ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Academic Program for International Students at the University of Costa Rica (UCR) offers international students the possibility to improve their Spanish language skills while attending specific English-taught courses in a wide variety of academic areas, such as Biology, Economics, Business, Humanities, Arts, Philology, Music and others. The courses are taught by qualified UCR professors in each field of study, and have been designed to meet the specific needs and demands of international students wishing to participate in this UCR academic program.

The Core Course, Spanish for International Students, is offered in the mornings. Courses taught in English are given in the afternoons and mornings that do not conflict with the Spanish classes. Field trips will take place on Fridays and/or during weekends.

The following is a summary of the program that the University of Costa Rica offers to international students. The first section includes general information on academic requirements, application procedures and required documents, among others. The second section includes information on the Spanish Core Course, and the third section is a summarized version of the courses offered in different academic areas and that are taught in English.

SPRING AND FALL SEMESTER PROGRAMS

General Information for all Courses

Duration of the Academic Program
Sixteen Weeks

Spring: from March to June
Fall: from August to November

*Intensive* tailor-made courses for groups of 5 or more students from the same institution (for example, for groups interested in taking specific courses at UCR during the spring or summer breaks). This program can be adjusted to 4 to six weeks, as requested by partner universities.

➢ Minimum enrollment required for all courses: 5 students

Student selection:
Participants will be selected by their home institution. Selected students are required to have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or the equivalent according to the student’s home institution, and at least one year of college-level course work.

Credits Earned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum amount of credits</th>
<th>Maximum amount of credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish (6 credits) + 2 English courses (3 credits each) = 12 credits</td>
<td>Spanish (6 credits) + 3 English courses (3 credits each) = 15 credits</td>
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</tbody>
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Application Deadlines:

For Spring Term: December 9th 2011
Fall Term: May 11th 2012

Student Services and Other Important Information:

The participants will abide by the same disciplinary regulations and academic standards as local students.

Participating students will live with Costa Rican families who will provide two meals a day, Monday thru Friday; three meals a day on weekends; laundry service and room cleaning. Accommodation with local families helps students improve their Spanish language proficiency and familiarize with the life, traditions and culture of Costa Ricans.

Students are strongly recommended to arrive one week before classes begin, as the Orientation Program will take place on Thursday and Friday of that week. This will allow them sufficient time to settle in with the host family and begin the process of familiarizing with the host country and surroundings prior to the beginning of classes.

To travel to and from the University and to move around the city, most students use the very good and inexpensive urban bus system.

Participants will have the right to use all university facilities and services, such as libraries, laboratories, sport and recreational facilities, the on campus bus system and primary health service.

Participants shall be responsible for arriving in the country with an adequate healthcare insurance policy ensuring comprehensive medical care services to the satisfaction of the host institution. The coverage shall ensure repatriation, theft, and travel insurance to and from the host institution. UCR requires proof of coverage of the cost of all necessary medical care, medical evacuation and repatriation of remains during the period of study at UCR.

Students need to be aware that they should follow normal safety measures while moving around downtown San José, or any other populous area, as in any other country around the world. Safety measures will be properly addressed during the Orientation Program offered the week before the courses begin, and which is summarized below.

The University of Costa Rica, through the Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation, will be responsible for making all necessary logistical arrangements for the students, such as selecting and assigning host families, providing orientation that includes cultural and safety information, as well as assisting the students with welfare and safety issues throughout the program.

Students are strongly recommended to register at their respective consulate upon arrival in the country.

Attendance:

Class attendance is mandatory. For semester courses, a maximum of 2 (two) absences is acceptable. A medical certification will be required if a student exceeds the number of permitted absences.

Attendance to all field trips is mandatory as these are an important part of students’ learning process.

Throughout the semester, a wide variety of cultural activities take place at UCR or other places. International students are encouraged to participate actively in these programs that will be made available to them.

Arrival Date:

Participating students are asked to arrive in Costa Rica one week before classes begin.
Students are responsible for their own transportation from the airport to the host family home. Participating students will receive information on their host family members, home address and telephone numbers approximately two weeks before their arrival in Costa Rica to ensure student-host family coordination.

**Departure Date:**

The departure date is the day after classes end. If a student decides to prolong his/her stay in Costa Rica after classes have officially concluded at the University of Costa Rica, he/she will be responsible for his/her stay thereafter.

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### 2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

**First Semester 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival</td>
<td>February 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Sessions</td>
<td>March 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;-2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Classes</td>
<td>March 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Week</td>
<td>April 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;-8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of classes</td>
<td>June 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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*This is a 17-week program due to Holy Week, when the UCR is closed.

