Costa Rica
UCEAP Advising Notes

COVID-19 Note
The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges related to health concerns and international travel. UCEAP has been updating their website’s Coronavirus Notice with up-to-date information on program cancellations for the 2021-2022 cycle. The program described in this Advising Notes document is scheduled to proceed at this time, and UCEAP will inform campus offices if there are any updates.

Updated Nov. 2020

Objective of the Advising Notes Document
This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student’s decision to apply for a UCEAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA websites. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or in the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

RESOURCES

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and advising availability, visit http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising

EAP Alums
EAP alumni are one of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the BSA Adviser an email with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.

EAP Alum-Created Resources
Some of our returnees have created presentations to share with others. You can look at their work through the Student Created Resource Google folder that we will continually update.

Center for Latin American Studies
The more informed you are about the history and current affairs of Costa Rica and Latin America, the more fulfilling your study abroad experience will likely be. In addition to keeping up with Spanish language study prior to departure, you are also highly encouraged to attend lectures and events put on by the Center for Latin American Studies at UC Berkeley. You can join CLAS email list for event reminders.
PROGRAM

TROPICAL BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION, MONTEVERDE INSTITUTE - FALL, SPRING

Space Limitations
Even though we have been able to accommodate all qualified applicants on the program for the past seven years, the Costa Rica Tropical Biology and Conservation Studies program can sometimes be impacted due to the small group size the program can accommodate. This is especially the case for the fall semester. A fall v. spring program comparison chart is available below.

If we find that the program is impacted after we have received all applications on the deadline, the advisor will be in touch to discuss alternative options.

In the event that the program is impacted, you can likely obtain permission to apply for another UCEAP program as a back-up. There is also an independent study abroad program in Monteverde offered by CIEE which could serve as another back-up option.

Course Articulation
Courses on this program have been articulated by the Integrative Biology and Genetic & Plant Biology departments for satisfying certain requirements in the major. Please consult directly with the department on questions around course articulation.

Integrative Biology

- Biol 101, Tropical Diversity, 2.7 units counts towards Group B
- Biol 102, Tropical Community Ecology, 2.7 units counts towards Group B and Field Lab
- Biol 188, Tropical Research Practicum, 2.7 units counts towards Group B with Field Lab

Genetic & Plant Biology:
- Biol 101 Tropical Diversity (2.7 units) and Biol 102 Tropical Community Ecology (2.7 units) counts as Genetics and Plant Biology major upper division elective courses.

Selection Criteria
There are a variety of criteria used to select students on this program. Among them are:

- Prior Coursework (see Course Prerequisites section below)
- GPA
- Statement of Purpose: this is your opportunity to convey what you hope to gain academically, personally and professionally from the program and why it is a good fit for you.

Course Prerequisites
1. Three Biological Sciences courses. It is recommended that at least one biological science prerequisite is an upper division class. Labs that are a component of the course (e.g. Biology 1AL) are not considered a separate course. The requirement can be fulfilled by completing a combination of three in any of the following:

- AP Biology test score of 4 or greater (students who fulfill the 3 biological sciences courses entirely with courses may be given priority for selection to the program).

Lower Division Courses
- Biology 1A: General Biology
- Biology 1B: General Biology
- Biology 11: Introduction to the Science of Living Organisms
- IB 41: Marine Mammals
• IB 42: Primate Biology
• IB C82: Oceans
• IB 87: Introduction to Research Methods in Biology
• ESPM 2: The Biosphere
• ESPM 6: Environmental Biology
• ESPM 44: Biological Control
• ESPM 152: Global Change Biology
• PMB 40: The (Secret) Life of Plants

