

[Music plays throughout video]

In the summer of 2014, nine MSU students [Photo of group of students holding US flag] traveled to Salvador and Belém, Brazil as a part of the FIPSE/CAPES cultural exchange program.

[Photo looking out at beach and buildings] First, the group spent four weeks in Salvador living on the beach in the Barra neighborhood. There they studied Brazilian policy and culture at UFBA. [Photos of buildings by beach]

[Photo of carved wooden pane] They got to experience the Afro-Brazilian culture that resulted from the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in a variety of ways. [Photo of wooden carvings of people] They went to museums (and explored Pelourinho, the [Photo of differed colored colonial style buildings] historic district named after the slave whipping post located in the central plaza. [Photo of street and buildings] They also experienced Afro-Brazilian culture by watching a capoeira [Photo of iron-wrought fence with many different colored ribbons tied to it] performance and participating in a traditional candomblé ceremony.

[Photo of group in front of mural painting of Afro-descendant woman] Also, they visited Bahia Street, a non-profit whose mission was to help educate and create [Photo of MSU children with girls] a safe place for underprivileged Black girls in the community. [Photo of MSU students and girl in front of mural painting] They got a tour of the location and played and talked to the participating children.

[Photo of wooden structure with vertical banner sign Projecto Tamar] Lastly, in Salvador they visited Projeto Tamar, another non-profit that strives to conserve [Photo of sea turtle in water] Brazilian marine life. [Photo of people holding shiny turtle shell] The students got to interact with the sea turtles there and learn about the group's [Photo of baby sea turtle in hand] sustainable development programs in coastal fishing communities.

[Photo of 4 students on balcony overlooking ceramic roofs.] The group then left for Belém where they studied environmental policy and geography at [Photo looking up at 5 students on tower balcony] UFPA.

[Photo of building with awnings over sidewalk and chairs. Sailboats in background. Semi trucks in parking lot] They spent their first day in the city exploring the Ver-O-Peso market, and while there they got to try the traditional food acai. [Bowl of small white pieces]

[Photo of grilled fish] [Photo of bowl with shrimp, broth, and other food] Traditional food and local fish were also tasted when the group went to Combú Island. [Photo of woman jumping up in front of giant tree] There they also got to see the Mother of All Trees, a large Amazonian tree in the forest and take their first steps into the Amazon. [Photo of person walking down steps into water] [Photo of group of people] Later, they went to the Bosque Rodrigues Alves, a preserved section of the rainforest in Belém. [Photo of macaws in trees] They saw a variety of species including monkeys and macaws [Photo of monkey in tree]

[Photo of wetland type area] Next, they spent a week in Bragança, a smaller town in Brazil. [Photo of mangroves] They learned about the environmental concerns and research happening in the mangroves. They also got to see the beautiful never ending coastal beaches [Photo of small buildings on stilts along sand]. [Photo of many rows of stacks of bricks] Finally, they saw how local communities were producing bricks, but replanting trees to maintain sustainability [Photo of trees]

[Photo of grazing ruminants] The next stop was Marajó Island, the world's largest river island that is less developed and [Photo of blue basin on white tower with small buildings and palm trees in background] working mostly in the agricultural sector.

Photo of group in shelter by water] Back in Belém, the group went hiking in the forest [Photo of forest and trees] [Photo of 5 women in Brazil soccer jerseys] One of the best parts of being in Brazil in the summer of 2014 was being there when they hosted the World Cup. [Photos of people smiling] It was incredible to see the hype of the cup and feel the roar of the city every time they scored. [Video of soccer game on large television screen and people in bar cheering]

[Photo of three smiling women] The best part though was all the friends they made. Since it was an exchange program, they went to class with Brazilian students in both Belém and Salvador and they [Photos of 4 smiling people] got to meet their family and friends!. [Photo of students] And now, the Brazilian students are here in Brazil for the fall semester sharing their culture with the MSU community! [photo of Brazilian students at MSU dining hall]

[Narrated by Noelle Porter] [Live Learn Latin America] [globe with western hemisphere] [Western hemisphere globe] [For more information visit [latinamerica.isp.msu.edu](http://latinamerica.isp.msu.edu)] [Globe with western hemisphere] Edited by Jessica Lundquist]