Costa Rica: Study Abroad Program
January 2014

Field Study Of The Economics Of The Environment, Business, Culture And Global Sustainability

Program Information

For more information contact:
Faculty Director
Prof. Christine Farias
christine.farias@baruch.cuny.edu
or
Director of Study Abroad
Dr. Richard Mitten
richard.mitten@baruch.cuny.edu
Course Description

The objective of this Study Abroad Program is to learn about global economic, financial, international, environmental and business issues and the role each plays in promoting sustainable development. The program is centered on a 14 day study abroad experience in Costa Rica. In preparation for the trip to Costa Rica, there will be 5 face-to-face classes and a two day sustainability retreat. These pre-departure classes will provide an introduction to the country and culture, and to the conceptual and theoretical frameworks with regard to economics, business and sustainability that will prepare you for the field work you will carry out in Costa Rica.

While in Costa Rica, you will be given in-depth lectures by faculty from INCAE, one of Latin America's leading business schools, and from Earth University about Costa Rica, Latin America, economics, finance, business, culture, international management and sustainability issues. In addition you will visit a local business co-op, meet with local entrepreneurs and learn about fair trade by visiting local coffee estates, banana plantations and chocolate farms. You will experience the richness and biodiversity of a tropical rainforest and work and live with an indigenous community. Throughout the program you will have an opportunity to interact with local Costa Ricans. Classroom learning will be integrated with on-the-ground experiences, e.g. field experiences, case studies, discussions, reflections and writing assignments after each field experience.

This program is conducted entirely in English. While knowledge of Spanish is helpful, it is NOT required.

If you are interested in this program you must submit an online Application to Study Abroad. To obtain access to the online application, you must first see an Advisor in the Baruch College Study Abroad Office, located on the 8th floor of the J-Annex, 137 E. 25th Street. Applicants short-listed for the program will be interviewed by the course faculty director, Prof. Christine Farias, and/or the Director of Study Abroad, Dr. Richard Mitten.

Ideal applicants for this course are intellectually curious, open-minded and are eager to learn by exploring and experiencing economics, business, culture and sustainable development in action. They will also have taken an introductory course in Microeconomics or Macroeconomics and completed the co-requisite ECO 3160L. Students who successfully complete the program will receive credit for Baruch course ECO 3160. This course will count towards major/minor elective credit for Economics and Finance students.

Program Dates

The Study Abroad Program will begin during the fall 2013 semester, with an orientation and a weekend sustainability retreat held in October, 2013 and four additional pre-departure lectures spread over November and December 2013. Tentative dates are:

- October 4: Orientation
- October 12-13: Weekend Sustainability Retreat
- November 8
- November 22
- December 6
- December 13

Pre-departure lectures

The study abroad tour to Costa Rica will take place from January 6-19, 2014. The deadline to submit the final individual reflection paper will be January 26, 2014.
Program Faculty

Professor Christine Farias, Faculty Director of Program
Lecturer, Bert W Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Baruch College
Christine.Farias@baruch.cuny.edu

Adjunct Program Faculty in Costa Rica (details in final itinerary, subject to confirmation)
Faculty at INCAE an International Business School
EARTH – the planet’s University
Experts on Costa Rican Economy, Environment and Culture

Application and contact information
Applications for the program are being accepted on a rolling admissions basis, so it pays to apply early. The final deadline for applications to the Costa Rica program is Monday, September 30, 2013. For information about the application procedure, please contact the

Baruch College Study Abroad Office
137 E. 25th Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10010
Tel: (646) 312-2090 or 2091
Email: study.abroad@baruch.cuny.edu
Website: www.baruch.cuny.edu/ study-abroad

Host Institutions in Costa Rica:

In Costa Rica, faculty from INCAE Business School, one of Latin America’s leading international business school (http://www.incae.edu/en/) and from EARTH University (http://www.earth.ac.cr/about-earth/earth-facts/?lang=en) will provide more in-depth lectures about doing business in Costa Rica and Latin America as well as on agribusiness, finance, international management and sustainability related issues. You will also be given an opportunity to work, live and learn with an Indigenous community and experience sustainable ways of living and doing business.

Accommodation:

In Costa Rica, students, faculty and program directors will be housed either on the university campus or in a local bed and breakfast. Breakfast and some meals will be provided at the bed and breakfast. Laundry facilities will be available on the premises.

