

College of DuPage/ICISP

Application for Admission Study Abroad in Costa Rica 2009

Sign 2 passport-size photos on the back
and attach here.

Personal Information

Last Name (Please print)		First Name	Middle Initial
Permanent Street Address		City	State ZIP
()			
Home Phone		E-mail Address	
Your Address while at College		City	State ZIP

How long will you be at your college address? Until / /

()	()	()
College Phone	Work Phone	Cell Phone

May we include your address and phone number in the participant directory? yes no

Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female	Date of Birth	Social Security #
	Citizenship	Passport # (can be added later)

Do you already have a passport? Yes No

If you have a passport, is it valid until at least February 3, 2010? Yes No

Academic Information

Current College	Address	Dates of attendance
Previous College	Address	Dates of attendance
Previous College	Address	Dates of attendance
Present Class Standing	<input type="checkbox"/> H.S. Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior <input type="checkbox"/> College Graduate	

Major	Minor	Overall GPA	Spanish GPA
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Academic preparation in Spanish (as of May 2009): High School 0 1 2 3 4 5 (years)

College 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 __ semesters __ quarters

Spanish speaking ability: Excellent Good Fair Poor

Additional Information

Have you ever been on disciplinary probation? Yes No If yes, explain _____

How did you hear of the Costa Rica Program? _____

References

Please list the names and addresses of two current or previous employers/teachers who have known you for at least one year and have observed your relationship with others. *All students must request one recommendation from a recent teacher.*

Name () Phone What is his/her relationship to you?

Address City State ZIP

Name () Phone What is his/her relationship to you?

Address City State ZIP

Signature

To the best of my knowledge the information contained in this application is accurate and complete.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Essay

Please write a one-page essay in response to the following questions. How will the program relate to your personal and/or academic and/or career goals? What cultural experiences are you looking for during your stay abroad? What do you think will be the most challenging aspect (besides learning and using Spanish) of living in another culture? How do you plan to prepare for and get the most out of your study abroad experience? What contributions do you hope to make as a member of the group? Is there anything you would like us to know (likes, dislikes, etc.)?

Name (please print)

College of DuPage
Recommendation Form #1
Study Abroad in Costa Rica 2009

To the Applicant

Fill in your name, address and phone number. Give the form to a current or previous employer/teacher who has known you for at least one year and has observed your relationship with others. **All students must request one recommendation from a recent teacher.**

Name (please print) _____ () _____
 Phone Number _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

As this letter is confidential, please have the person who is writing it send it directly to C.O.D. (address below). You should provide a stamped, addressed envelope to the Evaluator. You may submit the letter yourself if it has been sealed in an envelope and signed on the seal by the Evaluator.

I waive my right to access this letter completed by (Evaluator name:) _____ Yes No

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

To The Evaluator

This candidate's application cannot be completed until we receive this form from you. Please return it promptly in a sealed envelope to the address below.

Study Abroad in Costa Rica is a rigorous program that expects students to learn from academic classes as well as structured and unstructured experiences. Participants are involved in a challenging cross-cultural program, which includes a 4-week period of living as a member of a family.

To succeed, the applicant must be highly motivated and be able to adjust to people of different social, cultural and economic backgrounds – sometimes under difficult emotional and physical conditions. Therefore, we cannot overemphasize the value of your candid appraisal to enable us to determine whether the applicant is ready for this program.

In comparison with other individuals the same age whom you know, please rate the applicant on the following characteristics.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
1. Academic motivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Self-discipline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Emotional maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Independence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Open-mindedness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Sense of humor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Physical stamina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Ability to function as a member of a group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Ability to adjust to and cope with unusual/uncomfortable situations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Good ambassador for College / U.S.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Have you ever had any reason to be concerned about this person's alcohol or drug use? Yes No

13. This candidate has signed a statement indicating that if he/she is mid-level or above in Spanish language, she/he will use Spanish all the time while in Costa Rica, including with the Directors and the other students in the group.

How well do you feel the candidate will adhere to this? Very Well Well Poorly Not at all

14. Would you enjoy having the applicant:
 A: live in your home for a month? Yes No

B: as a member of a group for which you are responsible? Yes No

15. In your opinion, does this applicant have a clear motivation for studying abroad and does he/she have the ability and maturity to achieve these goals? (Please comment on the back of this form)

16. How long and to what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

 Name (Please print) _____ Phone Number _____ Date _____

 Position _____ Address _____

Signature
Please mail form to: College of DuPage Costa Rica Program, Field and Interdisciplinary Studies, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

College of DuPage
Recommendation Form #2
Study Abroad in Costa Rica 2009

To the Applicant

Fill in your name, address and phone number. Give the form to a current or previous employer/teacher who has known you for at least one year and has observed your relationship with others. **All students must request one recommendation from a recent teacher.**

Name (please print) _____ () _____
 Phone Number _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

As this letter is confidential, please have the person who is writing it send it directly to C.O.D. (address below). You should provide a stamped, addressed envelope to the Evaluator. You may submit the letter yourself if it has been sealed in an envelope and signed on the seal by the Evaluator.

