



in Costa Rica

Eligibility

Sophomore, junior or senior standing is required at the time of participation; students must have a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.75 on a 4-point scale. No previous knowledge of Spanish is required. Students who have completed two years of college-level Spanish should have completed a substantial amount of course work in their major, so their internship experience can be as rewarding and successful as possible.

Estimated Program Costs

North Central Tuition: Participants are required to pay North Central College fall term tuition. Students on tuition remission or faculty exchange are charged the full cost incurred by the College for the program.

Program Fee: This fee includes 14 weeks of instruction, room & board, a trip to Nicaragua and weekly excursions; the fee does NOT include airfare, departure taxes, books, some public transportation and entrance fees, weekend excursions, incidentals, and personal travel costs.

Airfare Estimate: The College negotiates group airfare for the best possible rates each year.

Application Procedure

To apply, submit the following documents by January 31:

- Completed North Central College-in-Costa Rica application form
- Four recent official passport photos
- Current resumé in English
- One-page Statement of Purpose
- Two letters of recommendation: one academic, one character reference (forms provided)

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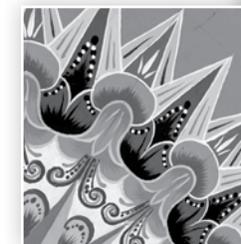
On Mission

North Central College prepares students to be informed, involved, principled and productive citizens and leaders over their lifetime.



North Central College in Costa Rica

FALL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM



Purpose

This program provides students with the opportunity to experience Costa Rican culture first-hand, engage in an intensive study of Spanish, participate in a service-learning project, and complete an internship related to their major.

Location

Located between Nicaragua and Panama, Costa Rica has long attracted students and travelers for many reasons. With both a Pacific and Caribbean coast, this Central American country has rainforests, active volcanoes and beautiful beaches—all carefully protected by a well-developed national conservation plan that provides the basis for a thriving eco-tourism. Known as “one of the most peaceful nations” on earth, Costa Rica is also a vital but stable democracy that has operated without any armed forces since 1948.

In the first eight weeks of the program, students live in Quepos, the nearest town on the Central Pacific Coast to the Manuel Antonio National Park. There, students live with a family and travel each day to their hilltop school, the Costa Rica Spanish Institute (COSI), overlooking the ocean. In the ninth week, students travel to Nicaragua, take a short mid-term break, and then proceed to San Jose where they move in with a new family and either begin an internship or continue studying Spanish before engaging in a service project.

Classes and Credits

North Central College, in cooperation with Centers for Academic Programs Abroad (CAPA) and COSI, has designed a 15-week program, including the following three-part core components, taken for a total of 12 credits.

Core Components

Intensive Spanish: (SPN 177, 277, 377 or 477 for 6.0 to 7.0 credits) Students are divided into levels, studying in classes



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with a maximum of eight students. Proficiency levels—beginner, intermediate and advanced—are determined according to standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Classes emphasize the use of real-world experiences, integrating grammar, listening, reading, writing, vocabulary development, fluency and culture. No previous knowledge of Spanish is required.

Seminar in Costa Rica: (GLS 363 for 3.0 credits) This course is taught in English by the North Central College faculty member who accompanies the group. The topic of the seminar varies according to the expertise of the faculty member and is designed with the assumption that students may not have prior knowledge of the topic. This course fulfills the All-College Requirement for an intercultural seminar.

Internship or Service Learning: (2.0 or 3.0 credits) In the last six weeks of the program, students are placed in either an internship or a service-learning project. Students who have had two years of college-level Spanish and who are juniors or seniors are assigned an internship. Students with less than two years of Spanish continue to take Spanish language classes before beginning a community service project.

Special Features

Pre-departure Orientation: The Study Abroad advisor at North Central College, along with students who have participated in the Costa Rica program, conduct pre-departure orientation sessions. Participants are also required to enroll in GLS 277 (Seminar: Study Abroad for 0.00-2.00 credits) in the spring term before the fall program. This course is designed to enhance the study abroad experience by providing pre-departure training in cross-cultural learning strategies, on-site journaling and reflective activities and writing upon return.

On-Site Orientation: The staff of COSI provides a general orientation to the program and to Costa Rica during the first week.

Excursion to Nicaragua: For one extended weekend during the term, students travel to Granada, Nicaragua, in order to fulfill government visa requirements. Hotel stay, some meals and sight seeing excursions are provided.

Spanish Language Classes: Students take Spanish classes (a maximum of eight students in each class) with students from all over the world.

Homestays: Students stay with families who live within a short distance of the institute; only one student is assigned to each home where he or she has a private room. The family provides two meals a day (breakfast and dinner).

Weekly Activities: The institute sponsors cultural excursions one afternoon a week; for example, students might visit museums, zoos, supermarkets or theaters. Students have the opportunity to take optional mini-courses and join local theater, music and dance groups; they may also join local sports teams or participate casually in sports activities at local parks.

Weekend Excursions: An information board at the institute lists all the special activities scheduled for each week. The COSI staff members help arrange safe and inexpensive weekend tours, including such destinations and activities as the rainforest in Tortuguero National Park, Tortuga Island, white-water rafting, Arenal Volcano, Carara Reserve and Jaco Beach, Corcovado National Park, a coffee plantation tour, aerial tram ride, and a canopy tour.