

Costa Rica

UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective of the Advising Notes Document

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student's *decision to apply* for an EAP program. The document is *not* a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. The best source of detailed program information is always the [UCEAP Program Guide](#) from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Advisor Contact Information

For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising>

Competitiveness of the Program

Even though we have been able to accommodate all qualified applicants on the program for the past two years, the Costa Rica Tropical Biology and Conservation Studies program can sometimes be impacted due to the small group size the program can accommodate. If we find that the program is impacted after we have received all applications on the deadline, the advisor will be in touch to discuss alternative options.

In the event that the program is impacted, you can likely obtain permission to apply for another EAP program as a back up. There is also an [independent study abroad](#) program in Monteverde offered by [CIEE](#) which could serve as another back-up option.

Course Articulation

Courses on this program have been articulated by the Integrative Biology and Genetic & Plant Biology departments for satisfying certain requirements in the major.

Integrative Biology: Biol 101 Tropical Diversity (2.7units) counts towards Group B. Biol 102 Tropical Community Ecology (2.7 units) and Biol 188 Tropical Research Practicum (2.7units) count as Group B with Field Lab.

Genetic & Plant Biology: Biol 101 Tropical Diversity (2.7units) and Biol 102 Tropical Community Ecology (2.7 units) counts as Genetics and Plant Biology major upper division elective courses.

Selection Criteria

There are a variety of criteria used to select students on this program. Among them are:

- Prior Coursework (see Course Prerequisites section below)
- GPA
- Statement of Purpose: this is your opportunity to convey what you hope to gain academically, personally and professionally from the program and why it is a good fit for you.

Course Prerequisites

1. **Four Biological Sciences courses, at least one of which must be upper division.** This can be fulfilled by completing a combination of any of the following:

- AP Biology test score of 4 or greater (students who fulfill this requirement all with courses will be given priority for selection to the program).

Lower Division Courses

- Biology 1A: General Biology
- Biology 1B: General Biology
- Biology 11: Introduction to the Science of Living Organisms
- IB 41: Marine Mammals
- IB 42: Primate Biology
- IB C82: Oceans
- IB 87: Introduction to Research Methods in Biology
- ESPM 2: The Biosphere
- ESPM 6: Environmental Biology
- ESPM 44: Biological Control
- PMB 40: The (Secret) Life of Plants

Upper Division Courses

- IB 102LF: California Plants
- IB 103LF: Invertebrate Zoology
- IB 104LF: Natural History of Vertebrates
- IB C107L: Principles of Plant Morphology
- IB C110L: Biology of Fungi
- IB 113L: Paleobiology: Ecology & Evolution
- IB 117L&LF: Medical Ethnobotany
- IB 135: Mechanics of Organisms
- IB 144: Animal Behavior
- IB 146LF: Behavioral Ecology
- IB C149/L: Molecular Ecology
- IB 151/L: Plant Physiological Ecology
- IB 152: Environmental Toxicology
- IB 153LF: Ecology
- IB 154/L: Plant Ecology
- IB C155, also ANTHRO C129D: Holocene Paleoecology
- IB C156, Principles of Conservation Biology
- IB 157LF: Ecosystems of California
- IB 158 LF: Biology and Geomorphology of Tropical Islands (IB Moorea program)
- IB 162: Ecological Genetics
- IB 166: Evolution Biogeography
- IB 168L: Systematics of Vascular Plants

- IB 173LF: Mammalogy
- IB 174LF: Ornithology
- IB 175LF: Herpetology
- ESPM C103: Conservation Biology
- ESPM 102A: Terrestrial Resource Ecology
- ESPM 110: Primate Ecology
- ESPM 114: Wildlife Ecology
- ESPM 116C: Tropical Forest Ecology
- ESPM 132: Spider Biology
- ESPM 142: Insect Behavior
- ESPM 144: Insect Physiology
- ESPM C149: Molecular Ecology
- PMB C101L: Experimental Plant Biology Laboratory
- PMB C102: Diversity of Plants & Fungi
- PMB 107&107L: Principles of Plant Morphology w/ Laboratory
- PMB C110L Biology of Fungi with Laboratory
- PMB 113: California Mushrooms
- PMB C114 Introduction to Comparative Virology
- PMB 120/L: Biology of Algae
- PMB 180 Environmental Plant Biology

If you have taken another course you believe will satisfy the requirement, please submit the course syllabus to the Costa Rica EAP Advisor and request that the course be reviewed for use as the prerequisite. Please understand that the review process for courses outside of this list can take some time. It is recommended that you complete this step well in advance of your application or course registration period on CalCentral.

Recommended Courses for Selection to Program

Additional coursework in biology, ecology, statistics and scientific writing is recommended.

Curriculum

Because Monteverde is designed as a quarter-long program for UC students, Berkeley students supplement their studies prior to departure with an independent study directed reading course* (BIOL 189: Integrative Biology Supplemental Seminar). This course is completed before the start of the program and concludes with a research paper. Students do not have to be on site in Costa Rica for the Biol 189 course since all work is completed remotely.

Instructions are sent out via email several weeks prior to the start of your program.

All students take the following six courses:

*Integrative Biology Supplemental Seminar	BIOL 189	2.0 units
Tropical Diversity	BIOL 101	2.7 units
Tropical Community Ecology	BIOL 102	2.7 units
Tropical Biology Research Practicum	BIOL or ENVS 188	2.7 units
Agro-Ecology	ENVS 105	1.3 units
Spanish (level will depend on placement)	SPAN 2, 100 or 180	1.3 units

Total units for program = 12.7 semester units

The program culminates with an independent research project and research symposium.

Special Demands of the Program

Many days of the Monteverde program are spent on field trips, which include long, often strenuous, hikes. In addition to the homestay, students also live and work side-by-side with 25-35 other UC students in the Monteverde Biological Station. Students should be prepared for the physical challenges as well as residential limitations of the program.

EAP Alums

EAP alumni are one of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the BSA Adviser an email with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.