Costa Rica
UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) 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 website. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA Adviser for this program.

COVID-19 Information

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges related to health concerns and international travel. Please check UCEAP’s Pandemic Updates for the most up-to-date information about program cancellations for the 2023-24 academic year and additional resources and information.

Table of Contents

Summary of Programs
Resources
Program Details

Summary of Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Biology and Conservation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Resources

Advisor Contact Information

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

UCEAP 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.

UCEAP 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

The Costa Rica Tropical Biology and Conservation fall program has a capacity limitation of 65 spaces for the UC system. Qualified students who apply for the program will be nominated on a first-come, first-served basis based on their UCEAP application submission date/time. The application will open on November 1 and students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. In light of this, it is recommended that students complete the UCEAP application first, then complete the Berkeley Study Abroad application second. The UCEAP application submission will be your ‘time stamp’ for consideration for admission to the program.
In the event that the program is oversubscribed for the term you apply and you only wish to consider Costa Rica as the destination and the tropical biology focus for your program, there is an independent study abroad program in Monteverde offered by CIEE which could serve as a back-up option.

There are no capacity limitation concerns for the spring term.

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.

Course Prerequisites

**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
• 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 117 L&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
If you have taken another course you believe will satisfy the requirement, please submit the course syllabus to the BSA Advisor for the UCEAP Costa Rica program 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 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 BSA Advisor for the UCEAP Costa Rica program with a list of 3 course titles, the accompanying course descriptions or syllabi, and request an appointment for further discussion.

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 on-site portion of the program and concludes with a research paper. Students do not have to be on-site in Costa Rica for the Biol 189 independent study directed reading course since all work is completed remotely.

Instructions from the program director are sent out via email several weeks prior to the start of your program.

All students take the same six courses. 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 a group of 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

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<tr>
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<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Air temperatures can get cold in Monteverde (55°F in December)</td>
<td>Air temperatures can get hot in Santa Rosa (95°F in April)</td>
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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Biological Highlights</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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<td>----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea turtles nesting</td>
<td>Many species of birds breeding (including resplendent quetzals)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major bird migrations for North America</td>
<td>Much insect activity with onset of rains</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Many amphibians breeding</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Academics Overall</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td>Same</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Project Options</td>
<td>Similar</td>
<td>Similar, but can research bird breeding and amphibian breeding</td>
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