



CSUMB • Costa Rica

Fall 2015 Semester Program

The 12-week program begins in San José, Costa Rica's capital city, with orientation activities and introductory lectures.

The cloud forest of San Luis de Monteverde is the base of operations, where students live with local rural families, study tropical biodiversity, master quantitative field methods, and undertake a total immersion program of Spanish language and culture.



Field excursions and hands-on research expose students to Costa Rica's spectacular tropical ecosystems, from the Pacific to the Caribbean coast and from the lowlands to the highest mountain peaks.

This program is rigorous, intensive, affordable, and **life-changing**.



Coursework includes:

- ENSTU 349S: Environmental Interpretation (5 units)
- ENVS 350: Quantitative Field Methods (4 units)
- BIO 395: Special Topics: Survey of Tropical Ecosystems (4 units)
- SPAN xxx: Spanish Language (8 units)

Students earn a full semester's worth of academic credit in science, language, and service learning. Previous coursework in Spanish not required.

Application Deadline: April 3, 2015

more information: csumb.edu/costarica

Selection of participants is based on the application questionnaire, references, transcripts, and interview. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

APPLY NOW!

csumb.edu/educationabroad/apply



CSUMB-LSAMP Costa Rica Program Background and History

Starting in Summer 2011, CSU-LSAMP provided support to bring together students from across the CSU to conduct hands-on research in Costa Rica. Dr. Diana Lieberman (CSUMB Adjunct Professor) and Dr. Milton Lieberman developed and led the summer program from 2011-2014. In Fall 2014, CSU Monterey Bay inaugurated a semester-long Costa Rica Fall Semester Expedition, with 8 CSUMB science majors.

Drs. Lieberman, with over 25 years experience conducting research and leading field courses in the region, now propose to make this intensive 12 week experience available to students from across the CSU system under the CSU-LSAMP program.



CSUMB Costa Rica Fall Semester Program, 2015	
Total program cost	\$10,375.00
CSU-LSAMP request	\$5,875.00
LSAMP campus contribution*	\$1,500.00
Student contribution, (tuition)**	\$3,000.00

What is included in the **total** program cost?

- Round-trip airfare
- Ground transportation
- Lodging and all meals
- Books, class and field supplies
- Entrance fees to parks and reserves
- Snorkeling, guided hikes, additional academic programs, cultural events
- Insurance and the CSUMB study abroad fee

What is not included?

- Personal expenses such as snacks, souvenirs, taxis, and the airport exit tax.
- We suggest students budget around \$225-260 for such in-country expenses.

Can students use their financial aid to cover the \$3,000 student tuition contribution?**

- Yes!
- Federal Aid is allowed by all campuses and a few CSUs allow students to take State aid as well. Students should contact their financial aid adviser right away.

The California State University 2014-2015 Standard Student Expense Budget

Budget Category Expense	Bakersfield	Channel Islands	Chico	Dominguez Hills	East Bay	Fresno	Fullerton	Humboldt	Long Beach	Los Angeles	Maritime	Monterey Bay
Living With Parents												
Total Fees	\$6,790	\$6,506	\$7,002	\$6,134	\$6,549	\$6,298	\$6,316	\$7,152	\$6,420	\$6,343	\$6,536	\$5,963
Books and Supplies	\$1,827	\$1,826	\$1,746	\$1,746	\$1,500	\$1,762	\$1,806	\$1,612	\$1,828	\$1,809	\$1,588	\$1,288
Food and Housing	\$4,599	\$4,598	\$4,600	\$4,599	\$4,599	\$4,598	\$4,596	\$4,598	\$4,598	\$4,599	\$4,599	\$4,599
Transportation	\$1,494	\$1,494	\$1,092	\$1,450	\$1,314	\$1,180	\$1,490	\$1,052	\$1,496	\$1,494	\$1,134	\$1,495
Personal	\$1,365	\$1,366	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,338	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,364	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,365
Total Budget	\$16,075	\$15,790	\$15,806	\$15,294	\$15,300	\$15,203	\$15,572	\$15,778	\$15,708	\$15,610	\$15,222	\$14,710
Living In Campus Housing												
Total Fees	\$6,790	\$6,506	\$7,002	\$6,134	\$6,549	\$6,298	\$6,316	\$7,152	\$6,420	\$6,343	\$6,536	\$5,963
Books and Supplies	\$1,827	\$1,826	\$1,746	\$1,746	\$1,500	\$1,762	\$1,806	\$1,612	\$1,828	\$1,809	\$1,588	\$1,288
Food and Housing	\$10,926	\$14,170	\$11,208	\$12,358	\$12,246	\$10,604	\$13,510	\$11,644	\$11,688	\$12,627	\$11,670	\$10,112
Transportation	\$1,389	\$1,390	\$1,092	\$864	\$1,182	\$900	\$1,390	\$1,052	\$1,390	\$1,389	\$864	\$900
Personal	\$1,365	\$1,366	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,338	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,364	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,365
Total Budget	\$22,297	\$25,258	\$22,414	\$22,467	\$22,815	\$20,929	\$24,386	\$22,824	\$22,692	\$23,533	\$22,023	\$19,628
Living Off Campus												
Total Fees	\$6,790	\$6,506	\$7,002	\$6,134	\$6,549	\$6,298	\$6,316	\$7,152	\$6,420	\$6,343	\$6,536	\$5,963
Books and Supplies	\$1,827	\$1,826	\$1,746	\$1,746	\$1,500	\$1,762	\$1,806	\$1,612	\$1,828	\$1,809	\$1,588	\$1,288
Food and Housing	\$11,718	\$13,050	\$10,962	\$12,600	\$12,267	\$11,268	\$12,924	\$11,644	\$12,138	\$13,050	\$10,702	\$13,051
Transportation	\$1,455	\$1,456	\$1,092	\$1,450	\$1,314	\$1,324	\$1,490	\$1,052	\$1,458	\$1,455	\$1,278	\$1,457
Personal	\$1,365	\$1,366	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,338	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,364	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,365
Total Budget	\$23,155	\$24,204	\$22,168	\$23,295	\$22,968	\$22,017	\$23,900	\$22,824	\$23,210	\$24,022	\$21,469	\$23,124

