

# Portuguese

Portuguese is the sole official language of seven countries spanning three continents: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and São Tomé and Príncipe. In addition, Portuguese enjoys co-official language status in East Timor, Equatorial Guinea and Macau. It is the sixth most spoken language worldwide and the fifth most spoken on the internet.

Among the countries where Portuguese is an official language, Brazil stands out as a formidable emerging 21st-century economic power. With a population of more than 190 million people, it is one of the 10 largest markets in the world.

Students learning Portuguese are often initially attracted by the array of vibrant Lusophone cultures, but the language is also appealing for pragmatic reasons to increasing numbers of business, economics, political science, anthropology and environmental studies majors. Many students are interested in Latin American Studies or globalization, or they are curious about Brazil's rich natural resources and booming technology industry.

Portuguese is an outstanding supplement to any student's education. For those already fluent in Spanish or other Romance languages, Portuguese represents the chance to take a fast-paced course sequence and be fluent more quickly in multiple languages.

At Washington University, Portuguese classes are marked by the same joyful, positive environment that is characteristic of many Lusophone cultures. Outside the classroom, students can improve their fluency at cultural events, the bate-papa (conversation) group, and Lusophone movie nights, in addition to choosing from study abroad programs affiliated with the university, either for the summer or for an entire semester.

*Bem-vindos!*

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