

AQUINAS COLLEGE

Costa Rica

LOCATION: Santa Ana, Costa Rica (approx. 20 minutes from San Jose)

DURATION: Program will coincide roughly with Spring Semester.

ELIGIBILITY: Full-time students, at least sophomore status, completion of SH 201 or its test equivalent, openness to cross-cultural experience and living with Costa Rican families, interest in service learning, and not on academic or discipline-related probation. Students must be eligible to take SH 202 or SH 302 at the time of participation.

HOUSING: Students stay in homes with Costa Rican families in Santa Ana.

ACADEMICS: Students who complete SH201 before participation in the Costa Rica program will receive:

Required:

-SH202 Fourth Semester Spanish	4 credits
-SH260 Tropical Ecology	3 credits
-SH364 Culture and History of CR	4 credits
-SH371 Service Learning: Reforestation	3 credits

Elective:

-SH499 Latin American Dance	1 credit
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Students at the 300 level before the Costa Rica program will receive:

Required:

-SH302 Advanced Spanish Conversation	3 credits
-SH260 Tropical Ecology	3 credits
-SH364 Culture and History of CR	4 credits
-SH371 Service Learning: Reforestation	3 credits

Electives:

-SH499 Latin American Dance	1 credit
-SH328 Costa Rican Literature (prerequisite of SH301)	3 credits

******PLEASE NOTE THAT SH301 IS STILL REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS TO TAKE ON CAMPUS.******

**SERVICE-
LEARNING:**

In accordance with the program focus on the Costa Rican culture and ecology, the primary service-learning opportunity is the Reforestation Project under the guidance of Costa Rican National Ministries and the Santa Ana Municipality. There is

also the opportunity for service-learning with the local Community Action Group and its program of *Cultural Rescue* involving a variety of cultural projects. Additionally, arrangements can be made with any of the following: the Santa Ana school system (elem. to H.S.), Red Cross, National Orphanage, Association for Disabled Persons, the local Retirement Home & Day Center, and the Public Library.

FACULTY: Prof. Jorge Acevedo will serve as the On-Site Director. Local adjunct instructors will be hired according to need.

COST: Aquinas Spring Semester Full-Time Tuition + Estimated Program Fee of \$6000 (Program Fees will be confirmed in acceptance letters)

Program Fee includes:

- Round trip airfare from Grand Rapids to Costa Rica
- Course Instruction
- Room & Board for duration of program
- Excursions

OTHER COSTS: Passport; textbooks; personal spending on gifts, luxury food, travel, etc.; postage; immunizations

STUDENT QUOTE:

"I truly enjoyed my experience studying abroad in Costa Rica. There is nothing better than leaving the cold winter of Michigan to spend a few months in a beautiful, warm climate. I found that staying with a host family was one of my favorite parts of the program because they are so welcoming and I really felt like I learned a lot of about their culture. My other favorite part of the program was that we were able to travel so much. We explored every part of the country, spending time on the beaches, in the rain forests, and the mountains. It is one of the most beautiful places on earth and I would go back in a heartbeat. Studying abroad in Costa Rica has made me a more confident person and also shown me how to enjoy the simple things in life more. I would encourage everyone to study abroad because it is a great opportunity to explore other cultures, make new friends, and have an adventure of a lifetime."

-Sandra Wisniewski

Costa Rica Alumnus 2007

MORE INFORMATION: To watch videos about our international programs or for more information about this program, visit our website: www.aquinas.edu/intprograms

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