Costa Rica 2019 Gatton Academy Study Abroad Application Packet (Deadline September 14)

A completed Costa Rica application packet consists of five parent/legal guardian signed and student signed forms. Please print, sign, and turn in the following five forms to apply to the program:

1. Gatton Academy Study Abroad Application (Page 1 [this page], all parents'/legal guardians' signatures)

WKU Study Abroad and Global Learning Parent Signature Forms (one parent/legal guardian signature per form)

2. Acknowledgement: Study Abroad Application Fee (Pages 2-3)
3. International Medical Insurance Requirement (Pages 4-5)
4. Acknowledgement and Release (Pages 6-9)
5. Acknowledgement: World Topper Scholarship Terms (Pages 10-11)

Student Section

Student Full Name _____ Preferred First Name _____ Gender _____

Date of Birth _____WKU ID # __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ Home Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ Cell (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _

WKU E-mail _____@topper.wku.edu Grade in 2018-19 _____ SCUBA certified? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you have a US passport? ____Yes (submit a copy with this application) ____ No ___ I have filed (If so, when? _____)

Rank your top 3 preferences for research projects at Cloudbridge Nature Reserve (see the five-bulleted options on the sample itinerary).

#1 _____ #2 _____ #3_____

I understand this program is housed at field research stations and requires significant outdoor time in the environments, including hiking in mountainous, damp environments at mid-level elevations (approximately 6-8,000 ft). _____(Student signature)

Parent/Guardian Section

Every parent/legal guardian who shares custody of a student must sign this page of the application understanding that the student is applying to go on a study abroad program to Costa Rica in January 2019 with The Gatton Academy.

By signing this document, parents/legal guardians acknowledge their permission to let their student travel on the program and acknowledge understanding that students must be eligible to return to The Gatton Academy in the spring semester 2019 to travel on the program.

Parent/Guardian 1. Print Name_____ Signature_____ Date _____

Cell Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ Home Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ Work Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _

Parent/Guardian 2. (as applicable) Print Name_____ Signature_____ Date _____

Cell Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ Home Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ Work Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _

Parent/Guardian 3. (as applicable) Print Name_____ Signature_____ Date _____

Cell Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ Home Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ Work Phone (_ _ _) _ _ _ - _ _ _ _

****Students must be eligible to return to The Gatton Academy for the spring semester 2019 to travel.****

The program cost of $2,725* includes:

-Roundtrip airfare from Louisville
-Room accommodations in all locations
-An average of two meals per day while in Costa Rica
-Admission for all activities listed in the itinerary
-Basic international health insurance
-Travel by chartered motor coach throughout the trip
-Tuition for (3 hrs) of Hon: BIO 285: Costa Rican Biodiversity college credit

*The actual program cost is $2,725, but students who have never used their one-time $1,000 Gatton Academy Study Abroad Scholarship will only pay $1,725.

Selected students must eventually pay a $150 WKU Study Abroad and Global Learning application fee later in the fall semester.

Selected students will pay the program and application fees directly to the ***WKU Bursar's Office, Potter Hall 2nd floor*** **by a to-be-determined billing deadline in the second half of the fall semester.**

Deadline to apply is September 14, 2018

Application Process:

- All application packets with the five forms must be submitted in The Gatton Academy office to Ms. Vickie Payne (FSH 107). Applications are accepted only Tuesday, August 21—Friday, September 14 at 4:30pm Central.
- Please submit applications with a copy of the student's passport ID page if you already have a passport.
- No payments or fees are due or accepted at the time of application
- Spots are limited to 32 students (equal gender distribution). Half of the spots are saved for each class, 2019 and 2020. Those who have not traveled abroad with The Gatton Academy previously are given first priority for selection using a random lottery. Second-year students who studied in Costa Rica last winter with The Gatton Academy are allowed to reapply, but are given lowest priority. Shortly after the application deadline, applicants will be divided into categories of female and male, those who have traveled with Gatton abroad previously and those who have not, and any applicant who has studied abroad in Costa Rica with Gatton previously. Random drawing continues until all students have been drawn to form an ordered waitlist for any program spot that might become available later. All students will be notified of their selection status by Sept. 21.