I waive my right to access this letter completed by (Evaluator name:) _____ Yes No

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

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2. Self-discipline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Emotional maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Independence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Open-mindedness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Sense of humor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Physical stamina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Ability to function as a member of a group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Ability to adjust to and cope with unusual/uncomfortable situations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Good ambassador for College / U.S.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Have you ever had any reason to be concerned about this person's alcohol or drug use? Yes No

13. This candidate has signed a statement indicating that if he/she is mid-level or above in Spanish language, she/he will use Spanish all the time while in Costa Rica, including with the Directors and the other students in the group.

How well do you feel the candidate will adhere to this? Very Well Well Poorly Not at all

14. Would you enjoy having the applicant:
 A: live in your home for a month? Yes No

B: as a member of a group for which you are responsible? Yes No

15. In your opinion, does this applicant have a clear motivation for studying abroad and does he/she have the ability and maturity to achieve these goals? (Please comment on the back of this form)

16. How long and to what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

 Name (Please print) _____ Phone Number _____ Date _____

 Position _____ Address _____

Signature
Please mail form to: College of DuPage Costa Rica Program, Field and Interdisciplinary Studies, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Housing Preferences Form

Study Abroad in Costa Rica 2009

Make a copy for your records. Return original with application.

Name () Phone Number Daytime () Evening

Housing

Preference will be considered, but cannot be guaranteed. Circle your preferences if they are important to you:

Roommate

Host Family

smoking non-smoking

smoking non-smoking

messy neat

pet O.K. no pets

noisy quiet

morning person night person

punctual not punctual

Any specific dietary requirements:

Give us **three adjectives** that you feel best describe you:

Purpose

The Liberal Arts Division and Field and Interdisciplinary Studies at College of DuPage (C.O.D.) in association with the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP) announces this year's Summer Study Abroad, a five-week program in Language and Culture. The purpose of the program is to provide an integrated approach that combines intensive language study and cultural immersion through homestay and cultural excursions. This combination offers students an opportunity to study the Spanish language and acquire first-hand knowledge of the people and culture of Costa Rica.

Costa Rica and San José

Costa Rica has an area of only 19,575 square miles (roughly the size of West Virginia or Vermont and New Hampshire combined), but since it ranges in altitude from sea level to nearly 13,000 feet, it is a continent in miniature. There are rain forests, cloud forests, mangroves, jungles, deserts, volcanoes and beaches, more than 8,000 species of plants and more than 800 species of birds, more than in all of the U.S. and Canada combined.

In a part of the world where rebellion, repression and extreme poverty seem to be endemic, Costa Rica stands out because of the absence of these social changes. It has traditionally been one of the most stable and democratic republics in Latin America. Having celebrated more than 100 years of free and democratic elections and more than 50 years of having abolished its army, Costa Rica can be described as an orderly and friendly country with the highest standard of living in Central America, a good health care system and a literacy rate of over 96 percent.

San José, the capital, is the cultural center of the country, with many museums and theaters. Since the city is situated at 3,800 feet above sea level, its 1,000,000 inhabitants enjoy year-round daytime temperatures in the 70s.

Admission Requirements

The program is open to serious students, teachers, and others who have a strong interest in immersing themselves in another culture. Applicants are required to obtain a physician's approval as part of the application process. There will be a personal interview to determine the applicant's maturity, ability to adapt to a different environment, and function successfully

as a member of the group. The successful completion of the application process is required for admission to the program. College students must also present evidence of a 2.75 GPA. If an applicant has special needs, the program will attempt to make whatever reasonable accommodations are possible, but as in many developing countries, it may be difficult to travel in Costa Rica.

Language Classes

All students are required to enroll in a Spanish Language class. Language classes will be held at Forester Instituto Internacional. They will meet from 8:15 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Classes will accommodate students at any level: Beginning I and II, Mid-level I and II and Advanced I and II. However, students who have already studied Spanish one year in college or two years in high school will benefit more from the program. In the language classes, conversation together with grammar is stressed in the small class setting.