Upper Division Courses

• IB 102LF: California Plants
• IB 103LF: Invertebrate Zoology
• IB 104LF: Natural History of Vertebrates
• IB C107L: Principles of Plant Morphology
• IB C110L: Biology of Fungi
• IB 113L: Paleobiology: Ecology & Evolution
• IB 117L&LF: Medical Ethnobotany
• IB 135: Mechanics of Organisms
• IB 144: Animal Behavior
• IB 146LF: Behavioral Ecology
• IB C149/L Molecular Ecology
• IB 150: Evolutionary Environmental Physiology
• IB 151/L: Plant Physiological Ecology
• IB 152: Environmental Toxicology
• IB 153LF: Ecology
• IB 154/L: Plant Ecology
• IB C155, also ANTHRO C129D: Holocene Paleoecology
• IB C156, Principles of Conservation Biology
• IB 157LF: Ecosystems of California
• IB 158 LF: Biology and Geomorphology of Tropical Islands (IB Moorea program)
• IB 162: Ecological Genetics
• IB 166: Evolution Biogeography
• IB 168L: Systematics of Vascular Plants
• IB 173LF: Mammalogy
• IB 174LF: Ornithology
• IB 175LF: Herpetology
• ESPM C103: Conservation Biology
• ESPM 102A: Terrestrial Resource Ecology
• ESPM 110: Primate Ecology
• ESPM 114: Wildlife Ecology
• ESPM 116C: Tropical Forest Ecology
• ESPM 132: Spider Biology
• ESPM 142: Insect Behavior
• ESPM 144: Insect Physiology
• ESPM C149: Molecular Ecology
• ESPM 152: Global Change Biology
• PMB C101L: Experimental Plant Biology Laboratory
• PMB C102: Diversity of Plants & Fungi
• PMB 107&107L: Principles of Plant Morphology w/ Laboratory
• PMB C110L Biology of Fungi with Laboratory
• PMB 113: California Mushrooms
• PMB C114 Introduction to Comparative Virology
• PMB 120/L: Biology of Algae
• PMB 180 Environmental Plant Biology

If you have taken another course you believe will satisfy the requirement, please submit the course syllabus to the Costa Rica EAP Advisor and request that the course be reviewed for use as the prerequisite. Please understand that the review process for courses outside of this list can be take some time. It is recommended that you complete this step well in advance of your application or course registration period on CalCentral.

If you have concerns about your ability to meet the prerequisites for the program, please write an email to the Costa Rica UCEAP Adviser with a list of 3 course titles, the accompanying course descriptions or syllabi, and request an appointment for further discussion.

**Recommended Courses for Selection to Program**
Additional coursework in biology, ecology, statistics, lab experience and scientific writing is recommended.

**Curriculum**
Because Monteverde is designed as a quarter-long program for UC students, Berkeley students supplement their studies prior to departure with an independent study directed reading course* (BIOL 189: Integrative Biology Supplemental Seminar). This course is completed before the start of the program and concludes with a research paper. Students do not have to be on site in Costa Rica for the Biol 189 course since all work is completed remotely. Instructions are sent out via email several weeks prior to the start of your program.

All students take the following six courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Diversity</td>
<td>BIOL 101</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Community Ecology</td>
<td>BIOL 102</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Biology Research Practicum</td>
<td>BIOL or ENVS 188</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agro-Ecology</td>
<td>ENVS 105</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish (level will depend on placement)</td>
<td>SPAN 2, 100 or 180</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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Total units for program = 12.7 semester units

The program culminates with an independent research project and research symposium. Students can also opt to take a 1 semester unit course on Nature Filmmaking.

**Special Demands of the Program**
Many days of the Monteverde program are spent on field trips, which include long, often strenuous, hikes. In addition to the homestay, students also live and work side-by-side with 25-35 other UC students in the Monteverde Biological Station. Students should be prepared for the physical challenges as well as residential limitations of the program.
# Brief comparison of Fall vs. Spring, UCEAP Tropical Biology and Conservation Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weather</strong></td>
<td>Generally a rainier start to the program, gets drier as the program continues</td>
<td>Generally a drier start to the program, gets rainier as the program continues</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Air temperatures can get cold in Monteverede (55°F in December)</td>
<td>Air temperatures can get hot in Santa Rosa (95°F in April)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Can experience hurricanes</td>
<td>Can experience intense thunder and lightning storms</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Field Trip</strong></td>
<td>16 nights (5 in tents, 10 in a bed and indoors)</td>
<td>12 nights (all in tents)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All within Guanacaste Conservation Area (ACG) and Northwest Costa Rica.</td>
<td>Half in Osa Conservation Area (ACOSA), half in Guanacaste Conservation Area (ACG)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 nights camping in tents are on Isla San Jose in protected marine area</td>
<td>6 of the nights in tents are on Isla Violin (wet forest near Osa Peninsula)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 of the nights in a bed and indoors are in a homestay in a fishing village</td>
<td>6 of the nights in tents are in the Santa Rosa Sector (dry forest, ACG)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>More time in marine habitats</td>
<td>Observe fire control by fire crew in restoration areas and discuss logistics and biology of fire control</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biological Highlights</strong></td>
<td>Sea turtles nesting</td>
<td>Many species of birds breeding (including resplendent quetzals)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Major bird migrations for North America</td>
<td>Much insect activity with onset of rains</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Many amphibians breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Academics**</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td>Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>Similar</td>
<td>Similar, but can research bird breeding and amphibian breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent Project Options</strong></td>
<td>Similar</td>
<td>Similar, but can research bird breeding and amphibian breeding</td>
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