Program Overview

While in Costa Rica, students will have the opportunity to learn firsthand about tropical ecosystems and the organisms that inhabit these areas. Costa Rica is an excellent country for this course due to the range in observable ecosystems. These include high elevation treeless areas, active volcanoes, tropical forests, marine systems, and coral reefs. Tropical birds, plants, and herpetofauna are abundant and well-studied in many of these habitats. This unique combination of aquatic and terrestrial environments will provide exposure to various ecological and biological aspects, and allow students to make connections between what they have learned in previous classes with what they will witness firsthand. Through various activities on this trip, students will learn life skills including open inquiry and critical thinking. They will learn to respond as individuals to the conditions and concerns of the contemporary world. In addition, students will gain an increased understanding of a different culture as they travel throughout the country.

Academics

- **BIOL/ENVR 323 (2): Tropical Ecosystem Field Experience**: Students will learn aspects of ecology, biology, geology and biodiversity of plants and animals in the New World Tropics, using Costa Rican ecosystems as an example. These include paramo, volcanoes, rain forests, mangroves, and coral reefs. Grades will be based on student’s field notebooks and participation in activities. **Pre-requisite: BIOL/ENVR 322, ENVR 364, or special permission from instructors.**

Program Facts

- **Locations**: San Luis, Uvita, Sierpe, Drake Bay, Alejuela, Costa Rica
- **Tentative Program Dates**: Dec 28, 2019-Jan 10, 2020

Program Leader

- Dr. Landon Ward ........................................ lward@unca.edu
- Dr. Kevin Moorhead................................. moorhead@unca.edu

Study Abroad

- Bonnie Parker...................................... bparker@unca.edu
- Cara Gilpin........................................... cgilpin@unca.edu
- Diane Royer........................................... droyer@unca.edu

Application & Eligibility

**Application Deadline**

- Winter ........................................... September 9, 2019
  - To apply visit: https://bulldogsabroad.unca.edu

**Eligibility**

- Are a degree-seeking student
- Have at least sophomore standing
- Have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Good judicial standing
Locations
Costa Rica Students will fly into Alajuela, San Jose before travelling to the University of Georgia’s campus in San Luis, where they will get to visit Monteverde National Park and explore the campus. Students will then travel south to Uvita de Osa, and stop by a beach on the way into town. At Finca Carolina, students will explore tropical agriculture and learn about rainforest, riparian and freshwater ecology. Students will then travel to Reserva Playa Tortuga to observe work toward sea turtle conservation. In Sierpe, students will stay at Drake Bay to explore Rincon before returning to Finca Carolina, and then onto Cerro de lo Muerte to conclude the program.

Program Activities & Features
Excursions in Costa Rica will include visits to national parks, agricultural farms, and a variety of different ecosystems. Time will be spent hiking, birdwatching, exploring the surrounding environments, and learning about agricultural and conservation practices originating in the country.

Estimated Program Fee: $2,912

Program Fee Includes
• Accommodations
• Travel within Costa Rica
• Meals
• Tuition for required courses
• Study Abroad Medical Insurance

Additional Costs
(See program website for detailed estimates)
• Personal expenses
• Passport
• Round-trip airfare to Costa Rica
• Immunizations
• Exit tax paid upon leaving Costa Rica

Financial Aid
• This program is ineligible to use any type of Financial Aid, Scholarships or Grants.

UNC Asheville reserves the right to cancel or alter the program format or to change costs in case of conditions beyond its control.

More Information:
https://studyabroad.unca.edu/faculty-led-programs