



Education Abroad Advisement Guide: Puntarenas, Costa Rica

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>.

Studying Abroad in Puntarenas, Costa Rica: *Spanish, Ecological and Latin American Studies*

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 Naranjo Forest 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!

<http://usac.unr.edu/programs/search>.

USAC Course Title		BSU Equivalent
Advanced Spanish I	3	SPANISH 439 or 412
Advanced Spanish II	3	SPANISH 439 or 412
Advanced Spanish Writing and Stylistics	3	SPANISH 439
Business Spanish	3	SPANISH 305
Dances of Latin America	1	KINACT 122
Elementary Spanish I	4	SPANISH 101
Elementary Spanish II	4	SPANISH 102
Government and Politics in Latin America	3	
Intermediate Spanish I	3	SPANISH 201
Intermediate Spanish II	3	SPANISH 202
International Political Economy: North-South Relations	3	SPANISH 439
Internship	1/2/3	
Introduction to Conservation Biology	3	
Introduction to Conservation Biology Field Study	1	
Introduction to Tropical Marine Biology	3	
Introduction to Tropical Marine Biology Field Study	1	
Latin America and its Cultures	3	SPANISH 377
Latin America and its Cultures Field Study	1	FORLNG 239
Latin American Cuisine	1	

Latin American Social Revolutions	3	FORLNG 439
Plants and People	3	
Spanish Composition I	3	SPANISH 439
Spanish Composition II	3	SPANISH 239
Survey of Art II: Colonial Period to the Present	3	SPANISH 439
Survey of Latin American Literature I	3	SPANISH 403
Survey of Latin American Literature II	3	SPANISH 404
Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Cinema	3	SPANISH 490
Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Novel	3	SPANISH 430
Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Short Story and Essay	3	SPANISH 430
Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Theatre	3	SPANISH 430
Spanish Conversation and Oral Skills	2	SPANISH 239 or 439
Survey of Art I: Pre-Columbian Art and Cultures	3	SPANISH 439

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!

International Learning Opportunities

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

Telephone: (208) 426-2630

Email: studyabroad@boisestate.edu