



SAN JOSÉ COSTA RICA

SPANISH III & SPANISH CONVERSATION

Learn Spanish in Central America! San José is the largest city and capital of Costa Rica. You'll learn about the rich history of the city, and will also be able to venture out to explore the beaches, jungles, volcanoes, hot springs, and more.

FIRST SUMMER SESSION: May 26-June 17—Austin /June 20-July 4—Costa Rica
Austin classes will be held Monday-Thursday, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm at South Austin Campus
In Costa Rica, classes will be held Monday-Thursday, from 1:00-5:00 pm

course information

-SPAN 2311 / Spanish III - Advanced Spanish grammar, directed composition, conversation, and discussion of culture based on readings.

-SPAN 1300/ Spanish Conversation—The primary objective of this 3-hour course is to develop the student's competency in communicating through the spoken medium. Class time will be spent in simple conversation and discussion of Costa Rican culture. Emphasis on idiomatic expressions used in daily speech, pronunciation, and vocabulary building.

-Earn 6 ACC Credits.

-The courses are taught by an ACC instructor, and all program participants are ACC students.

-Prerequisite: By the end of Spring 2010, students must have completed a second semester college Spanish course of at least four semester hours with a grade of C or better, or have equivalent credit by examination.

program leader and course instructor

Todd Phillips is a foreign language professor at ACC. He led the Spanish in Costa Rica Program during the summers of 2008 and 2009, and was regarded by his students not only as an excellent teacher, but also as a wonderful guide and resource. See what some of ACC's former study abroad participants said about Todd:

-ACC and Todd Phillips were amazing guides and preparers of this trip. Outstanding job!

-This was a great trip and Todd is a great teacher!

-This trip was a blessing. It was a great opportunity. Todd's support was invaluable.

-Todd is an amazing teacher! I will never forget the experience of spending time with my wonderful classmates and immersing myself in a foreign language and culture.

host institute

Forester Instituto Internacional is a Spanish language school in Costa Rica. The Institute is located in the city of San José and was founded in 1979. The institute strives to be a cheerful, congenial place to learn Spanish.

Classes and salsa lessons will be held at the Institute, and students will have access to Internet as well as general support from the Forester staff. Staff members enjoy meeting and relating to people from different countries and backgrounds. (This will be ACC's third year at FII!)

accommodations

Participants will be placed in a carefully selected Costa Rican home. Homestays are an invaluable part of the study abroad experience, as students will be able to practice Spanish outside of the classroom while sharing the "Ticos' " every day life. Participating families are chosen for their friendliness and helpfulness to the student. Most live within a 20-minute bus ride from the Institute, while a few are within walking distance. The host families will provide the participant with a room, breakfast and dinner, and laundry service.

program fee

\$1500 includes

- Homestays including breakfasts, dinners and laundry service
- Airport pick-up/drop-off
- Manuel Antonio Beach Excursion
- Arenal Volcano & Hot Springs Excursion
- Day trip to La Paz Waterfall Gardens
- Day trip to Savegre Lodge
- Coffee Plantation Tour
- Half-day excursion to Orosi Valley
- Half-day excursion to Poás Volcano
- Host Institution Facility Fee
- General Fee (covers some instructor expenses)

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Excursions

HALF-DAY EXCURSIONS

Orosi Valley Trip to the scenic Orosi Valley featuring some spectacular sights of the Reventazón River.

"Beneficio" Coffee Plantation Tour Visit a "beneficio", where you will learn the secrets of coffee's lifecycle, from plantation to cup, in a journey through the working plantation and roastery.

La Paz Waterfall Gardens Walk the trails of the gardens,

lined by 5 waterfalls and view countless many different animals native to the country.

Poás Volcano Trip to Poás Volcano, with a crater that is 1,050 feet (320 meters) deep and almost a mile (1.6 km) across. It's the largest active crater in the world.

Savegre Reserve Enjoy a variety of trails through Savegre Reserve along with a nature guide. Lunch included.