Budget Category/Expense	Northridge	Pomona	Sacramento	San Bernardino	San Diego	San Diego- Imperial Valley	San Francisco	San Jose	San Luis Obispo*	San Marcos	Sonoma	Stanislaus
Living With Parents												
Total Fees	\$6,544	\$6,440	\$6,648	\$6,549	\$6,866	\$5,706	\$6,468	\$7,484	\$8,919	\$7,164	\$7,276	\$6,682
Books and Supplies	\$1,826	\$1,500	\$1,746	\$1,557	\$1,762	\$1,762	\$1,826	\$1,826	\$1,776	\$1,746	\$1,826	\$1,760
Food and Housing	\$4,598	\$4,599	\$4,600	\$4,599	\$4,099	\$4,099	\$4,600	\$4,598	\$4,008	\$4,600	\$4,598	\$4,599
Transportation	\$1,494	\$1,300	\$1,134	\$1,134	\$1,464	\$1,464	\$1,496	\$1,494	\$1,176	\$1,134	\$1,494	\$1,300
Personal	\$1,364	\$1,365	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,364	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,365
Total Budget	\$15,826	\$15,204	\$15,494	\$15,204	\$15,556	\$14,396	\$15,754	\$16,766	\$17,244	\$16,009	\$16,558	\$15,706
Living In Campus Housing												
Total Fees	\$6,544	\$6,440	\$6,648	\$6,549	\$6,866	\$5,706	\$6,468	\$7,484	\$8,919	\$7,164	\$7,276	\$6,682
Books and Supplies	\$1,826	\$1,500	\$1,746	\$1,557	\$1,762	\$1,762	\$1,826	\$1,826	\$1,776	\$1,746	\$1,826	\$1,760
Food and Housing	\$10,981	\$13,284	\$12,700	\$9,933	\$14,745	\$13,812	\$13,052	\$13,350	\$11,448	\$12,855	\$11,799	\$9,200
Transportation	\$1,390	\$900	\$864	\$999	\$1,420	\$1,420	\$1,496	\$1,390	\$1,176	\$865	\$1,390	\$950
Personal	\$1,364	\$1,365	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,364	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,365
Total Budget	\$22,105	\$23,489	\$23,324	\$20,403	\$26,158	24,065	\$24,206	\$25,414	\$24,684	\$23,995	\$23,655	\$19,957
Living Off Campus												
Total Fees	\$6,544	\$6,440	\$6,648	\$6,549	\$6,866	\$5,706	\$6,468	\$7,484	\$8,919	\$7,164	\$7,276	\$6,682
Books and Supplies	\$1,826	\$1,500	\$1,746	\$1,557	\$1,762	\$1,762	\$1,826	\$1,826	\$1,776	\$1,746	\$1,826	\$1,760
Food and Housing	\$13,051	\$12,088	\$11,494	\$10,929	\$11,176	\$11,176	\$13,052	\$13,050	\$11,448	\$12,441	\$13,050	\$11,800
Transportation	\$1,456	\$1,300	\$1,278	\$1,278	\$1,819	\$1,819	\$1,496	\$1,456	\$1,176	\$1,279	\$1,456	\$1,300
Personal	\$1,364	\$1,365	\$1,366	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,364	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$1,364	\$1,365
Total Budget	\$24,241	\$22,693	\$22,532	\$21,678	\$22,988	\$21,828	\$24,206	\$25,180	\$24,684	\$23,995	\$24,972	\$22,907



