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 almost 50 years, ACM students have found open doors, friendly people, and abundant opportunities to experience Costa Rica.

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Above: Students and ACM Spanish Language Coordinator Mario Marenas (in red shirt) in downtown San José. Left: A student at his field site home stay. (Photo courtesy of Jeff Nadel) Photo under “Costa Rica is.” Visiting San Gerardo de Rivas.

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, a three-week rural stay, and courses on contemporary social, political, and environmental issues.

An additional option in the fall gives students the opportunity to directly enroll at the University of Costa Rica and take two or three 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, public health, 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.

Above: A student with her rural host family. Cover photo: Visiting the Manuel Antonio National Park along the Pacific coast in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. (Photo courtesy of Nicole Gillett)

Costa Rica

Language & Society • Field Research

Expand your world.

ACM brings a liberal arts perspective to your off-campus experience by emphasizing:
- Diverse viewpoints and ways of learning,
- Interdisciplinary courses and seminars,
- Personal attention, working closely with faculty and local experts,
- Independent projects tailored to your academic interests, and
- Education that provides the cultural and intellectual context to understand the world around you.

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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312.263.5000 Fax 312.263.5879 www.acm.edu

acm.edu/costarica

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Spanish Language

With ACM’s language instruction, students learn Spanish and experience Costa Rican culture every day in immersive, real-life situations. Rotating native-speaking instructors, field trips, and being a member of local families ensures Spanish practice and acquisition.

Language requirement
Second-year level college coursework in Spanish, taken in the year prior to the start of the program, is recommended.

Enrollment
Maximum of 25 students per program

Costs
For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to 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 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

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 acm.edu/cradvisors.

Eligibility
Juniors, seniors, and advanced sophomores are eligible.

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
• Spanish for Researchers: Designed to enhance students’ language skills and cultural understanding for carrying out their independent field projects, this course covers Costa Rican cultural norms, research strategies, Spanish grammar, specialized vocabulary, and pronunciation.

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 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.

Language, Society, & the Environment

Dates
Fall semester (late August - early December)

Eligibility
Sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Courses and credits
Recommended credit is 16 semester credits or the equivalent.
• Spanish Grammar, Conversation, and Culture
  • Spanish for Researchers
  • Field Research in the Environment, Social Sciences, & Humanities
  • Research Paper

Eligibility
Juniors, seniors, and advanced sophomores.

Courses
• Spanish Grammar, Conversation and Culture
• Field Research in the Environment, Social Sciences, & Humanities
• Research Paper

Eligibility
Juniors, seniors, and advanced sophomores.

Language Elective
• Spanish Grammar, Conversation, & Culture
• Rural Stay

Eligibility
Sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Courses
• Spanish Grammar, Conversation and Culture

Eligibility
Sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Courses
• Spanish Grammar, Conversation and Culture

Eligibility
Sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Courses
• Spanish Grammar, Conversation and Culture

For more details, go to acm.edu/costarica