**Second Semester 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival</td>
<td>August 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Sessions</td>
<td>August 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Classes</td>
<td>August 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of classes</td>
<td>November 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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**Optional Activities:**

Students are invited to participate in a variety of cultural activities that take place throughout the semester; therefore, it is recommended that an amount of money be set aside for such activities.

**Program Fees:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per suggested credit</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing with a local family (per month) (includes two meals a day, Monday thru Friday; three meals a day on weekends; laundry service and room cleaning)</td>
<td>$520.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing during Orientation Week</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family selection formalities</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field trips for “Biodiversity and Conservation,” “Tropical Ecology,” “Environment and Development of LA and the Caribbean”</td>
<td>$600 (per class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field trips for “Costa Rica through its Artwork” and “Introduction to LA Studies”</td>
<td>$200 (per class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing Orientation Program</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimate cost for Visa procedures</td>
<td>$500*</td>
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*This price is subject to change, depending on variations on the Immigration Law.
ONGOING ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The orientation program at the University of Costa Rica is structured as follows:

1. **Two-day session on the week prior to classes beginning**:
   This first part will be held on Thursday and Friday of the week before regular classes begin. The sessions will be approximately 7 hours long each day, and will include the following topics:

   - A. The University of Costa Rica: history, facts and figures. Administrative aspects; visa and immigration procedures; miscellaneous.
   - B. Cultural awareness, understanding, and the adaptation process.
   - C. The University of Costa Rica and its available resources. Campus tour and orientation.
   - D. Costa Rica: cultural, economic, political and social panorama.

   The Orientation Program also includes cultural activities. Information on such activities will be provided to each participating institution in a timely manner.

2. **A monthly two-hour session, including the following topics:**
   - A. Philosophy of Interculturalism
   - B. Culture Shock
   - C. We are not clear, we are not direct, and we are not sincere.
   - D. The stereotype as fetish

SPANISH FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

For more than twenty years, the University of Costa Rica has delivered an excellent program of Spanish courses to international students. These constitute the core courses of the program, which are taught by qualified professors from the School of Philology, Linguistics and Literature. All faculty members are native Spanish speakers who support their teaching strategies and methodology with adequate didactic materials and technological resources.

These courses have been designed for non-Spanish speaking students who wish to acquire a level of competence in Spanish that will meet their oral and written communication needs in a fast and effective manner. Students learn the language through an integral approach to significant aspects of the Spanish-speaking culture in general, and the Costa Rican culture in particular, interacting with its historical and social contexts.

Upon arrival to the UCR, students are assessed on their language level and will be placed according to their proficiency in a corresponding course: Beginners, Intermediate, or Advanced. These courses (regular and/or intensive forms) consist of a total of ninety (90) contact hours, and students earn six (06) suggested credits upon successful completion of the program.

**It is absolutely mandatory that all students respect the result of the placement examination and the class level into which they are placed.**

At the beginner level, students are introduced to the Spanish language and its basic grammatical structures. This basic knowledge will help them get along in different everyday situations. Students will also be able to understand basic written material.

At the intermediate level, students broaden their knowledge and are able to communicate orally in an efficient way, in non-daily situations that require greater linguistic and cultural competence. In addition, they are able to understand written material on less common topics.

In the advanced courses, students learn to communicate fluently, both orally and in writing, as well as to argue oral and written messages on a variety of topics.

**Total contact hours: 128 - Suggested credits: 06**
COURSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Total contact hours per course: 45 - Minimum enrollment: 5 students

Suggested credits: 3

Name of course: Tropical Ecology*

Objectives:
Introduce the student to the factors that establish the particular characteristics of the tropical region and its biological diversity; understand the ecological consequences of the tropical climate and geology. It also provides a basic framework to understand the complexities involved in the conservation and sustainable use of tropical ecosystems and their vulnerability to human impact.

Course description:
The course is designed to help students understand why there is a region called the tropics, and what makes it different from other regions of the world. Course contents focus first on the general principles of ecology, and then applies them to understand the climate, geological, edaphic and geomorphological factors that influence the ecological processes in tropical ecosystems. The different tropical ecosystems are reviewed, emphasizing the ecological processes and functions that characterize them, such as forest structure, nutrient dynamics, ecological succession and productivity.

Program:
Introduction to General Ecology: tropical climate and geology; biological diversity; rain forest; tropical soils and nutrient cycling; ecological succession and forest health; mountain and cloud forest; paramo and bog wetlands; dry forest and savannas; mangroves and coral reefs; tropical oceans; lakes and wetlands.

*The course includes three field trips to the following places:
- Tirimbina, with guided hikes through the rain forest
- Ostional Wildlife Refuge, hopefully during one of the big arribadas of sea turtles. The trip will also include visits to other tropical ecosystems, such as dry forests and mangrove forests.
- Talamanca mountains, along the road to Cerro de la Muerte, to have a closer look at the montane and cloud forests.

