

Costa Rica is:

Central American ...

With their neighbors, Costa Ricans share:

- The Spanish colonial heritage,
- A developing economy traditionally dependent on the export of coffee and bananas,
- A close but occasionally conflicted relationship with the United States, and
- Issues of poverty, public health, and environmental conservation.

Unique ...

- Costa Rica abolished the army in 1948 and has a long tradition of relative social peace.
- "Ticos" (as Costa Ricans like to call themselves) are committed to universal health care, social programs, and democratic government.
- In 1975, Costa Rica created a network of national parks and reserves that are a model for the region and have drawn scientists and ecotourists from around the world.

A great place to learn!

- The country boasts diverse climatic and ecological zones, from tropical rain forests to mountains to active volcanoes.
- The Costa Rican government and people are very welcoming and accessible.
- For over 40 years, ACM students have found open doors, friendly people, and abundant opportunities to experience Costa Rica.



Above: Students riding in a traditional oxcart. (Photo courtesy of Chris Vaughan)

Left: During the fall rural stay.

Cover: Students in downtown San José with ACM Spanish Language Coordinator Mario Morera (front, center). (Photo courtesy of Maggie Swift)

Photo under "Costa Rica is": Students at San Gerardo de Rivas.

ACM ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST

Expand your world.

ACM brings a liberal arts perspective to your off-campus experience by emphasizing:

- Diverse viewpoints and ways of learning,
- Interdisciplinary courses and seminars,
- Personal attention, working closely with faculty and local experts,
- Independent projects tailored to your academic interests, and
- Education that provides the cultural and intellectual context to understand the world around you.

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) is a consortium of independent liberal arts colleges in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado. ACM offers distinctive off-campus study programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the U.S.

205 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 220, Chicago, IL 60606
312.263.5000 Fax 312.263.5879 www.acm.edu

Printed on recycled paper



Costa Rica

Language & Society ♦ Field Research



Fall Semester:

**Language, Society,
& the Environment**

*with an option to directly enroll for
courses at the University of Costa Rica*

*Spring Semester
& Spring Quarter/Trimester:*

**Field Research in the Environment,
Social Sciences, & Humanities**

www.acm.edu/costarica



A student with her rural host family.

The ACM Costa Rica programs give students an in-depth experience with the people and culture of this beautiful, diverse nation.

The fall semester program, Language, Society, & the Environment, immerses students in daily life in Costa Rica through language study, home stays with families, field trips, a three-week rural stay, and courses on contemporary social, political, and environmental issues.

A new option in the fall gives students the opportunity to directly enroll at the University of Costa Rica and take two or three courses alongside Costa Rican students.

Independent field research is the focus of the spring semester and spring quarter/trimester programs. At sites across Costa Rica, students spend one to two months conducting field research for projects in the environmental and natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

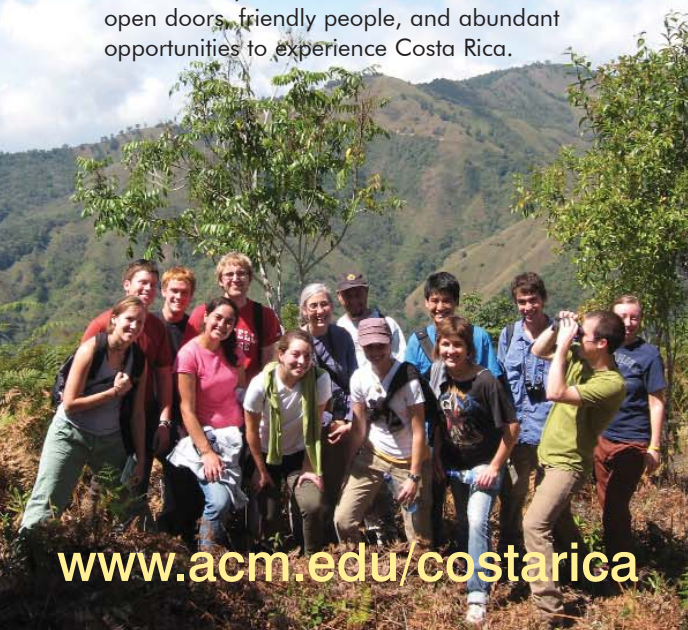
Since the ACM Costa Rica program began in 1964, many participants have gone on to professional careers related to their research experience in Costa Rica.

 **Costa Rica**



Eric Nesi

www.acm.edu/costarica



For more details, go to www.acm.edu/costarica

ACM Center The ACM Center in San José provides a Spanish-only environment with classrooms, social areas, and computer facilities.

Students also have access to recreational activities and library facilities at the University of Costa Rica.

Spanish language ACM's Spanish language instruction is well known for its excellence. Experienced Costa Rican teachers rotate among small classes so students can learn from a variety of native speakers.

