

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 interviews, and abundant opportunities to experience Costa Rica.

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ACM brings a liberal arts perspective to your off-campus experience!

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



Katie Levinstein



Ryan Casserly

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

Above: A student volunteering as a teacher in a pre-kindergarten class in Santa María de Dota.

Front cover: Students on a field trip to a Rainforest Alliance certified coffee farm.

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

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.

ACM Associated Colleges of the Midwest

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ACM

Costa Rica

Culture & Society ♦ Field Research



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, Latin American Culture & Society, 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 social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. Since the program began in 1964, many participants have gone on to professional careers related to their research experience in Costa Rica.

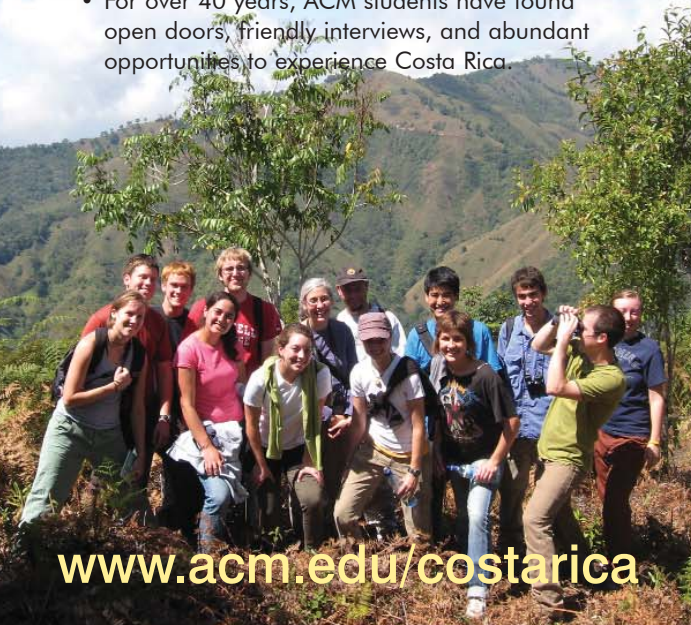
For students with interests in:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Anthropology & Sociology | Health Care & Public Health |
| Archaeology | Latin American Arts & Culture |
| Biology & Ecology | Politics & History |
| Chemistry | Religion |
| Economics | Spanish Language & Literature |
| Environmental Studies | Women's Studies |
| Geography | ... and more! |
| Geology | |

www.acm.edu/costarica



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Fall: Latin American Culture & Society

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. (4 credits)
- **Introduction to Costa Rica** An overview of modern Costa Rica taught primarily in Spanish; includes field work in San José and the rural stay. (4 credits)
- **Core Course** Covers either socioeconomic or environmental issues from a Latin American perspective; taught primarily in English, with readings in Spanish. (6 credits)
- **Independent Study Project** Project involves field investigation, library research, and interviews in San José; sources in Spanish required; research papers are usually written in English. A list of topics in recent years is available at www.acm.edu/costarica.
- **Language Elective** Choose one of the following three courses, all taught in Spanish. (3 credits)
 - Literature of Latin America*
 - Advanced Composition in Spanish*
 - Advanced Conversation in Spanish*

Eligibility Sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

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

For more details, go to 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, under the direction of Eduardo Estevanovich, is well-known for its excellence. Experienced Costa Rican teachers rotate among small classes so students can learn from a variety of native speakers.



Costs Students are billed tuition and a program fee by their colleges. Students from non-ACM colleges must contact the ACM office in Chicago. For complete information, go to: www.acm.edu/costarica.

How to apply

- For more information about applying, go to www.acm.edu/apply.
- ACM must receive completed applications (having gone through all on-campus procedures) by:
 - March 15 — Fall semester deadline, or
 - October 15 — Spring semester deadline.



Above: A student collecting macroinvertebrate (aquatic insect) samples with her advisor in the Caño Grande, in Venecia.
Left: Students learn the marimba at Escazú.

Spring: Field Research

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. (Language Study, 4 credits)
- **Field Research** Research opportunities are available in the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. A list of prior project topics is available at www.acm.edu/costarica. (8 credits)
- **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. (4 credits)

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.

Eligibility Juniors and seniors with prior course work in the proposed research discipline. Familiarity with statistics, field work methodology, and appropriate research methods is strongly recommended.

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

Latin American Culture & Society (fall)

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

Field Research (spring)

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