WEEKEND EXCURSIONS *(includes accommodations, transportation, site fees, and breakfast)*

Manuel Antonio National Park

Explore one of the most beautiful rainforest parks in Costa Rica, combining the Pacific Ocean white sand beaches and wildlife. See how many different species of flora and fauna you can spot in a 2.5 hour hike. Relax in the sun and surf. Includes an overnight stay at the Playa Espadilla Hotel, located 150 meters from Espadilla Beach and 200 meters away from the Manuel Antonio National Park entrance. Enjoy spacious and beautiful gardens, swimming pool, and access to the private biological reserve trails. Does not include lunch, dinner, personal expenses.

Arenal Volcano & Baldi Hot Springs

Travel to the Arenal Volcano National Park area and visit Baldi Hot Springs, home to 25 of the most thermal mineral waters in the world. The waters flow naturally from Arenal Volcano, and temperatures range from 93 to 152 degrees. The Baldi complex includes: three waterslides, where you can enjoy a beautiful panoramic view; Green River & Waterfall, a relaxing paradise where you can experience the songs of the birds and the rush of the falls; Roman Baths, which consists of two small pools of cool water. Not included: lunch, dinner, personal expenses.

Funding & application process

ACC Board of Trustees Study Abroad Scholarships

ACC Board of Trustees will award \$50,000 in Study Abroad Scholarships to participants for the Spring/Summer of 2010. Scholarships are \$1,000 and can be used towards any program-related expense. Visit www.austincc.edu/intstudy for more information and an application. Deadline 2/25/2010

CAB Funding

CAB provides funding for travel opportunities that enhance the cultural and intellectual lives of students. Visit www.austincc.edu/intstudy for info and an application. After submitting an application, students will be scheduled for a 2-3 minute presentation. Awards are \$200, and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Program Applications

Applications are available at www.austincc.edu/intstudy. Submit applications to the International Programs Office. After submitting an application, students will be contacted for an informal interview with the course instructor. Acceptance will be based on application, Spanish GPA, and interview.

FAQ

What's Included in Your Program Fee

The Costa Rica program fee is not all-inclusive. Please see below for details.

What does the Program Fee include?

- Homestays w/ breakfast, dinner, laundry service
- Airport pick-up/drop-off
- 5 half-day excursions
- Manuel Antonio Beach excursion
- Arenal Volcano & Baldi Hot Springs excursion
- Host institution facility fee
- General fee

What is the General Fee?

The general fee is a contribution towards the instructor's airfare and accommodations.

What's Not Included

- Roundtrip airfare & Local transportation
- ACC Tuition and Fees
- Books
- Lunches
- Personal expenses

How much should I budget for local transportation, lunches, and personal expenses?

\$10-15 per day.

How much is airfare?

Average roundtrip airfare is projected at \$750.

What will I pay for tuition and fees?

In-district students will pay approximately \$330. Out-of-district students will pay approximately \$918. Out-of state & International students will pay approximately \$1806.

Group Travel

ACC will arrange a group flight for program participants. Group travel is mandatory for this program, unless permission is granted for independent travel.

How does group travel work?

ACC will work with an airline to reserve seats for participants on a single flight. With a minimum of ten students, participants are eligible for the airline group rate. Once the reservation is made, participants will need to pay a flight deposit, usually \$100. The deposit can be applied to the cost of the flight, or will be refunded upon return. The cost of the flight will be due in full within 30-90 days (depends on the airline) following the reservation.

(Without the minimum of ten students, participants are not eligible for the group rate. The reserved flight must therefore be paid for within 24 hours)

Can I request to be seated with my friend on the group flight?

Typically seats are assigned by the airline upon check-in, although you may contact the airline ahead

of time to ask if they can accommodate your seating requests.

Can I earn frequent flier miles?

This depends on the policy of the airline.

Are the tickets refundable?

Group flight tickets are non-refundable. If ACC can secure a replacement if a participant drops out, and if the airline permits name changes, you will be refunded the money less any differences in fare and any name change fees.

What airline does ACC use?

