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 an EAP 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. The best source of detailed program information is always the UCEAP Program Guide from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

RESOURCES

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, 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 6 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.
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 EAP 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.

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, at least one of which must be upper division.** 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
- PMB 40: The (Secret) Life of Plants

Upper Division Courses
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</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Integrative Biology Supplemental Seminar</td>
<td>BIOL 189</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish (level will depend on placement)</td>
<td>SPAN 2, 100 or 180</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total units for program = 12.7 semester units

The program culminates with an independent research project and research symposium.

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.