Prior to the beginning of classes, all students will be tested and placed at the appropriate level. Changes can be made if a student progresses at a faster rate or shows different learning needs.

Culture and Civilization of Costa Rica

All students are required to enroll in this class. The course of study covers the geography, history, political and social institutions and the art and architecture of Costa Rica. The first sessions will be held prior to departure at College of DuPage on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In Costa Rica, the course will continue with guided cultural excursions to theaters, museums and other places of interest that are integral components of this class, and therefore, attendance is required. A short written report on each visit is also required.

Faculty and Staff

All language classes will be taught by faculty members at Forester Instituto Internacional.

The Culture and Civilization of Costa Rica class will be team-taught in Spanish and English by College of DuPage faculty members who are Directors of the program. The Directors are available daily to counsel, supervise and assist students.

Town Meetings

Time will be set aside for the purpose of discussing interests, impressions and reactions to Costa Rican culture.

Credits

Upon successful completion of classes, students will receive credit as follows: Spanish 1840 (Beginning, Mid-level or Advanced), 4 semester credit hours, and History 1820 (Culture and Civilization of Costa Rica), 3 semester credit hours.

Students from other colleges which are not ICISP members are advised to clear all courses with their home school before enrolling in the program if they wish to receive academic credit.

Grades

Instructors at Forester Instituto Internacional will assign the grade for the language class. The Directors will assign the Culture and Civilization class grade. Grades will be submitted after return from Costa Rica.

Forester Instituto Internacional

Founded in 1979, the Institute provides instruction in Spanish in a warm, congenial atmosphere. It is located in a residential area on the east side of San José in a section called Los Yoses, a 20-minute walk from downtown. Its instructors are all native speakers with university degrees and experience in teaching Spanish as a second language.

Housing and Meals

Students will be housed in carefully selected Costa Rican homes in double occupancy rooms. They will be provided with breakfast and dinner and laundry service during the homestay period. This arrangement provides the opportunity for the student to continue practicing Spanish and to share the everyday life of the "ticos." Families are chosen for their friendliness and helpfulness. Board in the families is good and food and water are sanitary and safe. Except in remote areas, the water in Costa Rica is drinkable. The homes are near transportation to class. A few may be within walking distance. Lunch is not provided but there are many excellent places to eat in Los Yoses, close to the location of Forester Instituto Internacional.

Activities, Field Trips and Excursions

Activities specified in the program schedule are included in the price of the program. Out of pocket expenses are indicated on the daily calendar by the following symbol \$.

Program Cost

The total fee will be \$3,049 plus tuition. Many types of financial aid can be applied to study abroad. For information on aid available to College of DuPage students, contact the Directors (630-942-3937 / 2791), the Field and Interdisciplinary Studies office, (630) 942-2356, or the Financial Aid office (630) 942-2304.

The program fee includes:

- Round trip airfare from Chicago
- Hotel accommodations on included excursions
- Double occupancy homestay
- Breakfast and dinner during homestay
- Application fee
- Full-time administrative staff
- Transfers to and from the airport in San José
- Admissions and excursions listed as included in the cost of the program
- Textbooks for the language classes at Forester

Not included in the program fee:

- College of DuPage tuition for 7 credits
- Passport fees (approximately \$90)
- Visa fees (only if not a U.S. citizen)
- International Student Identification Card (approximately \$22)
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses
- Telephone calls
- Lunches and other meals while not in homestay
- Costa Rican departure tax (approx. \$27)
- Checked baggage (1st/\$15 2nd/\$25)

Optional excursions

Information will be provided on a variety of optional excursions that **are not included in the price of the program.**

Approximate prices for some typical excursions:

- Rain Forest Aerial Tram (\$85)
- Island Cruise (\$100)
- 2-Day Monteverde Cloud Forest (\$150)
- 2-Day Tortuguero National Park (\$200)

5 Steps to Study Abroad

Step 1: **APPLY**

Fill out the Application Packet and send it to:

Costa Rica Program
Field and Interdisciplinary Studies
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6599

Step 2: **INTERVIEW**

Upon receipt of the 2009 Costa Rica Summer Study Abroad completed application packet, the applicant will be contacted to schedule a 30-minute interview with the program directors. The application packet includes:

- Application form
- Essay
- Two recommendation forms
- Two passport photos (signed on the back)
- Housing preferences form
- Official transcript (non-C.O.D. students only)

Step 3: **REGISTER**

If accepted into the program, go to the Registration Office at College of DuPage or call (630-942-2377). Do **NOT** use the automated way of registering. You **must speak to a person**. Ask to register for the Costa Rica Program. Give the correct code below and please make a note of this code, as you will need it later. Spring Code # 36552

Please note: Non-C.O.D. students must also complete the *C.O.D. Admission Form* and submit it at time of registration with the \$10 application fee (\$20 as of 10/21/2008).

