

SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

THE MARÍLIA RAMOS FERGUSON SCHOLARSHIP

A BBG Educational Initiative to Support the
Brazilian-American Business Community



**BRAZILIAN
BUSINESS GROUP**
ASIA • EUROPE • USA
AFFILIATED TO BRAZIL INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



PURPOSE

The Marília Ramos Ferguson Scholarship Program is established by the Brazilian Business Group (BBG) to honor the legacy of educator Marília Ramos Ferguson by supporting higher education for Brazilian or Brazilian-American students pursuing degrees in business-related fields. The program promotes BBG's mission of economic empowerment and business development within the Brazilian-American community.



MARÍLIA RAMOS FERGUSON

A LEGACY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

PAGE 03



Marília Ramos Ferguson devoted her life to fostering intellectual growth and empowering future generations through education.

Born in 1938 in Belém do Pará, Brazil, Marília Ramos Ferguson later established her life in Rio de Janeiro, where she pursued her commitment to education, family, and personal growth. She earned a degree in Pedagogy, followed by qualifications in Speech Therapy and studies in Psychology, dedicating her professional career to the advancement of education and the development of young minds.

Throughout her distinguished career, Marília served as a teacher, coordinator, principal, researcher, and an active member of the Brazilian National Committee of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP). Her tireless efforts to enhance educational practices culminated in the presentation of her research on early childhood learning at an international conference in Washington, D.C.

Upon relocating to the United States, Marília continued her educational mission by teaching Portuguese to non-native speakers, fostering cultural understanding and forging enduring connections. Her lifelong dedication to education left an indelible impact on countless individuals, characterized by her compassion, wisdom, and steadfast belief in the transformative power of knowledge.

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

- **Scholarship Name:** Marília Ramos Ferguson Scholarship
- **Administered by:** Brazilian Business Group (BBG), a 501(c)(3) organization
- **Funding Source:** Donations made to BBG, including a founding donation from Monica Ribeiro
- **Award Amount:** Minimum of \$1,000 annually, subject to available funds and Board approval
- **Number of Awards:** Determined annually based on available funding

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Be a Brazilian or Brazilian-American student residing in Florida
- Be enrolled or accepted into an accredited college or university in Florida
- Be pursuing a degree in a business-related field, such as:
 - Business Administration
 - Finance or Accounting
 - Economics
 - Marketing
 - International Trade
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Technology or Engineering with business application
- Demonstrate academic achievement and financial need
- Show a commitment to leadership, community involvement, or entrepreneurship



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will open annually with a public announcement. The application must include:

- COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM
- PROOF OF ENROLLMENT OR ACCEPTANCE
- PERSONAL STATEMENT (MAX 500 WORDS) ON ACADEMIC GOALS AND CONNECTION TO BUSINESS OR COMMUNITY IMPACT
- ONE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION (TEACHER, COUNSELOR, OR MENTOR)



SELECTION COMMITTEE

- A formal Scholarship Selection Committee will be appointed by the BBG Board of Directors
- The Committee must include at least 3 members who are independent, impartial, and not related to any applicant or donor
- Neither Monica Ribeiro nor any of her family members may serve on the committee
- The Committee is responsible for:
 - Reviewing all applications
 - Ensuring eligibility requirements are met
 - Scoring and ranking applicants based on merit and need
- Recommending recipients to the BBG Board for approval

AWARD DISTRIBUTION

- Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's institution on their behalf
- Funds may be used for tuition, books, or fees
- Recipients must submit proof of enrollment before funds are released

PUBLICITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- The scholarship opportunity will be widely publicized to ensure broad access and equal opportunity
- BBG will recognize scholarship recipients, donors, and the legacy of Marília Ramos Ferguson in public communications, without conferring private benefit





IRS AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- BBG will retain full control over all scholarship funds and decisions
- BBG will report scholarship disbursements in compliance with IRS regulations, including reporting on Form 990
- No donor or family member may direct who receives a scholarship
- All records will be retained for a minimum of 5 years

POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

This policy will be reviewed annually by the BBG Board and amended as needed to reflect best practices, legal guidance, and available funding.