



**Felipe Bley**  
**MCPHS University**  
*Boston Bound*

**Tell us little bit about yourself.**

I am Felipe Leonardo Bley Fialho, an exchange student from Brazil. I was born and raised in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, but I decided to move to the state of Minas Gerais to study pharmacy. In general, I'm addicted to sports; my favorites are volleyball, swimming, and running. I also like to meet new people, visit new places, and learn about new cultures, so I would say that traveling is definitely one of my greatest hobbies.

**How did you hear about MCPHS University and why did you decide to attend MCPHS University?**

Fortunately, I have a friend who lives in Worcester and when he knew I was planning to study abroad, he immediately told me about MCPHS University. At that moment, I decided to check on the website to learn about the history of the University, its departments, and its mission. Helping people is what makes me feel happy and satisfied. That is why I chose to come to MCPHS because at this University, we learn how to be a good healthcare professionals and pharmacists truly committed to the community and the general population.

**What has your experience been so far at MCPHS?**

I can affirm that MCPHS University has exceeded all of my expectations. We have an excellent advisor who does a great job assuring that all Brazilians are having a good time at the university. I'm enjoying each course so far, but I think Principles of Clinical Research and Fundamentals of Drug Development are the classes that I most like. These are courses that I was really interested in, but I wouldn't have the opportunity to take them in Brazil. I think both of them are going to help me a lot in my future professional career.

## **What has your transition to Boston been like? What things do you like to do in the city?**

This is my first time in the U.S. and I do not regret choosing this country to live and to study during this one and half year of exchange. I remember when I arrived at the airport in Boston and some of the MCPHS staff and international students were waiting for me. That was awesome! Since I left Brazil I knew that the challenge would be the language. My English skills were not that good, but I had excellent professors that helped me a lot during the English Language Academy period. I realized that the United States, in general, is a very multicultural country that receives a lot of international students, and that fact made me feel more relieved. I've met so many nice people not just in Boston but around the whole country!

About Boston, I have no words to describe how amazing the city is. I just love the mixed architecture between old and modern buildings, and I also like all of the parks and green areas, which are not common in big cities in Brazil. Walking around Boston to take nice pictures is one of the coolest things I like to do. Also, watching the sunset from The Charles River pier is pretty cool!

## **Are you involved in any clubs or student organizations? Have you attended any events at other COF campuses? If so, which ones?**

Unfortunately, I'm not involved in any clubs yet, but I do want to get involved soon. On the other hand, I attended to the COF Block Party on the Wentworth campus, where I had the opportunity to meet some students from different colleges and also enjoy that fun time with some Brazilian friends.

## **Is there anything else you'd like to share about being an exchange student?**

Study abroad has been an unique and incredible experience that I'd recommend for everyone. I just want to share a quotation for those who are in the same situation than me and those for whom studying abroad is a desire.

*"Become friends with people who aren't your age. Hang out with people whose first language isn't the same as yours. Get to know someone who doesn't come from your social class. This is how you see the world. This is how you grow." - Unknown*