

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APRIL 19!!!

Summer in Costa Rica 2010 Ecology, Politics, and Environment San José, Costa Rica June 6th – July 9th, 2010

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, visit various rain forest preserves such as Monteverde and the cloud forests of San Gerardo de Dota, and tour farming areas engaged in sustainable agriculture. 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 at the Centro de Investigación y Adiestramiento Político Administrativo (CIAPA) in San José. Students enroll in the following courses for a total of six credits:

- **EEOB 212 Climate change, biodiversity, and tropical forests, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology:** Most of the world's plants and animals live in the tropics. The complexity, beauty, and diversity of tropical forests make them a treasure trove of spectacular scenery, genetic and biochemical resources with uses practical and unforeseen, the source of much of our knowledge of how ecological systems have evolved, and the storage of much of the world's carbon. As the world's climate changes rapidly because of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, tropical forests may be severely threatened. Learn in this course about the structure and ecology of tropical forests. Learn to distinguish among rainforests, cloud forests, and dry forests, between old-growth and secondary forests. Explore the relationships among plants, animals, soil organisms, soils, water, and climate. Learn about the real social and economic causes of deforestation and grass roots efforts to revert it. And finally, understand, as much as anyone does, the social, political, economic, and biological logic of world climate change agreements and disagreements.
- **POLC 331 Governments of Central America & the Caribbean, Political Science:** Central America and the Caribbean are two of the most turbulent regions of our Hemisphere. Culturally diverse and endowed with some of the world's richest biodiversity, they have been at the crossroads of some of the world's most powerful geopolitical interests since the 15th Century. Considered to be the U.S. "backyard," they became the cradle of the American rise to globalism at the end of the 19th century, and have continued to be a source of permanent concern to American policymakers ever since. Learn about the extraordinary saga of Caribbean and Central American contemporary politics, and the challenges facing some of the U.S.'s most immediate neighbors. (Please Note: Tulane University students will not need to transfer program credits after completion; all credits will be earned as Tulane credits.)

Costs and Application

The cost of the five-week program is \$4,000 (after 2/25/2010 \$4,200) and includes the following:

- 6 undergraduate credits at Tulane
- All room and most meals at CIAPA
- Medical insurance
- Specialized tours and outings designed for participants in the program

Airfare is not included with the program fee. Participants should expect to pay approximately \$500-\$700 for airfare (airfare rates subject to change). Students participating in the program should expect to bring additional money to cover entertainment and other incidental costs.

Undergraduate students wishing to apply must be in good academic standing and have at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.5. In addition to a complete application form, each participant must secure two (2) letters of recommendation, and submit a current official transcript with his/her application. Please note that Spanish language ability is not a prerequisite since all courses are taught in English.

Complete applications (including application form, current transcript, two letters of recommendation, and the housing form) and a \$200 non-refundable deposit are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2010 in the Stone Center for Latin American Studies (Jones Hall, Tulane University.) The balance of the program costs (\$3,800 or \$4,000) is due upon acceptance into the program. The final payment may be made by MasterCard, Visa, check, or money order. Checks should be made payable to **Tulane University** and submitted directly to Natalia Porto at the Stone Center. Note that airfare is not included in the official program costs.

Students at Tulane seeking student loans to cover costs of this program should contact the Financial Aid office as soon as possible. Please be sure to indicate that you are seeking a loan for a SUMMER PROGRAM. **All students who will be receiving Financial Aid are still individually responsible for submitting a payment for the full program price directly to Natalia Porto at the Stone Center.** The indication of an available balance in a student's Accounts Receivable balance will not be sufficient; the student must still produce a check/money order/credit card payment for the full amount due to the program. (Note: You can now cover part of your cost through a TULASO Scholarship for Summer Programs. Look for more info on our website!)

Additional pre-printed applications are available at the Stone Center for Latin American Studies office in 100 Jones Hall. Or request one via email by contacting nporto@tulane.edu or download electronic applications by visiting <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/pages/detail/104/Summer-Programs-2010>.