WKU STUDY ABROAD & GLOBAL LEARNING

Acknowledgement: Study Abroad Application Fee

(*WKU Faculty Led: Biodiversity in Costa Rica- Group (Gatton Academy Only), Winter, 2019)

Print Cancel

Each WKU student who applies to study abroad, regardless of program type, is required to pay a non-refundable $150 study abroad application fee (Pell Grant recipients: see special note below). If apply for more than one program during an academic year (fall to summer), you are only required to pay one application fee.

The application fee is typically posted to Topnet within approximately 15 business days from the date you submit your study abroad application and is charged in the term in which the application was started, not the study abroad term. Please note that because of administrative processing, if you submit your application submitted close to the end of a term, the fee will be applied to the upcoming academic term to avoid creating a registration hold.

If your program is canceled or you are not accepted into your selected program, the study abroad application fee will be refunded. You should pay the fee BEFORE you depart for your program. Please note that registration holds may apply if the fee is not paid by the deadline indicated in TopNet. The application fee can be paid at the Cashier's Office in Potter Hall or on TopNet after the fee appear on your account.

Potential scholarship for Pell Grant recipients - Students receiving a Federal Pell Grant (a need-based grant awarded through FAFSA) are also eligible to apply for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship (https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/). Those who work with the Office of Scholar Development (OSD) (http://www.wku.edu/osd/) to complete and submit a Gilman application for their qualifying program will, upon confirmation of OSD and SAGL, receive a $150 scholarship to cover the application fee. If you receive a Pell Grant, please indicate so in the questionnaire entitled "Financial Aid Information."

All questions regarding the study abroad application fee should be directed to SAGL (study.abroad@wku.edu; 270-745-5334).

By signing this document, you acknowledge the information above and agree to pay the study abroad application fee unless your program is cancelled or you are not accepted into your program.

Applicant Name:

Applicant Signature:

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:

_____

Date Signed:

_____

I understand that by signing this agreement, I am signing a legal document.
I acknowledge that I am the person whose name is listed above.

Click print, and send this page to the following address:Western Kentucky University
Study Abroad & Global Learning
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd # 11064
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1064

Since you are under 18 years of age, you must print and co-sign the above documents with your parent or guardian and send them to Study Abroad & Global Learning.

WKU STUDY ABROAD & GLOBAL LEARNING

International Medical Insurance Requirement

(*WKU Faculty Led: Biodiversity in Costa Rica- Group (Gatton Academy Only), Winter, 2019)

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Western Kentucky University requires that all WKU study abroad students have health insurance coverage that includes accident and sickness, emergency medical, medical evacuation, and repatriation of remains benefits. Study Abroad & Global Learning (SAGL) will enroll you in a comprehensive medical insurance plan through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI), our contracted provider, if you are participating in a program that does not already include comprehensive health insurance. This includes faculty-led, Harlaxton, exchange programs, direct enroll, and some independently arranged programs. SAGL will determine if your program is exempt. For information about the insurance benefits, review the Policy_Brochure 2017 (/_customtags/ct_FileRetrieve.cfm?File_ID=05037371754F0471050D017304001C04080C0014757803776E75070F06727301047470747677710605).

CISI study abroad medical insurance will be in effect ONLY while you are outside the U.S. during your official program dates. If you plan to travel before or after your program dates, SAGL can extend your insurance coverage up to 30 days total outside of your official program dates. Notify SAGL by submitting your dates in the application form "Program Travel Dates" after acceptance.

SAGL will determine the cost of your insurance based on the duration of travel. If insurance is not included in your program fee, or if you request insurance for an additional period, SAGL will post the charge to your TopNet account.

If you need a letter confirming that you will be enrolled by WKU in a health insurance plan in order to be accepted by your program provider or host institution, or to obtain a visa, contact your Study Abroad Advisor.

If you wish to learn more about CISI insurance for study abroad, view this video:

By selecting the submit button, I understand that health insurance coverage is mandatory for all students studying abroad and that the WKU Office of Study Abroad & Global Learning will enroll me in CISI Insurance and bill my account if comprehensive insurance is not already included in my program.

