

Furman University Study Away Program: Academic, Environmental, Physical & Health Expectations

Program: Tropical Ecology in Costa Rica

Dates: May 9 - 30, 2018

*Request accommodations through the Student Office for Accessibility Resources (SOAR)

Course catalog description: Field Studies in Costa Rica. Students visit a variety of habitats including tropical rain forests, tropical dry forests, and cloud forests in Costa Rica. Intensive study of natural history will be combined with original ecological investigations and preparation of research papers.

Program Description: This is a field course and there are some unavoidable risks associated with being in tropical forests. Venomous snakes are relatively common in the areas we will visit, along with bees, ants, and other stinging insects. Students will receive extensive safety briefings to allow them to identify these risks and to behave appropriately so as to minimize the danger; however, risk cannot be completely eliminated. Field work will involve several long day-hikes, up to 10 miles. Students should have sufficient fitness to participate in these activities, which are integral to the educational objectives of the course. We may also arrange a snorkeling trip, led by a licensed operator, near the end of the course. This will be non-challenging and students may opt out if their swimming skills are inadequate.

Frequency							Frequency							Frequency					
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	Never	Seldom	Some-times	Often	Optional	Required	STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Never	Seldom	Some-times	Often	Always	PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Never	Seldom	Some-times	Often	Daily	
Course work in a foreign language	X						Foreign Language Environment					X	Lifting luggage					X	
Course work in English				X		X	Mountainous				X		Carrying luggage				X		
Use of laptop				X			Tropical					X	Carrying equipment				X		
Use of smart device		X			X		Desert	X					Carrying groceries	X					
Traditional Classroom		X				X	Urban		X				Standing 30+ minutes					X	
Indoor Course Work		X				X	Rural					X	Walking 2+ miles	X				X	
Outdoor Course Work				X		X	High Elevation	X					Hiking (easy)					X	
Group Work				X		X	Dusty				X		Hiking (strenuous)			X			
Presentations		X		X		X	Air Pollution		X				Sitting 5+ hours		X				
Interactions with local residents		X					Recent Terrorism	X					Use of public transport	X					

Field Work				X		X
Internship	X					
Research				X		X
Comments:						

Frequency

HEALTH & DIET	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Vegetarian Options					X
Vegan Options				X	
Food Allergy Accommodations				X	
Group Meals					X
Cooking for oneself	X				
Host family prepares meals	X				
Healthcare easily accessible		X			
Comments: We will be able to accommodate most food allergies. Let the faculty know well in advance of any allergies. We will be in remote locations and emergency response times will vary. The staff where we are staying are well equipped to handle most emergencies until medical help arrives. Students are advised to clear their plans with a health professional.					

Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness					X
Earthquakes		X			
Other Natural Disaster		X			
Comments: There have been volcanic eruptions in the recent past. Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya are present but not abundant.					

Frequency

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
Host Family	X				
Roommate					X
Shared Apartment	X				
Dormitory				X	
Camping				X	
Hotel		X			
Cell phone signal available				X	
Internet signal available				X	
Comments:					

Flat terrain		X			
Hilly terrain				X	
Stairs		X			
Comments:					

Frequency

WATER ACTIVITIES	Never	Seldom	Often	Required
Swimming		X		
Snorkeling		X		
SCUBA	X			
Boating		X		
Rowing	X			
Comments: All water activities are optional. Students without adequate skills or water comfort are advised not to participate.				

Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following vaccinations and preventative measures: Malaria, Hep A, Typhoid. Avoid mosquito bites.