Meals:

Breakfast as well as some lunches and dinners are included in the program fee. You will also have an opportunity to experience preparing you own meals with local ingredients. Snacks, drinks and extra meals are not included in the program fee.
Program Costs:

Baruch students attending this program will pay CUNY tuition and fees to the Baruch College Bursar, and a separate program fee to the Weissman Center for International Business. Participants from other CUNY Colleges will pay tuition to their home college and a program fee to the Weissman Center at Baruch College. The table below summarizes the estimated total cost of attendance (i.e., no hidden expenses) for students on this program. Please note: the items marked with an asterisk (*) are estimates; a student’s actual costs will vary according to personal consumption, lifestyle, and the exchange rate of the dollar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE (in US Dollars)</th>
<th>NY-Resident</th>
<th>Non-Resident</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$645.00</td>
<td>$1380.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program fee</td>
<td>$2500.00</td>
<td>$2500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airfare, travel to and from NY airport, airport tax*</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Activity and Technology Fee</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous expenses (lunches, snacks, souvenirs)*</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated total student expenses for program</td>
<td><strong>$4495.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5230.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program fee includes:
- Accommodation
- Breakfast and some lunches and dinners
- Emergency medical and sickness insurance
- Guest lectures
- Excursions and other cultural activities
- Airport tax in Costa Rica

Program fee does NOT include:
- CUNY tuition
- Travel to and from New York/Newark airport
- Airfare New York/Newark - San Jose, Costa Rica
- Snacks, drinks, extra meals, souvenirs
- Visa Processing Fee
- Some meals

Students accepted into the program will pay the non-refundable **$2500 program fee no later than October 7, 2013**. See schedule of due dates for payment of tuition and fees. Make check or money order payable to “WCIB-Baruch College.” Submit all fees to the Baruch College Study Abroad Office.

Baruch Faculty and Program Director Profiles

**Professor Christine Farias** currently teaches Economics of Labor, Advanced Labor Economics and Microeconomics in the Bert W Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance at Baruch College, Zicklin School of Business, CUNY. Dr. Farias is an environmental economist and her main areas of interest include forestry, sustainable development, social enterprise, education and labor issues. Dr. Farias received her Ph.D. from Texas Tech University and has published in various academic journals and books. She works with Baruch students on sustainability initiatives, the most recent being the Let’s Do It Baruch clean up campaign. Besides she is a member of the Baruch College Task Force on Sustainability working with the task force on various sustainability projects.

**Dr. Richard Mitten** has been Director of Study Abroad at Baruch College since 2004. After receiving his B.A. from Columbia University, Dr. Mitten studied and received two degrees at the University of Cambridge, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna. Dr. Mitten lived and worked in Europe for over twenty years before returning to the US in 2001. While in Europe he served as Program Director of the Vienna Study Center of the University of California’s Education Abroad Program and as Executive Director of the Center for International and Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Vienna. He also held an appointment as Associate Professor of History at Central European University in Budapest. Dr. Mitten is the author or co-author of three books as well as numerous scholarly and other articles on the subjects of antisemitism and the recent history of Austria and Germany.
PROGRAM SYLLABUS

Program Overall Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this study abroad course, students will be able to frame their understanding of the economics of the environment, business and sustainability from a global and personal perspective. More specifically, the students will:

- Be able to articulate global forces and concerns with regard to both international and domestic economies and businesses from both long-term and short-term perspectives.
- Have the ability to demonstrate knowledge and capabilities in environmental economics, business and sustainability that will enable them to be successful and ethical entrepreneurs and community leaders in a variety of cultures.
- Be able to explain sustainability dynamics and issues, and posit alternative strategies for forwarding sustainability.

Course Material/Readings:

Textbook:

Required Reading:
Students will be given a detailed list of articles, videos, recommended books and other readings along with a more detailed syllabus at the first class meeting.

Course Assignments:
In order to achieve the course/learning objectives, students will complete the following for credit assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Reflection Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Class Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Attendance at and active participation in the preparatory sessions as well as classes, meetings and events during the trip to Costa Rica are mandatory. This includes prompt responses to email messages received from the program directors. Below is a scale of penalties imposed for violations of this requirement:

- No response to emails within 24 hours - loss of 5 points (each time)
- Late for class - loss of 5 points (each time)
- Absent from class (unexcused) - loss of 15 points (each time)

Observance of these participation and attendance requirements will reflect the self-discipline and commitment students will need to succeed in this study abroad program, both during the pre-departure meetings as well as in Costa Rica itself. Repeated violations of these rules or absence from the preparatory classes and events may constitute grounds for dismissal from the program. Students dismissed for these reasons will not be allowed to participate in the trip to Costa Rica, will not receive credit for the course and will not receive a refund of the program fee.
Field Study Experiences:
In New York
The retreat will take place in upstate New York, where students will visit the town and meet with members of
the small community that is in the Marcellus Shale area, and currently dealing with the dilemmas of natural gas
extraction using hydro-fracking technology.

In Costa Rica, students will
- See the river that may be dammed, talk to the local people and evaluate the benefits and costs of
damming for energy generation vs. nature and eco-tourism.
- Visit and talk with the person who grows and picks bananas as well as talk to the local grocer who sells
them to understand sustainable business practices, the labor issues, environmental impacts, role of
government and international trade issues.
- Live and be a part of a community that represents one aspect of the tourism industry – they will interact
with local tour guides and members of the community to experience first-hand a business that is better
for the people and how that dynamic has many diverse effects and benefits for society and the
environment.