Applicant Name:

Applicant Signature:

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:

_____

Date Signed:

_____

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WKU STUDY ABROAD & GLOBAL LEARNING

*Acknowledgement and Release

(*WKU Faculty Led: Biodiversity in Costa Rica- Group (Gatton Academy Only), Winter, 2019)

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Conditions of Acceptance

I understand that acceptance to my education abroad program, or permission granted by WKU to study on a third-party or consortium program, is conditional upon my remaining in good academic and disciplinary standing with WKU during the term prior to the education abroad program; and

I understand that it is my responsibility to complete all required components of the on-line pre-departure orientation and to attend the mandatory in-person pre-departure orientation session(s) organized by the Office of Study Abroad & Global Learning (SAGL) and/or the faculty leader (for WKU-organized faculty-led study abroad programs); and

I understand that it is my responsibility to respond in a timely manner to any and all requests for information or other communication from SAGL staff members and/or faculty leaders; and

I acknowledge that failure to conform to any of these conditions of acceptance may result in dismissal from the education abroad program or revocation of permission to study abroad. I further acknowledge that in the event of such a dismissal or revocation, I will be responsible for any incurred costs and/or withdrawal penalties as outlined in program-specific materials.

Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks

I have read all program information provided to me and have had the opportunity to inquire about all aspects of my chosen education abroad program, including but not limited to the type of facilities, healthcare, housing, food, transportation and personal safety conditions available in the locale, and the type of activities and physical requirements necessary for successful participation in the program; and,

I have consulted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (http://www.cdc.gov/) and the U.S. Department of State (http://www.state.gov/) websites, and I have read in its entirety the Department of State's country specific information sheet for my host country or countries; and,

I understand that it is my personal responsibility to inform myself of the risks of foreign travel and participation in education abroad programs and that WKU does not guarantee the quality of the participation experience, including any non-WKU sponsored programs, and I recognize and acknowledge that there are inherent risks associated with any experience outside my own culture and that I may need to adjust my behavior, dress, and activities to maximize my own and the group's safety; and,

I acknowledge that there are certain risks associated with international travel and residence in a foreign country

and that WKU and its staff cannot control these risks or absolutely guarantee my safety in every situation. I understand that these risks may include but are not limited to bodily injury or death, or personal property loss, resulting from such hazards as kidnapping, criminal activity, war, terrorist attacks, lack of access to health care, inadequate health care, food or beverage contamination, public health or infrastructure problems, transportation accidents, infectious diseases, and natural disasters such as storms, floods, and earthquakes. I further understand that overseas facilities may not meet United States accessibility standards. I understand and hereby acknowledge that I assume all risks potentially associated with my participation in this education abroad program; and

I understand that I am free to undertake independent travel, defined as travel before or after the official start and end dates of the official program, and as travel independent of any travel officially sanctioned or organized by the program's sponsoring institution. I acknowledge the risks and personal liability of undertaking such travel, and I accept responsibility for my personal safety, health, all associated costs, and any legal ramifications of independent travel; and

I am aware of the option to obtain personal liability coverage and may do so at my own expense; and

I understand that I am personally responsible for complying with all visa, public health, and customs requirements, and that if I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien, reentry into the United States may not be automatic.

Health and Safety

I understand that it is my responsibility to consult with a medical doctor with regard to my personal medical needs and about the location(s) where the education abroad program will take place, and I represent that I am medically fit to engage in international travel and in the program. I recognize that WKU is not obligated to attend to any of my medical needs, and I assume all risk and responsibility therefore. I agree that WKU is not responsible for the cost or quality of any medical treatment or care I may require while participating in the program; and

I understand that WKU does not employ or retain mental health professionals abroad and that mental health treatment may not be as widely accessible abroad as it is in the United States. I understand that I should consult with my current mental health provider prior to participating in an education abroad program to discuss the potential stresses of studying abroad; and,

I understand that my education abroad program may require that I submit medical information in order to be eligible to participate in the program, and I will provide the information as required; and

I understand that WKU is authorized (but not obligated) to take any action it considers warranted and appropriate under the circumstances regarding my health and safety, including sending me home from the location of the program, at my expense.

