

North Central College  
Cardinal Destination Course Abroad  
(May Term)

# ECUADOR

Darwin and the Galapagos

TENTATIVE DATES

**May 12-23, 2021**

Led by Prof. Gregory Ruthig

## CARD 261-1

### Course Description

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In this course, we will follow Darwin's footsteps as we observe first-hand how natural selection is studied by modern day researchers. The trip begins in the capital city of Quito, Ecuador, where we will spend two days exploring the old city including standing on the equator. From Quito, we will fly to the Galapagos Islands where we will spend eight days living on the Golondrina, a sixteen passenger boat, on an itinerary that will take us to nine of the Galapagos Islands. We will hike on the islands and snorkel in the ocean to experience a landscape and an ecological community that is found nowhere else in the world.

### Itinerary Highlights

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- Observing penguins, sea lions, marine iguanas, giant tortoises and countless other animals in their natural environment
- Snorkeling through tropical waters with diverse marine life
- Hiking into the craters of ancient volcanoes
- Crossing the equator and visiting the artisanal market in the historic district of Quito.



# CARDINAL DESTINATION COURSE ABROAD (MAY TERM)

A Cardinal Destination Course Abroad (CDCA) is a short-term, faculty-led, group international travel course that takes place in May Term and has linked prerequisite work.

**ENROLLMENT STEPS** (To participate in a CDCA, you must enroll in and successfully complete its prerequisite work.)

- Meet with your academic advisor to understand how enrollment in the CDCA and the linked prerequisite work will affect your academic plan or Individualized Transition Plan (ITP).
- Register ON MERLIN for the spring semester course, BIOL 250-1 (2 credits; course takes place the last eight weeks of the spring 2021 semester).
- Register ON MERLIN for the linked summer semester CDCA, CARD 261-1 (1 credit).

## CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION (CGE) REGISTRATION

- **October 23, 2020:** Priority deadline for students to enroll in a CDCA and begin the registration process through the Center for Global Education.
- **January 15, 2021:** Final deadline for students to enroll in a CDCA and begin the registration process through the Center for Global Education.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Course and Itinerary Questions

- Professor Gregory Ruthig, Associate Professor of Biology  
grruthig@noctrl.edu, 630.637.5186

### General CDCA Questions

- Kimberly Larsson, Executive Director, CGE  
kmlarsson@noctrl.edu, 630.637.5289

## ESTIMATED COST & PAYMENTS

**\$4,900-\$5,400 based on 14 enrolled students**

- Airfare & host country transportation estimate: \$1,200
- Program fee estimate: \$3,700-\$4,200
- **NOT INCLUDED:** Meals (other than those listed in the itinerary), optional entertainment and excursions, excess baggage charges, personal items (telephone charges, laundry fees, room service, souvenirs, etc.), departure taxes (except U.S.), passport fees

### CDCA TUITION

- All May Term CDCA's are worth one (1) academic credit.
- The one (1) credit tuition fee for a May Term CDCA is offset by a financial aid credit for any student enrolled full-time at North Central College during the 2021 spring semester.
- Applications for CDCA Scholarships will be available through the Center for Global Education in February 2021.
- Contact the Office of Financial Aid **in the fall semester** to inquire about financial aid options for May term courses abroad.

### PROGRAM FEE

- **November 9, 2020 (priority deadline):** \$500 non-refundable deposit due to North Central College
- **January 31, 2021 (final deadline):** \$500 non-refundable deposit due to North Central College
- **March 2021:** Program fee balance billed to your student account

### AIRFARE

- **February 2021:** \$500 non-refundable airfare deposit billed to your student account
- **March 2021:** Balance of airfare billed to your student account

## CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

- Refund schedules for airfare depend on individual airlines; faculty leaders will inform all participants of the relevant deadlines and policies.
- If an enrolled student withdraws from the CDCA **before March 15, 2021**, then 50% of the remaining balance of the program fee will be refunded.
- If an enrolled student withdraws from the CDCA **after March 15, 2021**, then 100% of the program fee is forfeited.
- **Successful completion of the prerequisite work/linked course is REQUIRED** for participation in the May Term international travel section.
- Withdrawing from a CDCA **does not** withdraw you from the prerequisite work/linked course.
- If you withdraw from the prerequisite work/linked course, you will be withdrawn from the CDCA (international travel) and you will be responsible for any associated fees (airline or program fees) as outlined in the Cancellation and Refund Policy above.
- If you **fail** the prerequisite work/linked course, you will be withdrawn from the CDCA and responsible for any associated fees (airline or program fees) as outlined in the Cancellation and Refund Policy above.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

- North Central College provides all students enrolled in a CDCA a primary emergency medical insurance policy for the course dates abroad.
- Every student participant is required to abide by the College policies as outlined in the North Central College Student Handbook and by the expectations outlined in the course syllabus. If, in the judgement of a faculty/staff leader, a student has violated the course expectations or College policy as stated in the Student Handbook, the student may be sent home at his/her own expense. In such circumstances, a student's parents may also be notified and additional disciplinary action may be taken by the College upon the student's return to the United States.
- All CDCA enrolled students will be required to attend a pre-departure information session.