

Costa Rica 2027 Gatton Academy Study Abroad Application

Deadline: 3:30 pm Central, Friday, September 18th, 2026

Turn in application in person to Melanie Redden, Gatton Academy office, Florence Schneider Hall 107

Student Section

Student Full Name _____ Preferred First Name _____ Gender Identity _____

Date of Birth _____ WKU ID # _____ Home Phone (____) ____ - ____ Cell (____) ____ - ____

Junior or Senior (Circle one) *Do you know how to swim? ____ Yes ____ No Are you SCUBA certified? ____ Yes ____ No Do you have a valid passport? ____ Yes (email a digital copy to gatton.academics@wku.edu) ____ No ____ No, but I have applied (If so, when? _____)

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 2027 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 2027 to travel.

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 (____) ____ - ____

Swim lessons will be provided for students accepted to the program who do not know how to swim.

****Students must be eligible to return to The Gatton Academy for the spring semester 2027 to travel.****

Estimated program cost of \$4,300* 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 Honors BIOL 285: Costa Rican Biodiversity
- All WKU Study Abroad and Global Learning student fees

*If, for example, the actual program cost is \$4,300, students who have never used their one-time \$1,000 Gatton Academy Study Abroad Scholarship will only pay \$3,300.

Selected students will pay the program and application fees via TopNet or 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. **After November 1st, any student selected for the program who forfeits their spot will be financially responsible for the cost of the program, unless another student is able to take their spot.**

**Deadline to apply is 3:30 PM Central,
Friday, September 18, 2026.**

Application Process:

- All applications must be submitted in The Gatton Academy office to Ms. Melanie Redden (FSH 107) by September 18th at 3:30pm Central.
- Please submit a copy of the student's passport ID page via email to gatton.academics@wku.edu (if they already have a passport).
- No payments are due or accepted at the time of application
- Spots are limited to 32 students. Typically, half of the spots are saved for each class, 2027 and 2028. Shortly after the application deadline, applicants will be divided into four categories: North side Seniors, North side Juniors, South side Seniors, and South side Juniors. Those who have not traveled abroad with The Gatton Academy previously are given first priority for selection using a random lottery. Once students have been selected from each category, 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 by October 2nd.
- After students are notified of acceptance, students and parents will need to complete additional forms for WKU Study Abroad.