R\$2500 to R\$3500)	R\$3.000	US\$514	€500,30
Food	R\$1.200	US\$206	€200,10
Transportation** (R\$5,00 bus, R\$5,20 subway and train ticket)	R\$600	US\$103	€100,10
Personal Expenses***	R\$900	US\$155	€150,10
Total	R\$5.700	US\$978	€950,60

*Exchange rate for February 2025. Prices may vary, as currency fluctuation is frequent (exchange rate by **Oanda**).

**Prices may vary with the purchase of public transportation cards (Bilhete Único or TOP).

***Prices may vary according to student's lifestyle.