

# BIOL- 4750/6750 Tropical Ecology and Sustainability STUDY ABROAD - COSTA RICA

Spring 2020 Feb27- Mar 9

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Sponsors: Department of Biology, USU Ecology Center, USU Honor Program, Quinney College of Natural Resources and USU Global Engagement Office



## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Designed for students seeking a learning opportunity to work on environmental issues in the tropics
- Explore the ecology of tropical systems, the history and contribution of research, and the challenges they face in the context of climate change, food production and development.



## WHY COSTA RICA?

- is a biodiversity hotspot that offers a unique opportunity to study tropical ecology
- A species corridor that connects North and South America
- Around 25% of the country is under National Parks and protected areas
- Study the ecology of tropical systems and the challenges

## LA SELVA BIOLOGICAL STATION



La Selva Biological Station is a training and research site for numerous professional scientists



The species richness of La Selva is outstanding, with more than 2,077 species of plants; 125 species of mammals (72 bats sps); 470 species of birds; 48 amphibian species; 87 species of reptiles; 45 species of freshwater fish; and tens of thousands of insects, arachnids, and other arthropods.



## Discover Costa Rica...! Discover the tropical rain forest!



## EARTH UNIVERSITY



- EARTH university offers a good learning environment for American students
- Holds only undergraduate students from more than 40 countries
- Offers an unique opportunity for learning about the tropics



...meet *Theobroma cacao*, the chocolate plant..!



...meet *Coffea arabica*, the coffee beans..!



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