

## 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.



Katie Levinstein

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

Left: Students on a program field trip to Volcán Poás.

Cover: On a field trip in the Costa Rican rainforest. (Photo courtesy of Emily Graber)

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

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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.

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



Chris Vaughan

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.

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

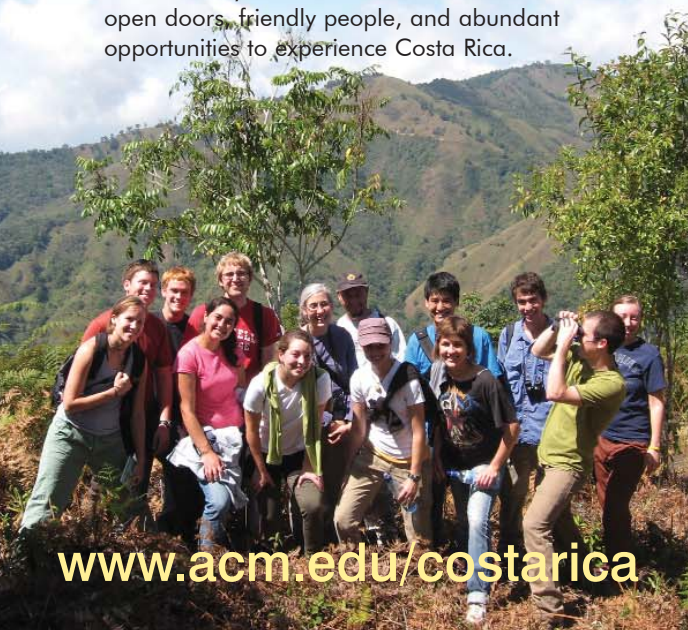
Since the ACM Costa Rica program began in 1964, many participants have gone on to professional careers related to their research experience in Costa Rica.

 **Costa Rica**



Eric Nosi

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



## For more details, go to [www.acm.edu/costarica](http://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** 25 students per program

**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 and early deadline for spring programs in the following academic year  
 October 15 — Spring semester deadline  
 January 31 — 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 18 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. (4 semester credits)
- **Elective Course** Students choose one of two courses covering sociocultural and environmental issues from a Latin American perspective. (4 semester credits)

- **Rural Communities in Costa Rica** Students conduct a three-week project with a community organization, typically in a rural area. Student journals and interviews provide the basis for an ethnography and oral report for the project. (3 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*

### New direct enrollment option

Students now have the opportunity to directly enroll at the University of Costa Rica for two of their four courses. Five semesters of college-level Spanish, or the equivalent, is required. See [www.acm.edu/costarica](http://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	Rural Communities in Costa Rica Home stay with a rural family	Introduction to Costa Rica
Spanish Grammar, Conversation, & Culture		Language Elective
Elective Course		Elective Course
Home stay in San José		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

- **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 weeks of the semester in San José.
- **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 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](http://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
Orientation in San José	Field Research at sites throughout Costa Rica	Research Paper in San José
Spanish Language & Culture		Spanish Language
Home stay in San José	Home stay near the research site	Home stay in San José

### Spring Semester

16 semester credits:  
 Orientation, Language, & Culture - 4 credits  
 Field Research - 8 credits  
 Research Seminar & Paper - 4 credits

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