Passport

All students are required to possess a valid passport in order to participate in this program. For information on applying for a passport (U.S. citizens), please visit the U.S. State Department web site at <http://travel.state.gov/>. Non-U.S. citizens should check with a Costa Rican consulate about entry and visa requirements and with Tulane's Center for International Students and Scholars for information regarding re-entry to the United States. U.S. citizens can enter Costa Rica for up to 90 days as a tourist without obtaining a visa.

For more information, please contact:

Natalia Porto

Stone Center for Latin American Studies

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118-5698

504-862-8629 / EMAIL: nporto@tulane.edu

or Visit *International Programs* at <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/>

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
to the Tulane Summer in Costa Rica 2010 Program
JUNE 6th - July 9th, 2010**

- A. All application materials must be submitted directly to the following address no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2010 for an early discounted application or by 5:00 p.m. on March 25, 2010 for the regular application.**

Stone Center for Latin American Studies
Jones Hall, Tulane University
New Orleans, LA 70118
TEL 504 862-8629
FAX 504 862-8678
EMAIL nporto@tulane.edu

- B. Please review the checklist before submitting your application for the program and sign the following:**

Enclosed are the following documents:

- _____ Completed Application Form (including Statement of Purpose)
_____ Recommendation Forms (2 needed – can be emailed to Natalia Porto)
_____ Current Official Academic Transcript
_____ Application Fee of \$200 (check or money order payable to Tulane University)

I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure the delivery of any documents missing at the current time in order for my application to be considered. I also understand that application fee of \$200 is non-refundable. I understand that I must pay the program balance upon acceptance into the program.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
to the Tulane Summer in Costa Rica 2010 Program
(cont.)**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name (last, first): _____

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passport Number: _____ Passport Expiration Date: _____

Issuing Country of Passport: _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Current Phone Number: _____ Valid Until: _____

Current Email Address: _____ Valid Until: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax or Email: _____

If your parent/guardian is a Tulane employee, will you be paying for the program through the Tulane Tuition Waiver Program? Not applicable Yes No

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

If you are a Tulane student, what school are you at? _____

If not a Tulane student, which university do you attend? _____

What is your cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) as of the Fall 2009 semester? _____

(if you are not on a 4.0 scale, please provide an explanation of the system at your school)

What is (are) your major(s)? _____

What is (are) your minor(s)? _____

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
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(cont.)**

What academic year are you in? How many semesters do you have left to graduate?

Have you previously studied Spanish? *yes* *no*

If yes, please elaborate on number of Spanish courses taken and at which level.

Have you previously participated in a study abroad program? *yes* *no*

If yes, please identify the program name, country, and date of participation

How did you hear about our program?

Please provide the names of the two people submitting letters of recommendation:

1. _____
2. _____

Applicant's Last Name: _____

Statement of Purpose:

Please describe, in one paragraph, why you are applying to this program. Be sure to include your interests in the topics presented in the course work: Central American politics, tropical biology, and/or ecology, environmental studies, etc.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMISSION
to the Tulane Summer in Costa Rica 2010 Program**

STUDENT APPLICANT: This form must be completed by the person recommending you for this program. Please write your name and social security number in the space provided below before giving this form to the person filling it out. The completed form should be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered together with your application or you can ask your recommender to send it directly to Natalia Porto at the Stone Center by February 25, 2010 for an early application and March 25, 2010 for the regular application.

Student Name: _____

Social Security Number: _____

REFERENCE PERSON: Please place the completed form in an envelope, sign it across the seal and return either to the applicant or Natalia Porto at the *Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Jones Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118*. If you are Tulane Faculty and Staff, you can email your recommendation for admission to Natalia Porto at nporto@tulane.edu. (This recommendation will remain confidential and will be used by the program staff only in its procedures relative to admission to the Tulane Summer in Costa Rica program).

Please address the following:

- How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
- What are the applicant's qualifications for this particular program?
- Please comment on attributes such as motivation, adaptability, intellect, and maturity.
- If possible, please comment on applicant's scholarship and preparation in Central American politics, tropical biology, and/or ecology, environmental studies, etc.
- Please sign and date the form.
- Please give your full name and title/position.

Please feel free to use the space provided or attach your comments to this form.

Applicant's Last Name: _____

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