## Costa Rica

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### Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Tropical Biology and Conservation</th>
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### Eligibility Requirements

- **Level:** Soph, Jr, Sr, Grad (by departure)
- **GPA:** 2.50 cumulative GPA at the time of application and maintained through departure
- **Coursework:** Completion of 3 biology-related courses by departure is required. Completion of at least one upper-division Biology course is highly recommended. Lab experience and a course in Statistics also recommended.
- **Language:** none
  - A very unique and hands-on experience, this program is best for students who love the outdoors and could manage a nontraditional academic environment and schedule.
  - A positive attitude, flexibility, and teamwork are essential, as students travel and live together as a group for a majority of the program.

### When

- **Fall:** early October to mid-December
- **Spring:** late March to early June

### Cost

- **Fall quarter:** $14,760*
- **Spring quarter:** $15,180**

### Coursework

- **Five courses:**
  1. Tropical Diversity
  2. Tropical Community Ecology
  3. Tropical Biology Research Practicum
  4. Agro-Ecology
  5. Spanish for Biologists
- **Optional:** Nature Filmmaking (1.5 additional units)
- **Units:** 16 UC quarter units
- **Independent research** is an integral part of the Monteverde program. Students will develop a research proposal on a particular aspect of tropical ecology designed around direct field experience. After conducting the fieldwork, they analyze their results, produce a written report and share findings in an oral presentation during the biology symposium at the end of the term.
  - Past research topics have included the effects of forest fragmentation on species richness, bioluminescence of beetles, and detection of anti-fungal agents by leafcutter ants.

### Housing

- Housing changes according to program activities: homestays, residence at the dormitory-style Monteverde Biological Station, and stays at other rural field stations.
- Students live with other UC students.

### Application Deadline

- **Fall:** March 15, 2024
- **Spring:** August 1, 2024

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### Cost Comparison

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<tr>
<th>Estimated Yearly Totals</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>UCSB Year:</td>
<td>$37,710</td>
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<td>UCSB Year ($37,710)†</td>
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<td>Option 1</td>
<td>$39,900</td>
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<td>Costa Rica Fall ($14,760/16 UC Quarter Units)*</td>
<td>UCSB Winter ($12,570)†</td>
<td>UCSB Spring ($12,570)†</td>
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<td>Option 2</td>
<td>$40,320</td>
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<td>UCSB Fall ($12,570)†</td>
<td>UCSB Winter ($12,570)†</td>
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<td>Costa Rica Spring ($15,180/16 UC Quarter Units)**</td>
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†Based on the UCSB Financial Aid Office 2023-24 cost of attendance for undergraduate California residents living off-campus who entered UC fall ’22 (other students must determine their costs based on the cohort-based tuition for the year they entered UC).

*Estimates based on UCEAP 2023-24 costs include: UC tuition, program fees, pre-departure expenses (visa, etc.), UCEAP Travel Insurance, round trip airfare, room & board, books, and other incidental expenses. Fees listed are estimates and are subject to change.

** Estimates based on UCEAP 2022-23 costs include: UC tuition, program fees, pre-departure expenses (visa, etc.), UCEAP Travel Insurance, round trip airfare, room & board, books, and other incidental expenses. Fees listed are estimates and are subject to change.

Not included: Non-Resident Fees; $363/quarter UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UCSHIP) if you have UCSHIP at UCSB. Fees listed are estimates and are subject to change.

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Last edited 9/18/2022