

TULANE IN COSTA RICA 2010

Ecology, Politics, & Environment

SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA, June 6–July 9, 2010

APPLICATIONS DUE by February 25, 2010 for discounted fee

Study tropical
ecology in the
world's most
vibrant case
study in
environmental
protection

Sometimes referred to as the “green republic,” Costa Rica has become a model for sustainable development of natural resources. The biologically diverse cloud forests, rain forests, coastlines and other ecosystems have been protected through strategic investments, policy decisions and a political culture that views nature not merely as a commodity but as a valuable resource to be preserved for future generations. Despite facing significant obstacles to sustainable development such as destructive agricultural practices, high levels of foreign debt and warfare in the region, Costa Rica has emerged as a leading example of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Tulane University's Stone Center for Latin American Studies invites students to study the ecological wealth and political development of Costa Rica and surrounding countries. The program features two courses; one focused on Costa Rica's tropical ecology and the second on the contemporary politics of Central America and the Caribbean. As part of the course, students will meet with representatives of environmental organizations and visit Costa Rican political institutions. The group's weekend trips alternate between forest preserves, national parks, beaches and volcanoes. Participants study and live in the prestigious Centro de Investigación y Adiestramiento Político Administrativo (CIAPA), a private environmental and public policy think-tank within minutes of downtown San José.

While Costa Rica contains more biological diversity than all of North America combined, the protection of environmental resources would not have been possible without the difficult choices made by citizens, policymakers and international organizations. The study of the region's tropical ecology and political development will provide analytic tools for understanding the causes of Costa Rican conservation success and the many conflicting political interests (both regional and external) challenging the country and the region as a whole.

Courses

ALL COURSES ARE TAUGHT IN ENGLISH. Students will enroll in the following courses for a total of six credits: EEOB 212 *Climate change, biodiversity, and tropical forests* (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology) and POLC 331 *Governments of Central America & the Caribbean* (Political Science).

Cost of the Program

The cost of this five-week program is \$4,000 (after 2/25/10 \$4,200) and includes the following: 6 undergraduate credits at Tulane, room and meals at CIAPA, medical insurance, specialized tours and outings designed for participants in the program. Airfare and incidental costs are not included in the program cost.

Applying to the Program

University students interested in applying must be in good academic standing and have at least a current cumulative grade point average of 2.5. Two letters of recommendation are required. Students are also required to submit a current transcript with their application. Please note that non-Tulane students are also welcome to apply to this program. Complete applications (application form, transcript, and recommendations) and a \$200 non-refundable deposit are due by 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2010 for the discounted price or by 5:00 pm. March 25, 2010 for the regular price. Please bring applications to the Stone Center's Summer Program Coordination Office located in the Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute in the Caroline Richardson Building.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please consult the “International Programs” page of the Stone Center’s web site at <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/>. Or, contact *Natalia Porto* at:

SCLAS Summer Program Coordination Office.

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