How to Use this Guide

Be proactive and start planning early. This guide contains preapproved course listings for the USAC program in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. What type of people chose this program? Students who are passionate about Spanish, Ecology, and Latin American Studies. Visit the USAC website for pictures and more detailed descriptions of the program, or stop by the International Learning Opportunities Office today to get more information. This guide, along with your BSU Academic Advisement Report and the USAC catalog, provides the tools you need to plan and apply for a program. Involve your major/minor advisor as you choose a program and prepare for your time abroad so that you do not prolong graduation. Course descriptions are available at: http://usac.unr.edu.

Extracurricular Opportunities

**Volunteering**
USAC students are encouraged to actively participate and give back to their communities through volunteering.

**Internships**
Qualified students of the Puntarenas program majoring in Biology may apply for internships that are designed to complement the academic program. USAC will attempt to place interested students in internships that focus on the marine coastal environment in Puntarenas.

Field Trips
You are encouraged to participate in the included program field trips to further explore the culture of Costa Rica.

Fall trips: Canopy and Crocodile Field Trip, Arenal Volcano.
Spring trips: Curú Wildlife Refuge and Tortuga Island, Monteverde Cloud Forest.

Optional Tours
Fall semester: Caribbean and Bocas del Toro, Panama Tour
Spring semester: Northern Costa Rica and Southern Nicaragua Tour

The University
The USAC Puntarenas Center is located in a building overlooking the ocean and situated only a few blocks...
from downtown Puntarenas, where students can find markets, internet cafés, banks, and a variety of stores. The Center includes offices, classrooms, multimedia facilities, a computer lab, and a courtyard with wireless internet access. The Center also hosts conversation partner meetings and other group activities.

City Life

Overview
Puntarenas (pop. 100,000) offers a small beach town environment where you'll be able to practice your Spanish regularly and immerse yourself in local culture. From Puntarenas, you can travel up and down the coast to world-class surfing beaches, nature reserves and plantations. This central Pacific region offers something for every outdoor enthusiast. Students find buying a used bike upon arrival is the easiest form of transportation for getting around Puntarenas.

A Few Famous Places
Paseo de los Turistas, Mal Pais Beach, San Lucas and Playa NaranjoForest Reserve Santa Elena, Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and the Carara National Park, etc.

Registration Information

Specialty programs are designed and operated by USAC. Students who participate in a Specialty program will be enrolled at Boise State University while abroad and will not need to transfer credits after returning. Most USACE Specialty courses have a Boise State equivalent course. Work with your academic advisor when deciding on courses to satisfy major requirements, and with a staff member at the International Learning Opportunities office for course registration and syllabi inquiries.

Course descriptions are available at http://usac.unr.edu. Use the USAC program search to see what other programs may also be of interest to you!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>USAC Course Title</th>
<th>BSU Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3 SPANISH 439 or 412</td>
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<td>Advanced Spanish II</td>
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<td>Advanced Spanish Writing and Stylistics</td>
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<td>Dances of Latin America</td>
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<td>Elementary Spanish I</td>
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<td>Elementary Spanish II</td>
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<td>Government and Politics in Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Spanish I</td>
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<td>International Political Economy: North-South Relations</td>
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<td>Latin America and its Cultures</td>
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<td>Latin America and its Cultures Field Study</td>
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<td>Latin American Cuisine</td>
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### What Will I Gain from Studying Abroad?

#### Personal Benefits
- experience with different cultures
- a better grip on foreign affairs
- friends from around the world
- a new understanding of your own culture
- tales of adventure to last a lifetime

#### Career Enhancement
- experience with cross cultural communication
- possible fluency in a foreign language
- understanding of cultural differences
- openness to new ideas/unfamiliar situations
- increased interest in academic study/career path

### What's the Next Step?

1. Meet with a study abroad advisor in the International Learning Opportunities office.
2. Meet with your major/minor advisor to go over your long-term plans and goals for studying abroad.
3. Consult the USAC catalog or website as you complete your study abroad planning sheet.
4. Complete your application by the deadline.
5. Apply for or renew your passport.
6. Attend information sessions and workshops on topics such as financial aid, visas, and other useful information (ask the ILO office for more information).
7. Start packing!

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**International Learning Opportunities**

Simplot/Micron building, room 101 (west of the old Business Building)

Telephone: (208) 426-2630

Email: studyabroad@boisestate.edu