

Sinal do Vale

Student Program in the Atlantic Rainforest

Experience

Our student program is designed for university, post-graduate, and gap year students looking for practical and meaningful experience in the field of sustainability. Whether from a background in social or life sciences, engineering, or government, students have the chance at Sinal do Vale to apply their knowledge outside the classroom, develop and implement their own ideas, and immerse themselves in a vibrant culture.



Journey into the living laboratory of Sinal do Vale.

Venture into the rainforests of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and deep into the world of sustainability with an immersive experience in the living laboratory of Sinal do Vale. At

the gateway between the iconic city of Rio de Janeiro and the majestic but highly threatened Atlantic Rainforest (Mata Atlântica), Sinal do Vale is an organic farm, a reforestation and community resilience project, and a leadership event center. As

an international platform for social entrepreneurs, we offer motivated young people the hands-on experience to learn about the major issues of sustainability and to join us in finding innovative solutions through experimental learning in our living laboratory.



Our Projects

Participants will have a first-hand opportunity to be involved in the core initiatives at SINAL and develop their own project during their stay. The content of the student's work will depend on the academic experience of the student (undergrad or graduate), the field of study, and length of stay.



Reforestation

With our Rio Green Belt reforestation project – an experimental initiative with the Rio de Janeiro State Institute for Environmental Education (INEA) – students plant native Mata Atlântica trees, monitor and track biodiversity, and learn about the policy and methodology of restoration and reforestation.



Sustainable agriculture

Students get their hands dirty in our organic gardens and food forests, growing the food they eat each day and learning firsthand about innovative agricultural techniques that restore the soil and preserve the rainforest.

Resilient Community Development

SINAL works to prototype community-based solutions in Santo Antonio that address key issues around resilient infrastructure, water sanitation, bio-construction, and trash and recycling. SINAL's role as hub helps to convene local leaders and mobilize public and private resources in order to implement meaningful projects.



Nature-based Education

Our SINAL das Crianças (SINAL for the Children) project works directly with the local schools to provide children an opportunity to reconnect with nature and nutrition. Students come to learn how to grow food, plant trees, and use art to celebrate their environment.





Living at SINAL

As part of the living laboratory experience, students are immersed in the issues of sustainability by living and working at the SINAL project site. SINAL provides on-site living accommodations (both single and shared rooms) and three meals per day in community living style. Students will learn to cook and process the fruits and vegetables that we grow on SINAL property as well as eat local Brazilian cuisine. Students work seven hours per weekday, with a chance to work on various initiatives, including their own projects or research they may develop.



Rio de Janeiro and Travel

SINAL is just 50 km from downtown Rio de Janeiro and 45 minutes from the international airport.

A short distance away to explore the city of Rio de Janeiro and other nearby sites. A bus can be caught nearby to SINAL that goes directly to downtown Rio (length of ride depends on traffic and time of day).

SINAL has a large network of partner organizations and projects that do excellent work with sustainability in the Rio area. Students have the opportunity to have organized visits to neighboring projects (not included with food and housing fee).

More about Sinal do Vale

Our Founder - Thais Corral

Thais is a renowned Brazilian social entrepreneur in the fields of sustainability, gender, and global leadership. She is the founder and current director of Sinal do Vale, as well as two nationally recognized non-profit organizations in Brazil: Rede de Desenvolvimento Humano (REDEH) and Communication, Education and Information on Gender (CEMINA). She is the co-chair of the Global Leadership Network and the Chair of LEAD-Brazil. Together with

American Congress representative, Bella Abzug and Nobel Award winner, Wangari Mathaai, she founded WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Organization). Thais was recognized as "Woman of the year 2001" by the Brazilian National Council of Women. Thais holds master degrees from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and University of Chicago. She also serves on the advisory board of Ethical Market Place, Mercado Etico and Akatu Institute.



Logistics

Food, housing, and transportation from airport is provided in the cost of the program. Cost depends on length of student stay. Students should bring enough spending money for weekend trips to Rio and any other traveling.

To apply for our student program, contact sinaldovale@gmail.com with our CV and letter of interest. We accept students throughout the year for varying lengths of time, depending on space and current projects.



Explore. Experiment.
Experience the Living Laboratory of SINAL