



UNIVERSIDAD DE  
COSTA RICA

OAICE

Oficina de  
Asuntos Internacionales  
y Cooperación Externa

# UCR Tropical Summer Program for International Students



## Contact information

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# Course Descriptions

## Option 1

### Biodiversity and Conservation

#### Objectives:

To learn about tropical ecosystems and biodiversity in Costa Rica, discuss the major threats to biodiversity, introduce basic concepts of conservation biology, and discuss its strategies for biodiversity

#### Course description:

- Biological diversity
- Distribution of biodiversity
- Loss of biodiversity
- Conservation Biology
- Practical applications

#### Field trips:

Lowland dry and wet forests, premontane and montane forests, as well as high-montane and paramo forests



## Option 2

### Introduction to Latin American Studies (Language and Civilization)

#### Objectives:

To offer an introduction to the study of Latin America through an interdisciplinary interpretation of the social phenomena of this region.



#### Course description:

- Land and people
- Historical framework and identity
- Latin American chronotope
- Main social patterns
- Philosophy and intellectual tradition.

### Appreciation of Popular Latin American Music

#### Objective:

To appreciate the most widely-known genres of popular dance music in Latin America, and their fusion with other genres

#### Course description:

Students will achieve a broader perspective of Latin American dance music genres, through their history and evolution, and by listening to different compositions in order to understand today's music.

#### Contents:

- First stages of Afro-Latin music
- The cycle of Afro-Cuban rumba music
- Salsa genre
- Latin jazz
- Other Afro-Caribbean genres



# Option 3

## International Economic Law

### Objective:

To discuss elements of International Economics within a legal framework context, including multilateral trade

### Course Description:

Due to the dynamics of international commercial relations between countries and regions, and the increasing number of free trade agreements, it is essential to understand the legal framework regulating these relationships.

### Content:

- Regulatory Law
- Consumer Protection Law
- Public Markets Law
- International, Commercial, Private, and Public Law

## Business Climate in Central America

### Objective:

To provide students with a better understanding of the business environment and culture in

developing countries, with special emphasis on Central America

### Course description:

It offers a broad description of Costa Rican and Central American business sectors. It entails current events and pressing issues, such as free trade agreements, foreign investment, and business culture in general.

### Contents:

- Emergent Markets in Latin America
- Perspective of Central American Economy
- Competitiveness Model
- Foreign Direct Investment in Central America
- Growing industries: tourism, electronics components, and the agro-industrial sector
- Multinational Firm Set-Up: Intel-Costa Rica Case
- CAFTA: Major implications
- What is the role of rainforests in global climate?
- Cross-cultural leadership
- Educational visits



# Fieldtrip Descriptions



These one-day fieldtrips are available for students who register the courses offered

## **Wandering into San José**

The city is a dynamic space where history, architecture, biology, society, and culture, among other things are woven, so building a specific landscape with many realities. The city is known through direct contact and in situ experimentation.

The route is designed to travel through San José. Walking is our means of transportation, so having direct contact with people, architecture, climate, and the landscape, as a whole. It is intended to be an activity that involves everyone's participation, since we all have our own say as to the world's cities

# Irazu Volcano, Guayabo National Monument, Ujarras Ruins, Orosi Valley

Cartago is one of the seven provinces of Costa Rica. It is located in the center of the country. Its main city, Cartago, was founded in 1563 by Juan Vásquez de Coronado and was the capital of Costa Rica until 1823. Its geography reveals a sequence of very attractive landscapes.

## **The tour includes:**

**-Irazú Volcano National Park:**  
Craters and Prusia forest.

**-Guayabo National Monument:**  
This is an archaeological site located 19 km northeast from Turrialba.

**-Orosi Valley:**  
This small town offers travelers an ideal place to see some of the country's historical landmarks.

**-Ruins of Ujarrás:**  
It is the oldest colonial church in the country.



# Program

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The program offers 3 options, for different interests and student profiles:

## Option 1

It is a 4-week course on Biodiversity and Conservation that combines lectures at UCR campus and fieldtrips

This program will be taught daily, from Monday thru Thursday

## Options 2 or 3

These options consist of 30 hour courses addressed to students from all academic fields. Those who choose any of these options will register one of the following modules:

### **Option 2**

- Introduction to Latin American Studies (Language and Civilization)
- Appreciation of Popular Latin American Music

### **Option 3**

- Business Climate and Culture in Central America
- International Economic Law

Classes on this program will be taught twice a week, from Monday thru Thursday



# Program Dates

The program (Option 1, Option 2, and Option 3) will take place from July 1st to July 30th, 2016

DATE	ACTIVITY
Friday, July 1st	Arrival to Costa Rica and settling in with the host families
Saturday, July 2nd	Introductory Session
Monday, July 4th	Beginning of classes
Friday, July 8th	Fieldtrip 1: San José Walking City Tour
Friday, July 15th to Sunday, July 17th	Weekend off for personal activities
Friday, July 22nd	Fieldtrip 2: Irazú Volcano, Guayabo National Monument, Ujarrás Ruins, Orosi Valley
Thursday, July 28th	End of classes and closing ceremony
Friday, July 29th to Sunday, July 31st	Weekend off for personal activities

## Program Fees

Include:

- Airport pick-up
- Orientation session
- Two fieldtrips
- Housing with Costa Rican families (including two meals per day)
- Registration in one of the three options
- Student ID card
- Closing ceremony
- Certificate of participation

### Total cost per participant

Option 1: USD\$ 3,000

Options 2 or 3: USD \$2,500

### Pre-registration

Students or institutions interested in the program, please send an email to [seme.oai@ucr.ac.cr](mailto:seme.oai@ucr.ac.cr), in order to receive the pre-registration form for UCR's

**Tropical Summer School for International Students**

# University of Costa Rica

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## 2016

The University of Costa Rica is the largest and oldest university in the country (inhabited by about 5 million people). Its leadership and achievements are internationally recognized. It has a high academic quality:

- 486 academic options
- 240 undergraduate programs
- 246 graduate programs
- 10 PhD Programs

It receives international faculty and students every year through bilateral academic agreements, networks, and others. Our visiting population enjoys access to the university's facilities and an ideal learning and research environment. Its curricula are in continuous self-assessment, evaluation, and accreditation, both nationally and internationally.

UCR is one of the top-ranked universities in Latin America. It offers the most comprehensive academic programs in all areas of knowledge and contributes with 60% of scientific production in Central America and 70 % of the research conducted in Costa Rica.



UCR is focused on the internationalization of its activities. Every year, our Visiting Scholars Program invites more than 200 professors from abroad for short periods. It also supports and promotes the continuous exchange of an annual average of 400 students.

Diseño: Daniela Hernández Arguedas