



Admission Instructions to the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Program at UERJ for International Applicants

The Rio de Janeiro State University (UERJ) is one of the largest and most prestigious universities in Brazil and Latin America. As a Brazilian public university, UERJ **does not charge tuition fees**, allowing students to obtain advanced academic degrees entirely for free*.

Additionally, the Graduate Program in Mechanical Engineering (PPG-EM) at UERJ offers scholarship opportunities for students with outstanding academic records.

There are two PPG-EM admission periods per year: one at the beginning of the year and the other in the middle. Both the Master's and PhD programs require enrollment in mandatory and elective subjects and the completion of a thesis, which must be defended before a committee of professors. The regular duration of the Master's program is 2 years, and the PhD program is 4 years.

The program seeks motivated and bright students from around the world, with openings available for Master's, Doctoral, and Post-Doctoral studies.

Note: Doctoral applications are currently suspended until further notice.

**Please note that a one-time application fee of 90 BRL is required. This amount may vary depending on the semester. Refer to the official call for Master's and Doctorate programs, available only in Portuguese, for current details.*

Application Requirements

For Master's Program Applicants:

- Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Physics, Mathematics, or a related field.
 - o *Admission Requirement:* Degree and Transcript must be internationally validated ([Hague Apostille Convention](#)) or have Brazilian consular stamp. See “Admission Process” for details.

For Doctoral Program Applicants:

- Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Physics, Mathematics, or a related field.
 - o *Admission Requirement:* Degree and Transcript must be internationally validated ([Hague Apostille Convention](#)) or have Brazilian consular stamp. See “Admission Process” for details.
- Applicants must hold a Master's degree in Engineering, Physics, Mathematics, or a related field.

- *Admission Requirement:* Degree and Transcript must be internationally validated ([Hague Apostille Convention](#)) or have Brazilian consular stamp. See “Admission Process” for details.

Specific Requirements for International Applicants:

- Passport valid for at least six months beyond the planned return date
- Brazilian Student Visa. See section “Admission Process” below for details.
- Certificate of English Proficiency, such as TOEFL, ECCE, or TAPI, or be a native speaker from an English-speaking country.
- Proficiency in Portuguese is not* required for admission; however, students must pass a basic Portuguese language exam by the end of the program. The university offers Portuguese for foreigners’ courses.
- Proof of sufficient funds to cover living expenses during the stay in Rio de Janeiro (a bare minimum monthly budget of 3,000 BRL is recommended ^[2025]).
- Health insurance with funeral and sanitary repatriation coverage, valid for the entire duration of stay in Brazil
- Health Insurance Responsibility Statement (Form will be provided during application process)
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination

***Note:** Many professors at PPG-EM teach in English, but some courses are conducted in Portuguese. Nevertheless, textbooks, handouts, and exercises for these courses are often available in English. Homework, assignments, and the final thesis can be written in English. It is important to note that general service staff, such as bus drivers, cashiers, and other workers in Rio de Janeiro, may not speak English.

Before Applying

Before applying, international applicants are recommended to first contact the [PPG-EM coordinators](#) via email to express interest in the program. This initial contact is crucial as the professors will guide you through the application process.

This e-mail must include the following documents:

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Research interest
- Recent photo (Passport standard 3x4 with neutral background)
- Scanned copy of Undergraduate Degree and Transcript
- Scanned copy of Master’s Degree and Transcript (If applying for Doctorate)

Warning: The following procedures are just guidelines for international applicants.

Official procedures and required documents might change depending on the semester. Please refer to the official current [call for Masters and Doctorate](#) for the accurate requirements (available only in Portuguese).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk to the professor you are in contact with.

Application Process

The official application process occurs twice a year: once at the beginning and once in the middle of the year.

In order to apply for the PPG-EM programs, you will need the following documents:

- [Application form](#) filled up with the correct information
- Scanned copy of passport in pdf
- Curriculum Vitae in pdf
- Recent photo (Passport standard 3x4 with neutral background) in jpg
- Scanned copy of Undergraduate Degree and Transcript in pdf
- Scanned copy of Master's Degree and Transcript in pdf (If applying for Doctorate)
- Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language: TOEFL, ECCE, TAPI, etc. (Recommended). If not provided, the candidate must pass an English examination conducted by the program.

All these documents should be sent via email to ppgem@eng.uerj.br

- Additionally, two recommendation letters from professional referees are required. The template is available for download in [this link](#). This should be filled up and sent directly by each one of the referees to ppgem@eng.uerj.br

After submitting the documents, you will be informed about the next steps of the selection process. This process usually includes Curriculum Vitae evaluation and an oral presentation in person or via videoconference.

Admission Process

If you are selected for admission to the PPG-EM, please follow the instructions outlined below:

Before Leaving your Country

- *Visa Application*

Upon selection, you will receive an *Acceptance Letter* to be used for the Brazilian Student Visa (VITEM IV) application process.

The university does not provide assistance with the visa process; this procedure is solely the responsibility of the applicant. UERJ does not assume responsibility for any issues or delays related to consular processes. Applicants must contact the nearest Brazilian embassy or consulate to determine the specific documents and procedures required to apply for the VITEM IV, as requirements and procedures may vary. It is strongly advised to begin this process as soon as possible, as this process may take some time.

It must be noted that VITEM IV holders are prohibited from holding any formal job in Brazil. However, students are allowed to receive scholarships, which are financial aid stipends.

• ***Degree Validation***

If you have a degree from a non-Brazilian university, you will need to validate the degree and transcript for them to be recognized in Brazil. There are two alternatives for this process:

1. Countries Party to the Hague Apostille Convention:

Take your degree and transcript to an Apostille certified office in the issuing country of your degree to have them stamped. These documents will then be recognized in Brazil and over 100 other countries party to the [Hague Apostille Convention](#), enabling you to be admitted to the PPG-EM programs.

2. Countries Not Party to the Hague Apostille Convention:

Take your degree and transcript to a Brazilian embassy or consulate in the issuing country of your degree to have them stamped. These documents will then be recognized in Brazil, enabling you to be admitted to the PPG-EM programs.

Note: The procedures described above must be followed for all undergraduate and graduate degrees/transcripts that the candidate holds.

• ***Contact the Student Representatives for Assistance***

Please note that the Rio de Janeiro State University (UERJ) does not provide accommodation or housing services for students.

However, UERJ student representatives (Representantes Estudantis) can assist you in finding suitable accommodation and handling the necessary initial paperwork to settle in Brazil. This support can be invaluable in helping international students navigate the initial challenges of moving to a new country.

You are encouraged to ask the PPG-EM professors you are in contact with for the contact information of the current Student Representatives.

After arriving in Brazil

Students who have received admission offer from the PPG-EM are required to be present on the registration dates (registration dates are posted on PPG-EM website) with the following documents (Original and Copy):

- Passport
- Brazilian Visa
- 2 (two) recent photos (Passport standard 3x4 with neutral background).
- Undergraduate Degree and Transcript with Consular stamp or Hague Apostille stamp.
- Master's Degree and Transcript with Consular stamp or Hague Apostille stamp (If applying for Doctorate).
- Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language (If applicable).
- Curriculum Vitae in the [Lattes Platform](#) (Create your CV in the following website: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/>)
- *Cadastro de Pessoas Físicas* (CPF)
(Instructions: <https://oliveiralawyers.com/services/real-estate/acquisition/obtain-your-cpf-tax/>).
- Application fee payment receipt. Contact the PPG-EM administrative office for instructions. This value might change depending on the semester. Please refer to the official current [call for Masters and Doctorate](#) (available only in Portuguese).