ACC's priority is booking both a low fare and convenient flight schedule. In the past, we've generally booked flights with American, Continental, Delta, and United. However, we are not limited to these airlines.

Will we have direct flights?

We try to obtain the most direct route to San Jose; however, we cannot guarantee the absence of layovers or connecting flights.

Accommodations

Students will stay in the homes of Costa Rican families. The families will provide the students with breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Rooms will be shared with another ACC student; private rooms may be available upon request.

Can I choose my roommate?

Please submit roommate requests to Ellen Aoki. They will be considered as housing assignments are made.

Passports and visas

Am I responsible for obtaining my passport?

Yes, students are responsible for obtaining their own passports. Students should submit a color copy of their passport or a copy of the completed passport application with the program application.

How can I get a passport?

You must fill out a passport application and take it along with a certified birth certificate, two passport photos, and fee to a passport acceptance facility. Passport acceptance facilities include most U.S. Post Offices and also the UT Austin International Office: Passport & ID Services. Visit www.travel.state.gov for a passport application. Typical passport processing times are 3-6 weeks.

Do I need a visa for Costa Rica?

U.S. citizens do not need a visa for Costa Rica for stays less than 90 days. (Please contact the International Programs Office if you are not a U.S. citizen. Depending on your nationality, you may need a visa).

(FAQ continued on next page)

FAQ

Insurance

Do I need to obtain insurance to go abroad?

Yes. Students must purchase a \$22 International Student ID Card (ISIC), which provides basic medical coverage while abroad.

*For students that are not eligible to apply for the ISIC: check with your current insurance provider for information on out-of-area/overseas coverage **OR** visit www.hthstudents.com to sign up for temporary international coverage, approximately \$30-90.*

Course

Spanish III (SPAN 2311) & Spanish Conversation (SPAN 1300).

Are there any prerequisites?

By the end of Spring 2010, students must have completed a second semester college Spanish course of at least four semester hours with a grade of C or better, or have equivalent credit by examination.

How many college credits can I earn?

6 ACC credits

Who is teaching the course?

ACC faculty member Todd Phillips.

Cell Phones

A cell phone can be rented for about \$60 plus the cost of calls.

www.costoricacellularconnection.com

Will my U.S. cell phone work in Costa Rica?

Check with your service provider. International rates and roaming charges may apply.

Payment

The program fee is due upon acceptance into the program, unless otherwise specified.

Are payment plans or payments in installments possible?

Yes. Please contact Ellen Aoki at (512) 223-7688 or eaoki@austincc.edu.

When do I register for the course itself?

The International Programs Office will register students for the course on May 3. Course tuition/fees are due by May 7.

Refund Policy

\$100 program deposit is non-refundable, unless a student is not accepted into the program.

If a student withdraws prior to departure, the student is responsible for all costs that are non-recoverable. Non-recoverable costs may include non-refundable

airline tickets, deposits, costs paid to the host institution, housing costs, and other costs that occur as a result of the student's withdrawal. Any costs recovered will be returned to the student, less any amount to be applied if he/she has an outstanding balance with ACC.

If a student withdraws from or is released from the program while abroad, all costs are non-refundable.

ACC Board of Trustees Study Abroad Scholarship

The scholarship is for the amount of \$1,000.

Withdrawal or Involuntary Drops

If a student withdraws from or is released from the program at any time, the student must return the full amount of the scholarship to ACC. If the student fails to do so, disciplinary action will follow.

Program and Scholarship Applications

Applications can be downloaded at www.austincc.edu/intstudy or picked up at: ACC International Programs Office
Highland Business Center #513
5930 Middle Fiskville Road,
Austin, Texas 78752

Program Acceptance Policy

Applicants will be informally interviewed by course instructor. Acceptance will be based on informal interview and Spanish GPA.

Contact

Ellen Aoki, Costa Rica Coordinator
512.223.7114
eaoki@austincc.edu

Applicants for this program must sign the indicated space on their application acknowledging that they have read and understood the information in this packet.