Academic Honesty:
Students are expected to know and adhere to the Baruch College Academic Honesty Policy, found at
http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html.

| Tentative Schedule (Exact times and locations will be announced later): |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Date            | Class/Deadline                          |
| September 30, 2013 | Application Deadline; acceptance notifications given by October 3. |
| October 4       | Orientation; Lecture                   |
| October 7       | Deadline for payment of Program Fee    |
| October 12-13   | Sustainability Retreat, Worcester, NY  |
| October 30      | Students should have purchased plane tickets to Costa Rica |
| November 8     | Lecture                                |
| November 22    | Lecture                                |
| December 6     | Lecture, Group Research Paper Due       |
| December 13    | Lecture, Pre-travel Orientation, Group Research Presentations |
| January 6-19, 2014 | Study in Costa Rica                     |
| January 26     | Individual Reflection Paper Due         |

Note: Students are required to attend all classes and to be on time. Missing a class meeting could jeopardize a
student’s chances of going on the trip to Costa Rica, as explained above.
HOW TO APPLY TO THE COSTA RICA PROGRAM

I. Procedures for all applicants to the Costa Rica Program

All applicants to the Study Abroad Program “Costa Rica: The Economics of the Environment, Business, Culture and Sustainability” must submit an online Application to Study Abroad via the Baruch College Study Abroad Application Portal. In order to access the Study Abroad Application Portal, you must obtain authorization from the Baruch College Study Abroad Office. Please come to the Study Abroad Office during posted walk-in hours or contact the Study Abroad Office (phone 646 312-2090; study.abroad@baruch.cuny.edu) to set up an appointment if you are not able to come during walk-in hours. Students short-listed for the program may be required to come to an interview with Prof. Farias and Dr. Mitten. You will be notified by email with dates for the interview.

Admission to the program is on a rolling basis, so students are strongly encouraged to apply early. Students will be notified by email of the decision on their application.

The remaining procedures for payments of fees and registration vary slightly, depending on whether you are a Baruch student or a student at another CUNY College.

II. Procedures for Baruch College Students accepted into the Costa Rica Program

A. Baruch students will need to make separate payments for different costs of the Costa Rica Program:

1. CUNY tuition and fees are to be paid to the Baruch Bursar’s Office. You will be notified by email regarding payment of your bill for tuition and fees. You must pay this bill online, or in person to the Baruch College Bursar and return a copy of the online receipt or validated original paper receipt to the Study Abroad Office no later than Wednesday, October 30, 2013. If you are a Macaulay Scholar, you must notify the Study Abroad Office upon receipt of your acceptance notification, and we will arrange for your tuition to be paid; you will only be required to pay Baruch College fees.

2. The Program Fee is to be paid to the Weissman Center for International Business. You will receive an email by October 3, 2013, that will include an invoice for the program fee as a PDF attachment. You must pay your program fee by October 7, 2013. You should make your check or money order payable to “WCIB-Baruch College,” and indicate that it is in payment for the Costa Rica program fee.

B. You should reserve and buy your air ticket to Costa Rica before October 30, 2013.

C. You must submit your completed Baruch College CUNY International Travel Waiver and Release Packet to the Study Abroad Office no later than October 30, 2013. This packet is available online from the Baruch Study Abroad website, under “Forms.”
III. Procedures for Students from other CUNY Colleges applying to the Costa Rica Program:

A. Please refer to the previous section regarding all applicants to the Costa Rica program. You should also consult the document “Special Instructions for Non-Baruch Students Applying to Baruch College Exchanges and Study Abroad Programs,” accessible from the Study Abroad website under “Forms.”

B. In order to be entered into the Baruch College data system (SIMS), you must submit a signed Visiting Student Application as soon as possible. The Visiting Student Application is available online from the Baruch Study Abroad website, under “Forms.” Please note: the Visiting Student Application is different from the online Application to Study Abroad. You must submit both.

C. CUNY tuition is to be paid to the Bursar’s Office of your home College. Policies and procedures differ among CUNY Colleges regarding how students can obtain a bill for a study abroad program at another CUNY College. Normally it is done by filing an e-Permit, which you may do if necessary (see item E). But check with your Bursar’s Office to be sure. You must pay this bill for tuition and provide the validated receipt to the Study Abroad Office at Baruch College no later than October 30, 2013. If you are a Macaulay Scholar, you will need to speak with Ms. Veronica Feliciano about the payment of tuition to your home College. If you have any problems, please contact the Baruch Study Abroad Office.

D. The Program Fee is to be paid to the Weissman Center for International Business. You will receive an email by October 3, 2013, that will include an invoice for the program fee as a PDF attachment. You must pay your program fee by October 7, 2013. You should make your check or money order payable to “WCIB-Baruch College,” and indicate that it is in payment for the Costa Rica program fee.

E. You must submit an e-Permit to Baruch College for 3 credits (STABD 11103). The Baruch Study Abroad Office will assist you in filing your e-Permit. In the comments section write “Baruch College Costa Rica Study Abroad Program.” Please notify the Study Abroad Office when you have submitted your e-Permit.

F. You must submit your completed Baruch College CUNY International Travel Waiver and Release Packet to the Study Abroad Office no later than October 30, 2013. This packet is available online from the Baruch Study Abroad website, under “Forms.”