

The Exchange Programme for Brazilian Young Lawyers in the UK

By Luiz Henrique Coppoli Barros

We were working hard in our law firms and companies in Brazil, when suddenly we read about the exchange programme on the OAB – Federal Counsel's newsletter. We applied to participate in the programme and nine of us from different states in Brazil were selected to take part in the four week programme.

There was a short time and lots to do before going to the UK such as finalising things at work and sorting out our Tier 5 visas.

All the lucky lawyers were very excited about going to London and were even more excited when we found out that this was the first Brazilian British lawyers' exchange programme.

On the induction day, we were surprised by the well organised schedule which included a four day academic programme, placement in law firms and chambers, visit to legal institutions, evening seminars and social events. The four week programme was short but provided us with an understanding of the English legal system and the difference between barristers and solicitors. It was a great experience and we are thankful to have taking part in the programme.

We are proud to be alumni of the programme and are keen to further future relationship between Brazil and the UK. This is the beginning of a long term friendship and business relationships.