

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

Program: Costa Rica / Tropical Ecology
Dates: May 13-June 3, 2020

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

Course Description: BIOL 342 Field Studies in Tropical Ecology. 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. May Experience ONLY. 2 credits

Course Prerequisites: All biology majors are required to take a 4-credit course in some area of ecology. The linked combination of BIO-341 (spring term) and BIO-342 (MayX) satisfies this requirement.

Program Description: The academic content of this program will primarily be taught in the field, using both observational and investigative approaches. Nature walks led by Furman professors and local guides will familiarize students with the local flora and fauna, and illustrate important ecological principles. Inquiry-based learning will be used extensively. Students will conduct field and laboratory research projects, including projects assigned by the professors and projects the students design independently. Students will participate in the entire research cycle, from formulation of hypotheses, through experimental design, collection of data, statistical analysis, and preparation of scientific papers.

	Frequency						
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Optional	Recommended	Required
Course work in a foreign language	X						
Course work in English				X			X
Use of laptop				X			X
Use of smart device			X			X	
Traditional Classroom		X					X
Indoor Course Work		X					X
Outdoor Course Work				X			X
Group Work				X			X
Presentations			X				X
Interactions with local residents			X		X		
Field Work				X			X
Internship	X						
Research				X			X
Comments: Individuals & group research projects are an important aspect of course.							

	Frequency				
STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Foreign Language Environment				X	
Mountainous			X		
Tropical					X
Desert		X			
Urban	X				
Rural				X	
High Elevation			X		
Dusty			X		
Air Pollution		X			
Recent Terrorism	X				
Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness		X			
Earthquakes		X			
Other Natural Disaster		X			
Comments: Mosquito protection advised even though risks are low.					

	Frequency				
PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Daily
Lifting luggage				X	
Carrying luggage upstairs		X			
Carrying equipment			X		
Carrying groceries		X			
Standing 30+ minutes			X		
Walking 1+ miles					X
Hiking (easy)					X
Hiking (strenuous)				X	
Sitting 5+ hours	X				
Use of public transportation	X				
Flat terrain				X	
Hilly terrain					X
Stairs		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:					

	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: Cellular communication may incur significant expense.					

	Frequency				
WATER ACTIVITIES	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Optional	Required
Swimming			X	X	
Snorkeling		X		X	
SCUBA	X				
Boating (speed boat)		X		X	
Rowing		X		X	
Comments: Slow sightseeing boat trips included/required. Wear protective clothing and shoes in the rain forest.					

Center for Disease Control Recommendations: measles/tetanus up to date; typhoid, hepatitis A rec. for rural areas (but facilities we use have safe food & water); antimalarials NOT recommended, but avoid mosquitoes.