

Study Abroad In Costa Rica

Course Itinerary

December 26 - Arrive in Juan Santamaría International Airport, San Jose, Costa Rica

December 26 – Stay at Hotel Mi Tierra and have class dinner in a local Costa Rican restaurant

December 27 - Visit an active volcano, Volcan Poas. Visit a Coffee Plantation and have lunch there. Arrive at La Suerte Biological Research Station at 4:00pm. Get settled in rooms, have Dinner, and safety orientation

December 27-January 14: Daily class lectures from 4:30-6:00pm

December 28- December 30th: Students will be divided into groups and assigned each day to participate in one of three field exercises. We will focus on four field techniques/exercises.

- A. Collecting behavioral data on monkeys
- B. Collecting ecological data on forest structure and habitat
- C. Collecting data using Graphical Information technology (GPS) to map a field site

Groups will report on what they have learned each evening. Meet with faculty each evening to discuss the schedule and activities for the following day (December 28-December 30)

December 31st - Map Quiz – to ensure that each student has a mental map of the trail system, we will have a map quiz on January 2nd. This will take 15 minutes.

Complete Final draft of research proposal January 2nd by 6:00pm. What is required is a 5-8 page written proposal indicating the OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE, BACKGROUND, RESEARCH QUESTIONS (HYPOTHESES), METHODS, SUMMARY of your project. RESEARCH PROJECTS MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE YOU CAN BEGIN YOUR PROJECT. Detailed descriptions and definitions of behavioral/ecological variables studied should be included in an appendix. All proposals must also include a sample data sheet.

January 3rd^h - 6:00-9:00 pm. 3-hour essay exam. The essay exam is based on in-class lectures

January 4th - students whose research proposals have been approved can begin data collection for their research.

January 12 – last day of data collection. Students must begin analyzing their data and writing their final report

January 14 - Each student must hand in a final written paper by 6:00 PM detailing the results of their research. The paper must be written as a scientific article and include a TITLE PAGE, ABSTRACT, Introduction (brief theoretical statement indicating the research questions), METHODS (be extremely specific and detailed), RESULTS (present the data), DISCUSSION (describe how your results compare to similar research on other species or theoretical issues in the field), CONCLUSIONS (list 4 conclusions of your research), REFERENCES, TABLES, FIGURES.

January 15 - Primate Behavior and Ecology Symposium on at La Suerte.
Each student will give an oral presentation sharing the results of their research project. Presentations cannot be read. You can use note cards note figures/tables/overheads to assist in the presentation. As in scientific meetings you will have a maximum of 15 minutes for the presentation and 5-10 minutes for discussion.

PACK ON EVENING OF January 15th and CLASS PARTY!!!!

January 16th SO LONG, FAREWELL, GOOD-BYE La Suerte!!!! Leave La Suerte and travel to San Jose for sight-seeing and tourist shopping Spend night at hotel in San Jose.

January 17 Return to the United States