Field trip fee: These field trips have an approximate total cost of $600 (six hundred dollars) per student (including food, lodging and transportation).

Name of course: Biodiversity and Conservation*

Objectives:
Introduce the student to the concept of biodiversity and understand its distribution; discuss the major threats to biodiversity; introduce basic concepts of conservation biology and discuss strategies for biodiversity conservation; learn about biodiversity and conservation in Costa Rica.

Course description:
Biological diversity: definition of biodiversity and species richness; measurements of biological diversity; distribution of biodiversity: number of species worldwide and estimates; examples of biodiversity in the tropics; values of biodiversity. Loss of biodiversity; extinction rates; endemic species and island biogeography; vulnerability to extinction; destruction of habitat. Conservation biology: definition, postulates and contributions of conservation biology. Practical applications: ex situ and in situ conservation strategies; managing protected areas and sustainable development.
Field trips:
- a lowland dry forest
- a lowland wet forest
- a premontane and montane forest
- a high montane and paramo forest

**Field trip fee:** These field trips have an approximate total cost of $600 (six hundred dollars) per student (including food, lodging and transportation).

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**Name of course:** Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities*

**Course Description:**
This course introduces students to the state of the environment and environmental policy in Latin America and the Caribbean, evaluating its linkages with the development process as a whole and different prospective scenarios. It begins with a five-week introduction on global and regional perspectives, and then develops a more detailed discussion of the main issues on the regional environmental agenda through field trips, invited speakers, student presentations on assigned topics (with a special bibliography) and classroom discussions with common readings for the other participants. The final grade evaluates the students' annotations from readings, subsequent classroom discussions, and assigned presentations on scheduled topics. There will be a final comprehensive examination.


**Field trip fee:** These field trips have an approximate total cost of $600 (six hundred dollars) per student (including food, lodging and transportation).

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**Name of course:** Introduction to Latin American Studies (Culture and Civilization)

**Objectives:**
The objective of this course is to offer an introduction to the study of Latin America through an interdisciplinary interpretation of the social phenomena of this region. In addition, the course aims at facilitating the student's adaptation to his/her new context and the assimilation of his/her experiences by complementing these experiences during their stay with the discussion of theories and ideologies on Latin America.

**Course description:**
- The land and the people: outstanding physical characteristics; natural regions; outstanding population and settlement characteristics.
- Historical framework and identity: discovery and conquest; the colonial culture; independence and building of the nation
- Latin American chronotope: time and space
- Main social patterns: greetings and farewells; gastronomy; humor; festivities
- Philosophy and intellectual tradition: Education in Latin America; Latin American literature and the writer as a modern shaman
Name of course: Workshop on Music, Identity, and Society

Course description: Designed for English-speaking, exchange students at the University of Costa Rica, the seminar addresses music as a social practice embedded in social and our own individual identities, through seminar discussions and practical, artistic and performing activities in relation to the participants' cultural context and local context during the exchange term.

Course objectives:
Engagement with course readings, discussions and practical activities will guide students into:
• Articulating a critical approach of music as a social phenomenon.
• Understanding the concepts ‘musicking’ and ‘musical identities’.
• Identifying the contexts and functions of a diversity of musics and musical practices in the students’ own cultural contexts and the Costa Rican context during their exchange period.
• Exploring the students’ own musical identities.
• Attending and reporting on music performances in the Costa Rican context.
• Performing, composing, or improvising music within a musicking context interacting with Costa Rican music students.

Requisites: No professional background in music is required.

Name of course: Costa Rica Through its Artwork

Objectives:
Appreciate the work of art within the particular historical-cultural context through a direct experience; know the main museums, learn about the paintings, sculptures, ceramics, silver, gold and bronze work and architecture in Costa Rica.

Course description:
- Pre-Columbian art: Guayabo National Monument, the Jade Museum; three pre-Columbian cultural areas in Costa Rica; Gold Museum; gold work techniques; National Museum: Bella Vista Fort and its history; ceramics and sculptures.

- The Colonial period: Ujarrás and Orosí – architecture, paintings, influence of Spaniards and Catholic Church.

- “Virgen de los Angeles” basilica: pilgrimages and Spanish medieval legacy; Heredia parish church.

- 19th Century, Independence and coffee oligarchy: National Theatre; Metallic Building; General Cemetery; the Atlantic Train Station; National Monument, Juan Santamaría Monument, School of Fine Arts.

- 20th Century: Main Post Office building; Costa Rican Art Museum; paintings, sculptures and engravings; Museum of Contemporary Art and Design; different art galleries.

* This course includes several field trips. Approximately, a $200 (two hundred dollars) fee will be charged mainly to cover transportation costs and entrance to some of the places visited.

