

COSTA RICA

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PROGRAM	<u>Tropical Biology and Conservation</u>
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall: early October to mid-December • Spring: late March to early June
COST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall quarter: \$14,760* • Spring quarter: \$15,180**
COURSEWORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five courses: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tropical Diversity 2. Tropical Community Ecology 3. Tropical Biology Research Practicum 4. Agro-Ecology 5. Spanish for Biologists <i>*Optional: Nature Filmmaking (1.5 additional units)</i> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall: March 15, 2024 • Spring: August 1, 2024

COST COMPARISON

Estimated Yearly Totals	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	
UCSB Year: \$37,7100			UCSB Year (\$37,710) †									
Option 1 \$39,900			Costa Rica Fall (\$14,760/ 16 UC Quarter Units)*			UCSB Winter (\$12,570) †			UCSB Spring (\$12,570) †			
Option 2 \$40,320			UCSB Fall (\$12,570) †				UCSB Winter (\$12,570) †			Costa Rica Spring (\$15,180/ 16 UC Quarter Units)*		

†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.

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.