

## Brazil

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### **Mr Mathew Johnston**

Counsellor (Education and Science)

Brasilia

Mathew Johnston is the Counsellor (Education and Science) at the Australian Embassy in Brazil. Working closely with his counterpart in Mexico City, Mathew has responsibility for Australia's education, training and science relationships with Latin American countries outside of the Pacific Alliance, with a primary focus on Brazil and Argentina.

Mathew has worked in a number of Australian Government departments focusing on domestic-based international policy in intercountry adoption, international crime and innovative policy projects centred around improving outcomes for vulnerable families, children and communities with an emphasis on the role of quality early childhood education and schooling. Prior to taking up the position of Counsellor Mathew led significant Government policy reform agendas at the Department of Social Services, in particular the development of the Cashless Debit Card trials and design of the Commonwealth Redress Scheme in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses on Child Sexual Abuse.

Building on the work that has been undertaken by the department's Education Office in Brasilia since its establishment in 2014, Mat will be focused on continuing to strengthen government-to-government engagement with Brazil on education, training and research cooperation. He will also work with emerging partners such as Argentina to identify opportunities for collaboration both bilaterally and multilaterally through fora such as the G20. As increasing numbers of students from Latin America choose Australia as a study destination, particularly from Brazil, Mat will continue the department's work to enhance two-way mobility and collaboration in order to foster deeper connections between Australia and the region.

### **Contact details:**

Email: [Mathew.Johnston@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Mathew.Johnston@dfat.gov.au)

Phone: +55 61 3255-2958 ext. 508

Australian Embassy  
SES Quadra 801  
Conjunto K, Lote 7  
Brasilia-DF-CEP70200-010  
Brazil



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### **Dr Cristina Elsner**

Manager (Education and Science)

Email: [Cristina.Elsner@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Cristina.Elsner@dfat.gov.au)

Phone: +55 61 3225-2965

### **Ms Luisa Feldman Neves**

Education Policy Officer

Email: [Luisa.Neves@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Luisa.Neves@dfat.gov.au)

Phone: +55 61 3255-2966