Name of course: Fundamentals of Financial Management

Course Description:
Fundamentals of Financial Management studies corporate finance, emphasizing the financial aspects of short-term managerial decisions. It also deals with the trade-off between risk and expected return, time value of money, analysis of financial statements, cash flows and working capital management.
Specific Objectives:
1. Provide students with different concepts of Financial Management.
2. Recognize the risk-return relation in financial decision-making.
3. Examine several financial forecasting tools.
4. Apply a financial statement analysis.
5. Apply the use of different working capital analysis tools

Contents:
A. Introduction
B. The Role of a Financial Manager
C. Risk and Return
D. Time value of Money
E. Financial Statement Analysis
F. Financial Forecasting
G. Management of Current Assets
H. Financing Current Assets

Name of course: Fundamentals of Marketing

Course Description:
The course is designed as an introductory survey of marketing topics for students who have not taken any previous marketing course.

In the course, students explore theory and practice that draws on customer analysis, competitive analysis, and analysis of core strengths in marketing and product development. Cases, discussions, and readings provide a combination of integrating concepts and hands-on problem-solving. Students are encouraged to develop different perspectives on marketing issues.

Specific Objectives:
1. Introduce the students to key marketing ideas and phenomena, especially the core theme of delivering benefits to customers.
2. Develop the students' skills in marketing analysis and planning.
3. Help students become acquainted with the tactics of marketing (product strategy, pricing, advertising, other communications, and distribution policy) and enhance their problem-solving and decision-making abilities in these areas.
4. Provide the students with a forum (both written and oral) for presenting and defending their own recommendations and critically examining and discussing those of others.
5. Develop a realistic and positive perspective on ethical issues that marketing practitioners and businesses must deal with, with a focus on diversity within organizations and groups of customers.

Contents:
A. Introduction and Orientation
B. The Marketing Environment
C. Managing Marketing Information
D. Consumer and Business Buyer Behavior
E. Market Segmentation
F. Product and Services Strategy
G. Pricing
H. Marketing Channels and Supply Chain Management
I. Communications Mix
Name of course: **Business Climate and Culture in Central America**

**Prerequisites:**
Background knowledge of the basic principles of management, macroeconomics and international economy.

**General Objective:**
Provide students with a better understanding of the business environment and culture in developing countries, with special emphasis on Central America.

**Specific objectives:**
- Learn about the role of Latin American Markets in the global economy.
- Provide students a perspective on the Central American economy.
- Provide a systematic examination of national culture and its relation to management.
- Present a basic framework for understanding the competitiveness of nations.
- Understand the main challenge of Central America in the face of competitiveness.
- Present examples of main growing industries in the region.
- Study several cases of Costa Rican multinational company set up.
- Understand the major implications of CAFTA: Costa Rican case.
- Understand the main variables of intercultural leadership.

**Course description:**
This course offers a broad description of the business sector in Costa Rica and Central America. It entails current events and pressing issues, such as the free trade agreements, foreign investment and business culture in general.

**Contents:**
- Emergent Markets: Latin America
- Perspective of Central American Economy.
- Understanding Cultural Diversity.
- Nations Competitiveness Model.
- Central American Regional Challenge for Competitiveness.
- Foreign Direct Investment in Central America.
- Growing industries: Tourism, Electronics components, agro-industrial sector.
- Educational visits: Café Britt and Sara Lee.
- CAFTA: Major implications.
- What is the role of rainforests in global climate?
- Cross-cultural leadership.

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Name of course: **Economic Development of Latin America**

**Objectives:**
- Provide the participants with a better understanding of the Latin American experience in stabilization and growth.
- Allow students to analyze more thoroughly the economic challenges to be faced by Central America in the next few years.
- Examine the challenges arising from the new free trade agreements
- Encourage participation, discussion and comparison of different approaches

**Course description:**
- Introduction: an overview of the current economic situation in Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Trade in the Americas: NAFTA, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, CAFTA, MERCOSUR.
- Cultural and political issues: race, gender, political stability/instability.
3- a. Point of departure: Twentieth Century ideas on trade and development, the basic approach, the determinants of the composition and direction of trade: Ricardian approach on comparative advantage, the factor endowments approach and the mainstream view.
b. The Latin American rebels: Raúl Prebisch, ECLA, and import substitution industrialization
c. Dependency theory and the Marxian views on international trade and exploitation.
d. A return to orthodoxy: empirical evidence, the debt crisis, the East Asian miracle, structural adjustment and the international financial agencies.
e. Free trade agreements, negotiations and the international trade system.
f. The shifting pattern of comparative advantage.

4- Macroeconomic analysis and stabilization policies
   - Principles of macroeconomics: a brief review of basic concepts. Supply and demand analysis, national income accounts, production, aggregate supply-demand analysis, among others.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you are interested in our program, please contact:

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