Language requirement Second-year level college coursework in Spanish, taken in the year prior to the start of the program, is recommended.

Enrollment Maximum of 25 students per program

Costs For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to www.acm.edu/costarica. Students also should check with their Off-Campus Study or Financial Aid Office for information about their college's pricing policies for off-campus study.

How to apply

- Access the ACM application at www.acm.edu/apply.
- Students should check with their Off-Campus Study Office about their college's application procedures and deadlines.
- ACM must receive completed applications by:
 March 15 — Fall semester deadline and early deadline for spring programs in the following academic year
 October 15 — Spring semester deadline
 November 15 — Spring quarter/trimester deadline

Language, Society, & the Environment

Dates Fall semester (*late August - early December*)

Eligibility Sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Courses and credits Recommended credit is 16 semester credits or the equivalent.

- **Spanish Grammar, Conversation, and Culture**
 Small classes taught by native-speaking instructors; class is intensive (17½ hours per week) during the first five weeks of the semester. (4 semester credits)
- **Introduction to Costa Rica** An overview of current social and environmental issues in Costa Rica, with readings, discussions, guest lecturers, and field trips. Taught in Spanish. (5 semester credits)

The course includes a three-week **rural stay**, in which students live with a host family outside of San José and engage in local community activities.

- **Elective Course** Students choose one of two courses covering sociocultural and environmental issues from a Latin American perspective. (4 semester credits)
- **Language Elective** Choice of one of the following three courses, all taught in Spanish. (3 semester credits)
Literature of Latin America
Advanced Composition in Spanish
Advanced Conversation in Spanish

Direct enrollment option

Students now have the opportunity to directly enroll at the University of Costa Rica (UCR), choosing two to three courses from the broad range of offerings for Costa Rican students at UCR. They also take two courses at the ACM Center. Five semesters of college-level Spanish, or the equivalent, are required. See www.acm.edu/costarica for more information.

Fall Semester: Language, Society, & the Environment

| Weeks 1-5 | Weeks 6-8 | Weeks 9-15 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Introduction to Costa Rica | | |
| Spanish Grammar, Conversation, & Culture | Rural Stay | Language Elective |
| Elective Course | | Elective Course |
| Home stay in San José | Home stay with rural family | Home stay in San José |

Field Research in the Environment, Social Sciences, & Humanities

Dates Spring semester (*late January - mid-May*)
 Spring quarter/trimester (*early April - mid-June*)

Credit Recommended credit:

- Spring semester – 16 semester credits or the equivalent
 - Spring quarter/trimester – 18 quarter/trimester credits or equivalent to a quarter/trimester on the home campus
- See the chart below for credit distribution, expressed as semester credits and quarter/trimester credits, respectively.

Courses

- **Spanish for Researchers** Designed to enhance students' language skills and cultural understanding for carrying out their independent field projects, this course covers Costa Rican cultural norms, research strategies, Spanish grammar, specialized vocabulary, and pronunciation.
- **Field Research** Research opportunities are available in the environmental and natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. A list of prior project topics is available at www.acm.edu/costarica.
- **Research Seminar and Paper** During the final weeks in San José, students complete their research papers in consultation with their advisors and present the results to the group.



A student collecting macroinvertebrate (aquatic insect) samples with her advisor in the Caño Grande, in Venecia. (Photo courtesy of Angela Olivas)

Research advisors Prominent research specialists and scholars assist students in all aspects of the research process, from proposal preparation to field work to writing and presenting the paper.

During the past four decades, ACM has developed contacts with professionals across the spectrum of academic disciplines. For more details and profiles of advisors, go to www.acm.edu/cradvisors.

Eligibility Juniors, seniors, and advanced sophomores are eligible.

Field Research in the Environment, Social Sciences, & Humanities

| Weeks 1-4 | Weeks 5-12 | Weeks 13-16 |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Field Preparation & Orientation | Field Research at sites throughout Costa Rica | Research Paper |
| Spanish for Researchers | | Spanish Language |
| Home stay in San José | Home stay near the research site | Home stay in San José |

Spring Semester

16 semester credits:
 Spanish for Researchers - 4 credits
 Field Research - 8 credits
 Research Seminar & Paper - 4 credits

| February | March | April | May | June |
|---|--|---------------------|-----|------|
| Spring Quarter/Trimester | | | | |
| For students from colleges on quarter/trimester or block schedules. | | | | |
| 18 quarter/trimester credits: | | | | |
| Spanish for Researchers - 5 credits | | | | |
| Field Research - 8 credits | | | | |
| Research Seminar & Paper - 5 credits | | | | |
| Weeks 1-4 | Weeks 5-8 | Weeks 9-11 | | |
| Field Preparation & Orientation | Field Research at sites throughout Costa Rica | Research Paper | | |
| Spanish for Researchers | | Spanish Language | | |
| Home stay: San José | Home stay: research site | Home stay: San José | | |