

North Central College
Cardinal Destination Course Abroad
(May Term)

ECUADOR

Tropical Ecology

TENTATIVE DATES

May 9-22, 2022

Led by Prof. Gregory Ruthig

CARD*261*2

Course Description

Tropical Ecology will build upon the foundation in tropical ecology and natural history that students learn in *Biology 250, Field Biology* by traveling to Ecuador and conducting field research. The neotropical rain forests of the western Amazon are the most species rich communities in the world. Tropical ecologists are still trying to understand why the neotropical rainforest is so much more diverse than its counterparts elsewhere in the world. Students will gain first hand experience in conducting field research, including developing hypotheses, working in the rain forest, and analyzing results. Along the way, students will learn about natural history from the professor and from local guides and scientists.

Itinerary Highlights

- Conduct research and implement experiments in the Amazon Rain Forest
- Hiking into the craters of ancient volcanoes
- Crossing the equator and visiting the artisanal market in the historic district of Quito.



**NORTH CENTRAL
COLLEGE** 1861

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 a linked prerequisite course in the preceding spring semester.

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

1. Contact your academic advisor to understand how enrollment in the CDCA and linked prerequisite spring semester course will affect your academic plan.
2. Register ON MERLIN for the linked spring semester course, CARD*260*2/BIOL*250*1 (3 credits).
3. Register ON MERLIN for the May Term course abroad (summer session) CDCA, CARD*261*2 (1 credit).

EXTENDED Enrollment Deadline: November 19, 2021 (or before, if course capacity is met).

CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION (CGE) REGISTRATION

- **December 3, 2021:** Students enrolled in a CDCA will begin the registration process, be charged a non-refundable \$35 registration fee, and prompted to pay the non-refundable \$500 program fee deposit, through the Center for Global Education.
- **January 31, 2022:** Proof of a valid passport is due. (Current passports must be valid through November 2022 for May term travel, six (6) months past your return travel date.)

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
- Rachel Birkley, Coordinator, Education Abroad, CGE
rebirkley@noctrl.edu, 630.637.5899

ESTIMATED COST & PAYMENTS

\$2,200-\$2,700 based on 16 enrolled students

- Airfare & host country transportation estimate: \$1,300
- Program fee estimate: \$900-\$1,400
- **NOT INCLUDED:** Any meals not 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 CDCAs 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 2022 Spring Semester.
- Contact the Office of Financial Aid **in the fall semester** to inquire about financial aid options for May term courses abroad.

PROGRAM FEE

- **December 17, 2021:** \$500 non-refundable deposit due to North Central College
- **March 1, 2022:** Program fee balance billed to your student account

AIRFARE

- **January 31, 2022:** \$500 non-refundable airfare deposit billed to your student account
- **January-March 2022:** 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 1, 2022**, then 50% of the remaining balance of the program fee will be billed to the student account if costs have been incurred by the College.
- If an enrolled student withdraws from the CDCA **after March 1, 2022**, then 100% of the program fee is forfeited.
- Withdrawing from a CDCA **does not** withdraw you from the linked spring semester course.
- If you withdraw from the linked spring semester course, you will be withdrawn from the CDCA 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 linked spring semester 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.
- Successful completion of the spring semester linked course is **REQUIRED** for participation in the May Term international travel section.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- All CDCA participants **must** be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. No exemptions will be permitted.
- 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/guardians 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.