Program Arrangements, Changes, and Termination

For participants in WKU-organized faculty-led study abroad programs (FLSAs): I understand that I am free to utilize transportation provided via WKU or choose a mode of transportation independent of that provided by the University at my own risk and expense. I further acknowledge that WKU has the authority to alter program schedules and/or arrangements, and to cancel or terminate the program, including travel and related on-site activities, in accordance with its policies of best judgment, due to political developments, emergency situations, changed conditions, and/or the issuance of U.S. State Department Travel Warnings, with no refund guaranteed.

For participants in all programs other than FLSAs, including but not limited to exchange programs, third-party programs, consortium programs, and direct enrollment programs: I acknowledge that WKU has the authority to rescind its permission for me to participate in my education abroad program, whether prior to or during the program, due to political developments, emergency situations, changed conditions, and/or the issuance of U.S. State Department Travel Warnings, with no refund guaranteed.

Personal Conduct

I am responsible for controlling, comporting and conforming my behavior while participating in my particular program, and I understand that certain behaviors may be considered unacceptable in another country and could lead to possible disruption of the program. I agree to conduct myself in an appropriate manner, which does not infringe upon the customs and mores of the country in which the program is being conducted, nor upon the rights and safety of other participants in the program; and,

I understand that WKU behavioral standards, as well as behavioral standards set by my host program or program leader(s), shall be applicable during the course of the program, both when in the company of other program participants and when I am physically separated from other program participants. I further understand that any behavior that is in violation of WKU policies, including but not limited to the WKU Student Code of Conduct (https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct.php), or any behavior that is in violation of my host program's rules and regulations, could result in my being dismissed or suspended from the program without a refund, and returned to the United States at my own expense at the earliest possible time as determined by the program leader or organizer. I understand that such a dismissal would result in forfeiture of my eligibility for academic credit for the program, and that the Office of Study Abroad & Global Learning will report violations that result in a formal warning or in dismissal to WKU's Office of Student Conduct, and that I may be subject to further WKU disciplinary proceedings upon my return; and

I understand that I am required to observe the laws of the country where the education abroad program is located, and I understand and agree that WKU is not responsible for providing assistance with any legal or other problems that arise if I break the law.

I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand this entire document and that I am signing it knowingly and voluntarily. I agree to abide by WKU policies, I acknowledge that I am voluntarily and willingly choosing to participate in this education abroad program, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Western Kentucky University, its employees, agents, and/or officers from any and all loss, damage, or expense incurred as a result of my participation in the program.

Applicant Name:

Applicant Signature:

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:

_____

Date Signed:

I understand that by signing this agreement, I am signing a legal document.
I acknowledge that I am the person whose name is listed above.

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WKU STUDY ABROAD & GLOBAL LEARNING

Acknowledgment: World Topper Scholarship Terms

(World Topper Scholarship, Winter, 2019)

Print Cancel

World Topper Scholarship

Terms

The World Topper Scholarship (WTS) is **CONTINGENT** upon your participation in your selected study abroad program. If your study abroad plans change after the WTS deadline, you are required to inform your Study Abroad Advisor of the change so that your WTS application can be updated accordingly. SAGL reserves the right to alter your award based on your change in program. If you withdraw from your program after you have received the scholarship and prior to the program start date, your WTS award will be rescinded. If you return early from your program, SAGL reserves the right to rescind or reduce the WTS award and bill you for the scholarship amount.

All World Topper Scholarship recipients are **REQUIRED** to participate in the SAGL photo within one semester from the program end date. If requested, recipients are also required to provide quotes about their study abroad experience and additional photos to be used in study abroad informational/promotional materials.

If you receive the World Topper Scholarship and fail to comply with the above listed requirements, SAGL can, at its discretion, require you to repay your WTS award.

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I am aware of and agree to the terms outlined above.

Applicant Name:

Applicant Signature:

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:

_____

Date Signed:

_____

I understand that by signing this agreement, I am signing a legal document.
I acknowledge that I am the person whose name is listed above.

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PLEASE NOTE: To be considered for this scholarship, students must apply online and submit a scholarship application form in addition to this acknowledgment form. Visit the following website to access the application page: https://www.wku.edu/studyabroad/funding.php