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.

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.

www.acm.edu/costarica
**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

**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.
- **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.

**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.

**Eligibility**
- Juniors, seniors, and advanced sophomores eligible.

**How to apply**
- Students should check with their Off-Campus Study Office for information about their college’s application procedures and deadlines.
- Visit www.acm.edu/costarica for more information.

**Fall Semester: Language, Society, & the Environment**

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

**Field Research**
- Excursions at sites throughout Costa Rica
- 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.

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

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