The coursework

BIO 395: Special Topics: Survey of Tropical Ecosystems (4 units)

Field study of tropical ecosystems and their flora and fauna. Lectures, workshops, field exploration, and independent research projects expose students to the diversity of Costa Rica's spectacular ecosystems, from the Caribbean to the Pacific coast, and from the lowland to the highest mountain peaks.

Study sites include tropical cloud forests, rain forests, dry forests, coastal forests, wetlands, and mangroves; marine intertidal habitats and subtidal coral reefs; and agricultural zones with coffee, bananas, and cattle. Students learn to recognize the major groups of tropical plants and animals and learn about their evolution and natural history. During the program, each student maintains a course journal. Knowledge and expertise gained in the course are applied in the development and execution of original field research projects (ENVS 350) and in the design and implementation of the environmental interpretation service project (ENSTU 349S).



The coursework

ENVS 350: Quantitative Field Methods (4 units)

Project-oriented course covers techniques in statistics, experimental design, and field methodology to characterize the ecological patterns in marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Includes several multi-day field excursions. Lectures and workshops provide technical background and practice in preparation for hands-on research experience. Each student carries out 2-3 independent research projects, either solo or as part of a small group. For each project, students develop the research question, design the project, collect the field data, carry out the appropriate statistical analyses, and write up the results of the work. Research is presented orally in a symposium format at the end of the program; written reports are collated and published in the Expedition Report.



The coursework ENSTU 349S: Environmental Interpretation (5 units)

This course focuses on techniques for communicating environmental messages to different age and cultural groups based primarily on the field of environmental interpretation.

Students develop environmental messaging strategies and/or interpretive products working in conjunction with community leaders in the rural village of San Luis de Monteverde. The project forms part of an ongoing initiative to define, gather, and archive elements of cultural, environmental, and historical importance to the San Luis community, and to deploy the information in an interpretive format which is accessible and relevant to community members and visitors to the area. The course satisfies the CSUMB upper division service learning requirement.



The coursework SPANISH (8 units)

Students complete coursework at the appropriate proficiency level, depending on prior coursework and level of fluency, via classroom instruction and in small groups. Cultural immersion and homestays with families in a rural community contribute to the language experience. There is a key synergy between the improvement in fluency gained through 90+ hours of formal Spanish classroom instruction, the cultural awareness and conversational practice gained through the homestay experience, and the implementation of the environmental interpretation project which is carried out in the service learning course.



Disseminating the research findings:

- The research symposium
- The published expedition report
- System-wide CSU Student Research Competition
- Peer-reviewed publications

Expedition Report



2014

Edited by
Diana Lieberman, Milton Lieberman & Areli Tejeda
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Seaside, CA 93955 USA

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FAQ's -- CSU-LSAMP 2015 COSTA RICA FALL SEMESTER EXPEDITION.

Hola! We have received a number of inquiries about the Fall 2015 Costa Rica program, and wanted to share with you some frequently asked questions. (If you have additional questions, please send them to us!)

What is the application deadline? The target date to submit applications is April 3. We review applications as they are received, so feel free to submit your application early. If you intend to apply but expect that the application will be a little late, please let us know.

How much does the program cost? Program costs are being covered by the CSU-LSAMP program.

What is covered by CSU-LSAMP? Round-trip airfare, ground transportation in Costa Rica, all lodging (primarily homestays) and meals, books, class and field supplies, all academic classes, health insurance, entrance fees to parks and reserves, snorkeling, guided hikes, excursions, cultural events, and the CSUMB study abroad fee.

What is not included? Tuition (around \$3000) is paid by the student to CSUMB Extended Education. Personal expenses, such as occasional snacks, taxis, souvenirs, and the airport exit tax (which is paid when you leave Costa Rica) are covered by the student. We suggest you budget around \$225-260 for in-country expenses.

Can I use my financial aid? Yes, Federal Aid is allowed by all campuses and a few CSUs allow students to take State aid as well. Contact your financial aid adviser right away.

How many semester units will I earn? 21.