Step 4: **PAY**

After you have registered, pay your \$500 deposit through the Cashier's Office. You may pay by check or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover).

Make check payable to College of DuPage.

Write on check: Costa Rica Program, your phone #, and if somebody else will sign the check, include your name. Mail or take the check to: Cashier's Office, College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6599

Questions regarding payment should be directed to the Cashier's Office (630) 942-2206.

Step 5: **SUBMIT FINAL PAPERWORK**

Upon acceptance into the program, students will receive and be required to submit the following:

- Signed statement regarding the use of Spanish
- Signed student conduct agreement
- Signed general agreement
- Signed sexual harassment form
- Release agreement
- Physician's statement
- Proof of medical insurance (photocopy) that is valid outside the United States
- Emergency info sheet
- Medical insurance info sheet
- Travel insurance waiver

Registration for classes is separate from registration for the program. You will be registered for classes at a later date.

Remaining Payments

Make all payments directly to the Cashier's Office following the directions above. It is very important that your payments arrive on time and that you pay **exactly** the correct amount each time.

First payment: Due March 1, 2009
(\$850)

Second payment: Due April 1, 2009
(\$850)

Third payment: Due May 1, 2009
(\$849)

Late Payments

Participants who fall behind in their payments by more than one week will be **assessed \$15** for each late payment.

Late Applicants

We welcome students beyond the application deadline if space is available. However, additional charges may apply. Students enrolling late must pay the application fee and the total amount due up to that point when they apply.

Changes in Prices

The program fees are based on air and land rates in effect at the time of writing (October 2008) and are subject to change without notice, due to possible increases in the cost of air transportation or land arrangements, devaluation of currencies or other reasons not under the control of College of DuPage.

Withdrawals and Refund Policy

- Notification of withdrawal must be in writing.
- Claims for refunds must be in writing.
- The \$500 application fee is non-refundable unless the applicant is not accepted into the program.
- If a participant's withdrawal request is received more than 50 days prior to departure, he/she will receive a full refund, less \$250.
- If he/she withdraws fewer than 50 days prior to departure, he/she will receive a partial refund, but the amount withheld will be at least \$620 and may be considerably more.

- If a participant's withdrawal request is received more than 50 days prior to departure, he/she will receive a full refund, less \$250.
- If he/she withdraws fewer than 50 days prior to departure, he/she will receive a partial refund, but the amount withheld will be at least \$620 and may be considerably more.
- No refunds after 30 days prior to departure.
- Due to special contracts and conditions, no refunds will be given under any circumstances for unused meals, accommodations, land transportation or other activities once the trip has begun. Substitutions are not allowed.
- We recommend the purchase of Trip Cancellation Insurance.

Other Information

International Student ID Card

All participants will be required to obtain an International Student ID card (approx. cost \$22). Basic emergency medical insurance is provided and occasionally bearers are entitled to discounts. College of DuPage will provide application forms. Non-COD students please visit <http://www.myisic.com/MyISIC/>

Transportation

Air transportation is provided by regularly scheduled and approved airlines. No changes or deviations in itinerary/schedule are allowed. All participants must travel together as a group to and from Costa Rica, departing from and returning to Chicago. Trip extensions are not allowed.

Tickets

The Directors will have participants' tickets.

Passport

Each participant must have a valid passport that does not expire for at least 6 months from the anticipated return date to the U.S. Participants are responsible for obtaining their own passports. To obtain a passport, one can apply at the nearest central post office in your own town.

Passports must be applied for as soon as a participant is accepted into the program.

<http://travel.state.gov/passport/>

Visa

U.S. citizens do not need a visa to travel to Costa Rica. Only participants who are not U.S. citizens may need one. Be sure to let us know at the time of application if you are not a U.S. citizen.

Immunizations

No special immunizations are required for travel to Costa Rica. However, whether traveling or staying at home, it is wise to have an up-to-date tetanus inoculation (no more than 10 years before return to U.S.) Each participant should check with her/his personal physician for additional confirmation or suggestions regarding personal health needs.

Insurance

All participants in the program will have basic emergency medical insurance through the required International Student ID Card. However, in case of any major occurrence, this would not be sufficient. Therefore, all participants are required to have additional medical insurance, which is valid outside the United States and to show proof of such insurance.

