FOR BOTH PROGRAMS...

HOUSING
Homestay with Costa Rican host families.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
Second-year college level coursework in Spanish, taken the year prior to the start of the program, is required for the fall program and recommended for the spring program.

FIELD TRIPS
Students visit agricultural areas and fishing communities, clinics and schools, and businesses and cooperatives. A multi-day trip to neighboring country Nicaragua includes a boat tour, hiking through Montebello Private Natural Reserve, and a trip to Masaya Volcano National Park.

APPLICATION DEADLINES
March 15: Fall program and early deadline for spring program
October 15: Spring semester program
November 15: Spring quarter/trimester program

Apply at ACM.edu/apply and check with your Off-Campus Study Office about your college’s application procedures and deadlines.

Dive into a unique educational experience with the people, culture, and natural environment of a country undergoing dynamic changes.

For more than 50 years, the Associated Colleges of the Midwest has built connections throughout Costa Rica to offer students distinctive off-campus study programs.
Explore Costa Rica through a comprehensive Spanish language program, coursework, field experiences, cultural activities, and a community practicum experience. You’ll be immersed in a Spanish-speaking environment for the entire semester, giving you an opportunity to significantly improve your language skills.

In the classroom, guest speakers will share their expertise in literature, politics, conservation, social issues, and other topics. During a month-long practicum, you’ll gain hands-on experience working in a rural community or in the capital city of San José. Choose from areas of academic focus in environmental studies, public health, or education/social policy—all important in understanding Costa Rican society today.

**FALL SCHEDULE**

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<th>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN COSTA RICA</th>
<th>SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSE</th>
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**SPRING SCHEDULE**

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**DATES**

Fall semester (late August - early December)

**COURSES/ CREDITS**

Recommended credit is 16 semester credits or the equivalent. All courses are taught in Spanish.

- **Spanish in Context** - Introduction to Costa Rica: An overview of current social and historical issues in Costa Rica, with readings, discussions, guest lecturers, and field trips.

- **Community Engagement in Costa Rica**: Includes a month-long practicum in which students engage with a local community organization.

- **Spanish Language Course**: Choose one of two options: Spanish Language and Culture 21st Century Central American and Caribbean Film (option for students with advanced Spanish skills)

- **Elective Course**: Choose one of three options: Climate Change: Applications to Costa Rica from a Global Perspective Impact of Education in Costa Rica Impact of the Health System in Costa Rica

Classes are held at the ACM Center in San José. Students with advanced language proficiency can also take advantage of a dual enrollment option at the University of Costa Rica, choosing two or three courses from the broad range of offerings for Costa Rican students.

Experience living and working as an independent field researcher. You’ll split your time between San José and a site in Costa Rica specifically selected for your field research topic. Spanish language instruction supports your work as a field researcher in the Costa Rican cultural context.

You’ll work with research specialists and scholars who are matched with you based on your specific research interests. These advisors will assist you in all aspects of the research process, from proposal preparation to field work to writing and presenting your paper. Many students have presented their research projects at conferences and published their papers in academic journals.

**DATES**

Spring semester (late January - mid-May)

**FIELD RESEARCH IN THE ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL SCIENCES, & HUMANITIES**

**SPRING SEMESTER AND SPRING QUARTER/TRIMESTER**

**COURSES**

- **Spanish Language and Culture**: Designed to support students in their field research, this course covers Costa Rican cultural norms, research strategies, Spanish grammar, specialized vocabulary, and pronunciation.

- **Field Research Design**: Research opportunities are available in the environmental and natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities.

- **Field Research**: Students will be immersed in the implementation of a research study project, collecting, recording, and analyzing data in consultation with a local advisor.

- **Research Paper and Seminar Course**: During the final weeks in San José, students complete their research papers in consultation with their advisors and present the results to the group.

**SPRING QUARTER/TRIMESTER**

For students from colleges on quarter/trimester or block schedules. Recommended credit is equivalent to a quarter/trimester on the home campus.