That seems like too many units! I don't know if I can do well with than many units. We think you can. Bear in mind that a semester of tropical field ecology (13 units) and total immersion language study (8 units) is not like a semester of classroom work on campus! The work is hands-on and field-based, and the faculty work closely one-on-one with each student to promote success with the learning outcomes. Students typically find themselves learning at a much higher pace (and loving it!) in this kind of setting.

What courses would I take? The following CSUMB courses: ENSTU 349s: Environmental Interpretation (service learning course); ENVS 350: Quantitative Field Methods; BIO 395: Survey of Tropical Ecosystems; and SPAN xxx: Spanish language (various levels).

Do all participants take the same coursework? Yes, although Spanish is taught at all levels.

FAQ's -- CSU-LSAMP 2015 COSTA RICA FALL SEMESTER EXPEDITION (cont.)

Can I take the Spanish coursework pass/not pass? Yes.

What if I don't know any Spanish? No problem; you would start Spanish classes at the beginner level.

What if I already speak Spanish fluently? There are several options available for advanced Spanish speakers; the focus could be on improving writing skills, reading Spanish literature, or mastering a technical vocabulary, for example.

What are the prerequisites for the program? STAT 250 or the equivalent. Check to see what the equivalent would be at your campus.

What if I don't yet have the prerequisite? Talk to us; we will consider waiving the prerequisite on a case-by-case basis, taking into account commensurate experience and probability of academic success.

How will I find out about packing, getting a passport, travel arrangements, and so on? A detailed program handbook will be sent out to each participant by email in early April, and there will be a follow-up skype session with faculty. Participants will receive the information they need, start the preparations for travel, and get answers to any questions they may have.

How do I get more information? How do I apply? First step is applying electronically at international.csumb.edu. Click on Apply now, and then Costa Rica fall 2015. From there, Dr. Diana Lieberman (DLieberman@csumb.edu) will connect with you or you can connect with her to have your questions answered. After discussion with Dr. Lieberman, you will send your transcripts and two letters of recommendation from faculty. One of the letters should be from your LSAMP campus coordinator.

You'll know by April 16 or sooner if you are accepted or not.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY

**Office of
International Programs**

IP/Exchange Course Correlation Worksheet

STUDENT NAME (Please Print): _____

Date: _____

CSUMB ID: _____ Major / Minor: _____

Study Abroad Site and Program: _____ Term: _____ Year: _____

Host University Courses	CSUMB Equivalent (if none put N/A)	MLO #	Minor LO#	GE	GE Chair or UAC adviser/Major Dept. Signature of Approval	Print Name	Date

Comments: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return completed form to the Office of International Programs at CSU Monterey Bay



**Division of Science & Environmental Policy
California State University Monterey Bay**

100 Campus Center, Seaside CA 93955-8001

(831)582-4110; FAX:(831)582-4122

19 February 2015

Dr. Holly Unruh
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center
CSUMB

Dear Holly

At your request, I am writing this note to better describe the "Fall Semester in Costa Rica" program at CSUMB. Drs. Diana and Milton Lieberman¹ have been running successful college-level tropical science programs in Costa Rica for decades, and for many universities. They create rich and engaging learning environments in both marine and terrestrial environments, having personally published seminal ecological research in the region.

I have co-taught with the Liebermans, so I can verify that students are engaged and working most of the day (and many nights!). In this immersed study environment, it is possible to bring students to levels of sophistication that are not possible in on-campus courses that meet just two or three times a week for a few face-to-face contact hours. The continuous, uninterrupted learning environment creates the opportunity to bring even underprepared students to an academic level where rigorous scientific investigations are achievable (multiple times).

A key pedagogical element is deeply-mentored research experiences, with repetition and gradual weaning, so that students progressively gain confidence and "ownership" of their new science skills. The students develop independent research ideas and testable hypotheses through personal observation of the rich tropical ecological environment. They collect the data, run into problems, start over, and finally present results both orally and in terse written reports—a microcosm of the life of the scientist. And they repeat this process several times each, learning both science and collaborative working skills.

Clear evidence for programmatic success is in the 17 research papers published in the semester course proceedings. These are the collaborative or independent studies performed by the 8 inaugural students in Fall 2014. At least two of these projects will be submitted for CSU-wide research awards this year.

The rich science (and social) experiences in Costa Rica articulate well with BIO 395—"Special Topics: Survey of Tropical Ecosystems", ENVS 350—"Quantitative Field Methods", and ENSTU 349S—"Environmental Interpretation," a service learning course. These courses count for progress toward degree in several of our majors. The students received full credit in those courses via their participation in the program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Douglas Smith, Chair
Division of Science and Environmental Policy

¹Disclosure: Dr. Diana Lieberman is my sister.