Insurance can also be purchased to provide protection against cancellations and lost or damaged baggage. We suggest trip or cancellation insurance to cover the cost of the program if you must cancel or interrupt your trip due to illness or other reasons.

Flight insurance can also be purchased if desired.

Photos

You will need two passport photos which must be submitted with your application. In addition, if you do not already have a valid passport, you will need two more photos for the passport. Photos can be taken at Walgreens and other discount stores.

Clothing

It is difficult to provide a complete list of precisely what to pack, but a list to use as a guideline will be provided at a later date. You do not need as much clothing as you might think. It is not wise to purchase a new wardrobe because clothing gets harsh treatment when traveling. Be sure you have comfortable walking shoes. Do pack an umbrella. The month of June can be quite rainy. Temperatures in San José will be in

the 70s by day. At the coast the temperature can be in the 90s.

Linens and towels are provided by the family.

Money Matters

We recommend at least \$100 to \$150 per week for spending money (lunches, incidentals, museum visits, theaters, concerts, etc.) plus more for when we are on excursions outside the homestay and if you plan to participate in optional trips.

Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in Costa Rica. Each participant should have a credit card (Visa or MasterCard) with his/her name on it in order to cover medical emergencies, which must be paid for in advance even with medical insurance. However, do not take extra credit cards, such as cards for local stores or oil company cards, as you will have no need for them. There are automatic teller machines in Costa Rica, which accept *most* ATM cards.

Mail, fax and e-mail

It takes a week or more for mail from the U.S. to reach Costa Rica. It is very important to remember this during the last two weeks. If necessary, you may have mail sent to you at Forester Instituto Internacional, Apdo 6945, 1000 San José, Costa Rica.

You may receive faxes at the Forester Instituto Internacional. The cost is approximately \$1 per page. The FAX number is 011-506-2225-9236. You can send faxes from the post office in San Pedro and other places in San José. Faxes cannot be sent from Forester Instituto Internacional.

There are five computers at Forester you can use for e-mail, and there are many inexpensive Internet cafés in San José.

Rules of Behavior

These rules have not been drawn up to restrict freedom, but to ensure that the program is successful. The participants are subject at all times to the guidance and authority of the Directors who have the right to enforce appropriate standards of conduct. The Directors reserve the right to dismiss any participant for reasons which appear to them to be valid in their sole judgment. The Directors shall have the right to withdraw a student from the program without refund or credit if his/her conduct causes serious inconvenience for the rest of the group or for

any actions or conduct, which the Directors consider to be incompatible with the interest, harmony, comfort and welfare of others or the reputation of the program. The use of illegal drugs and/or the excessive use of alcoholic beverages are not allowed and are grounds for termination of participation in the program. Each

student will be required to indicate his/her compliance with these rules by signing a separate Student Conduct Agreement. The judgment of the Directors will be final in all matters of discipline. Students may not withdraw from classes without consulting with the Directors.

COSTA RICA SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM 2009

Current Faculty

All language classes will be taught by faculty members at Forester Instituto Internacional. The Culture and Civilization of Costa Rica class will be team-taught by several members of the College of DuPage faculty and other visiting scholars, as well as by the Directors of the program, who are also available to counsel, supervise and assist students.

Director

ELIZABETH MARES

Professor of Spanish
College of DuPage

As assistant professor of Spanish at the College of DuPage, Mares holds a B.A. in French, a B.A. in Spanish with Honors, and a M.A. in Spanish from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mares served as the co-director of the Costa Rica Program in 2005, 2007 and 2008. She has also studied abroad in both Paris and Guadalajara, Mexico. Mares is currently the co-adviser for the College of DuPage Spanish Club, Casa de Amigos and the French and Spanish language coordinator for the Center for Independent Learning. Mares is also an active member of the Latin American Studies Committee. In addition to her academic interests, Professor Mares enjoys international cinema and tennis.

Director

LAURA ORTIZ

Professor of Spanish
College of DuPage

As Assistant Professor of Spanish instructor at College of DuPage, Ortiz holds a B.A. in Spanish from Iowa State University, a M.A. degree in Spanish from Roosevelt University, and is currently working on her Ed.D. in Higher Education and Organizational Change at Benedictine University. Ortiz served as the co-director of the Costa Rica Program in 2007 and 2008. She has also studied abroad in both Mexico and Costa Rica. Ortiz is currently the co-advisor for the College of DuPage Spanish Club, Casa de Amigos and is active on the Latin America Studies Committee. In addition to her academic interests, Ortiz enjoys travel and outdoor adventures.

One other faculty director will also assist from an ICISP member college.