EXPLORING STEM EDUCATION
IN COSTA RICA

Maymester Study Abroad Program: March 12–20, 2015

SPONSORED BY THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

THE PROGRAM
With the increasing number of immigrants, specifically Spanish-speakers, to the US and Georgia, it is crucial for educators to develop a better understanding of how culture influence teaching and learning in the classroom. This understanding is particularly important in STEM fields which are often thought to be culturally neutral. Unfortunately, current trends indicate that students of color, poor students, and English Language Learners are often marginalized in the STEM classroom. That said, the purpose of this course is to guide students in exploring Costa Rica’s rich culture and unique educational system via a brief but meaningful cultural immersion experience that takes advantage of the rich STEM resources of the country to build students’ STEM and STEM pedagogy understandings.

Because education is of utmost importance to the citizens of Costa Rica and this country boasts of a high literacy rate, this course not only offers a unique opportunity to exchange and share ideas but also emphasize learning from global partners (i.e., Costa Rican teachers, students, and educators) in education.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Participants will stay in a mix of hotel or dormitory rooms. Participants will share rooms with one or two other students.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION
Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations during their study abroad experience should discuss these needs with the Program Director and the Office of Disability Services at the time of application.

ELIGIBILITY
The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students who meet all the academic requirements of Georgia State University. Must be at least 18 years of age and a student at Georgia State University. Program size is limited and participation is contingent upon acceptance by the Program Director.

Tentative Itinerary

March 12: Arrival in Costa Rica
March 13: Visit to the United Nations mandated University of Peace, Santa Ana Conservation, and United World College of Costa Rica
March 14: UWCCR to observe and participate in lessons
March 15: Drive to UGA campus in San Luis
March 16-17: Birding, Field Projects, and wildlife observation
March 18: Visit to La Finca Bella Organic Coffee farm and to local school. Open afternoon in Monteverde.
March 19: Drive to Pacific Coast
March 20: Departure

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION
Program Director:
Dr. Brian Williams

Office address:
30 Pryor Street Ste. 350

Telephone:
404-413-8071

E-mail:
bawilli@gsu.edu
CREDITS AND COURSES
Participants who successfully complete the program’s courses will receive (3) semester hours of course credit at Georgia State University. Undergraduate students should register for ECEE 4700 and graduate students should register for ECEE 8000.

APPLICATION INFORMATION
Students interested in applying should find this program’s listing at mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and begin an online application. Transient Students: please see the Transients Student section under the Explore & Apply tab.

International Students at Georgia State who hold F-1 visas must contact the Office of International Student and Scholar Services at 404-413-2070 to discuss the possible implications of study abroad for their immigration status.

COST
Program cost may vary at any time according to currency fluctuations and changing travel arrangements. The program cost is tentatively set at $2,300, PLUS regular Georgia State University tuition and fees. Non-resident/out-of-state students will pay in-state tuition plus a $250 fee in addition to the program cost.

FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS
Georgia State University students are eligible to apply for the IEF Study Abroad Scholarship/Georgia State University Foundation Scholarship and may be eligible to apply for the Global Experience Scholarship. Visit mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and select the Scholarships & Financial Aid tab or call the Study Abroad Programs office at (404) 413-2529 for more information.

Because program size is limited, early application is strongly advised. Individual interviews may be scheduled with students upon receipt of application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2015

Program Cost Includes
Round-trip airfare
All ground transportation, excursions and entrance fees
some meals
Hotels
Health/Evacuation/Repatriation insurance

Program Cost Does Not Include
Georgia State tuition and fees
Special excursions
non program related public transportation
Passport
Personal expenses and excess baggage charges

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
October 15, 2015: $250 Deposit with application
November 2, 2015: $1050 First Payment (To the Program Director)
December 2, 2015: $1000 Second Payment (To the Program Director)
All payments are non-refundable upon receipt

Program Deposit Payments: Participants will pay program deposits by logging into PAWS. Please contact your Program Director to confirm that a Program Deposit Account has been established for this purpose before you attempt to make a payment in PAWS.

Program Payments and Remaining Program Balance: Other than the initial program deposit, all program payments—along with the remaining program balance—will be billed directly to your student account. Please refer to the Academic/Registration calendar for the tuition and fees deadline.