

## 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 contentious 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.

[www.acm.edu/costarica](http://www.acm.edu/costarica)

Katie Levinstein



Above: Students in front of a crater at Volcán Poás.

Right: At the monument to Juan Pablo II in the gardens of the Metropolitan Cathedral in San José.

Cover: On a field trip to a Rainforest Alliance certified coffee farm. (Photo by Luke Carman)

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



Samuel Magnuson

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**ACM**  
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# Costa Rica

Language & Society ♦ Field Research



Fall semester: Language, Society,  
& the Environment

Spring semester: Field Research  
in the Environment, Social  
Sciences, & Humanities

[www.acm.edu/costarica](http://www.acm.edu/costarica)



A student with his 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, and courses on contemporary social, political, and environmental issues.

Independent field research is the primary focus of the spring semester program. At sites across Costa Rica, students complete projects in the environmental and natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Since the program began in 1964, many participants have gone on to professional careers related to their research experience in Costa Rica.



## Language, Society, & the Environment

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

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

- **Spanish Grammar, Conversation, and Culture** Small classes taught by native-speaking instructors; class is intensive — 17½ hours per week.
- **Introduction to Costa Rica** An overview of modern Costa Rica taught primarily in Spanish; includes field work in San José and the rural stay.
- **Core Course** Covers either sociocultural or environmental issues from a Latin American perspective; taught primarily in English, with readings in Spanish.



- **Independent Study Project** The project involves field investigation, library research, and interviews in San José; sources in Spanish are required; research papers are usually written in English. A list of topics in recent years is at [www.acm.edu/costarica](http://www.acm.edu/costarica).

- **Language Elective** Choice of one of the following three courses, all taught in Spanish.  
*Literature of Latin America*  
*Advanced Composition in Spanish*  
*Advanced Conversation in Spanish*

**Eligibility** Sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

## For more details, go to [www.acm.edu/costarica](http://www.acm.edu/costarica)

**Enrollment** 25 students per semester

**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, which is located nearby.

**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.



Above: Visiting a coffee processing plant in Aquiares.  
 Above right: A student collecting macroinvertebrate (aquatic insect) samples with her advisor in the Caño Grande, in Venecia.



Angela Olivares

**Language requirement** At least two years of college Spanish or the equivalent.

**Costs** For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to [www.acm.edu/costarica](http://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](http://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  
 October 15 — Spring semester deadline

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

**Dates** Spring semester (late January - mid-May)

**Courses and credits** Recommended credit is 16 semester hours or the equivalent:

- **Orientation, Language, and Culture** In San José, students prepare their research proposals and take an intensive course in Spanish language and Costa Rican culture. Language study continues during the final four weeks of the semester.
- **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](http://www.acm.edu/costarica).
- **Research Seminar and Paper** During the final four weeks in San José, students complete their research papers in consultation with their advisors and present the results to the group.

**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](http://www.acm.edu/cradvisors).

**Eligibility** Juniors, seniors, and advanced sophomores are eligible. Familiarity with statistics, field work methodology, and appropriate research methods is strongly recommended.

### Fall: Language, Society, & the Environment

Weeks 1-5	Weeks 6-7	Weeks 8-15
<b>Introduction to Costa Rica</b>		
<b>Core Course</b>	<b>Rural Stay</b>	<b>Core Course and Independent Study Project</b>
<b>Spanish Grammar, Conversation, &amp; Culture</b>	<i>Home stay with a rural family</i>	<b>Language Elective</b>
<i>Home stay in San José</i>		<i>Home stay in San José</i>

### Spring: Field Research in the Environment, Social Sciences, & Humanities

Weeks 1-4	Weeks 5-12	Weeks 13-16
<b>Orientation (San José)</b> <i>Select a research topic, confer with advisor, write the research proposal, and visit the field site.</i>	<b>Field Research</b> <i>(sites throughout Costa Rica)</i> <i>Conduct research, collect data, and periodically confer with advisor.</i>	<b>Research Paper (San José)</b> <i>Confer with advisor, write the research paper, and present the paper.</i>
<b>Spanish Language &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Spanish Language</b>
<i>Home stay in San José</i>	<i>Home stay near the research site</i>	<i>Home stay in San José</i>