



SEMESTER & SUMMER PROGRAMS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY ABROAD

[AUSTRALIA](#)

[BHUTAN](#)

[CAMBODIA](#)

[CHILE](#)

[COSTA RICA](#)

[KENYA](#)

[PANAMA](#)

[PERU](#)

[TANZANIA](#)

[TURKS & CAICOS](#)





BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The active management of the biosphere to ensure the survival of the maximum diversity of genes, species, and ecosystems in a region

CLIMATE CHANGE

Long-term global or regional changes in temperature, precipitation, and other measures of climate, particularly as a result of human activity

COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The collective governance of natural resources by a group of people, which aims to balance equitable, sustained access and environmental conservation goals

LAND USE CHANGE

The factors influencing human alterations to natural and built environments, as well as the environmental impacts of these changes

NATURAL RESOURCE & WATER MANAGEMENT

The strategic management of natural resources such as water, land, plants, and animals to maximize beneficial use for present and future generations

POLLUTION & WASTE MANAGEMENT

The systems and actions required for proper control of waste products and harmful byproducts in order to protect human and environmental health



ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS & JUSTICE

The consideration of ethical and just treatment of all human and non-human stakeholders as part of sustainable development and environmental policymaking



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

A deliberate plan of action taken by a government or organization to address environmental issues such as climate change, wildlife conservation, and development



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The informed management of fishery resources for sustainable economic use and the preservation of healthy ecosystems



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Livelihood strategies that balance people's adaptation to environmental and societal changes with sustainable resource use



TOURISM IMPACTS

The environmental and socioeconomic impacts of tourist activity, especially in places of high biodiversity

READ MORE ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AROUND THE WORLD AT:



fieldstudies.org/issues

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Environmental Issues around the World
- 2 Why SFS?
- 4 Research at SFS
- 5 A Day in the Field
- 8 **AUSTRALIA**
Rainforest Studies
- 10 **BHUTAN**
Himalayan Environment and Development Studies
- 12 **CAMBODIA**
Conservation and Development Studies
- 14 Blog from the Field:
How an Elephant Sneaks up on You
- 16 **CHILE**
Climate Studies
- 18 **COSTA RICA**
Sustainable Development Studies
- 20 **KENYA**
Water and Wildlife Studies
- 22 **PANAMA**
Tropical Island Biodiversity Studies
- 24 Faculty Spotlight:
Dr. Achim Häger
- 25 Meet Our Alumni
- 26 **PERU**
Amazon Studies
- 28 **TANZANIA**
Wildlife Management Studies
- 30 **TURKS AND CAICOS**
Marine Resource Studies
- 32 Admissions, Program Costs & Financial Aid
- 33 #TheSFS

WHY SFS?



THE SFS EXPERIENCE

Nowhere else will you find a study abroad experience like The School for Field Studies – adventurous, invigorating, and fulfilling.

When you study abroad with SFS, you're contributing to a legacy of environmental research and stewardship that spans more than 35 years, encompassing countries as diverse as Cambodia, Kenya, and Costa Rica. Our team of experienced research scientists will push you to get creative as you work to understand the critical environmental issues of our time. Get ready for muddy boots, cold showers, and dirt under your fingernails, because you will be out there *doing* science, not just talking about it in the classroom. And you won't be alone – you'll be joining a group of students who share your passion for creating a more sustainable future.

Our planet is home to an incredible diversity of life and depends on the next generation of environmental leaders to protect its future – **will you be one of them?**

01

02

03

04

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLASSROOM

STUDY IN THE WORLD'S MOST DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEMS

Living in Australia's ancient rainforests, tracking elephants through the Serengeti, or diving among the vibrant coral reefs of the Turks and Caicos Islands, you will find yourself immersed in and captivated by the world's most incredible and complex environments.

As an SFS student, you'll become part of a global community, working to make a difference by better understanding and protecting these ecosystems. With the Amazon rainforest or the floating villages of Cambodia as your classroom, you'll experience the world in ways that aren't possible inside a lecture hall. So join us in the field – but don't forget your sunscreen and binoculars!



WHO WE ARE

EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

Our faculty are skilled teachers, field researchers, and mentors. They are full-time SFS professors with expertise that spans many different fields including ecology, environmental policy, resource management, and socioeconomics.

A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

We build long-term, collaborative relationships in the communities around our Centers and have been rooted in some of these communities for more than 25 years. We develop our research plans based on the environmental issues they face. No matter which program you choose, you'll become part of the community through interactions with local staff on campus, cultural events, environmental education activities, research presentations, or even pickup soccer matches.

OVER 18,000 ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Not only are you heading into the field with a group of passionate environmentalists, but you're joining a network of more than 18,000 alumni with careers in the private sector, government, academia, and environmental NGOs. Recent alumni often present at on-campus events and conferences or build on their research in senior theses or publications in collaboration with their SFS faculty advisors.

WHAT WE DO

SFS STUDENTS *DO* SCIENCE

We've taken scientific learning and reimagined it. Our programs are hands-on, and students actively engage with the ecosystems they study. If we spend the morning discussing an article about the critical issues facing African elephants, we'll spend that afternoon in the field observing those elephants from meters away while collecting data on their resilience to climate change. Rather than a stale classroom lecture on the impacts of coffee farming, we visit Costa Rica's cloud forests to learn from farmers how agriculture can support biodiversity. SFS students *do* science, while engaging in rigorous research about relevant environmental issues.

RELEVANT LOCAL RESEARCH

With ten Centers around the world, our research covers a spectrum of environmental issues. SFS programs provide the foundation for students to critically examine today's environmental issues in an international setting and articulate questions that reflect their complexity. The academics and research at each Center are designed around the issues that are most critical to the local community and surrounding ecosystems – such as marine resource management in the Turks and Caicos Islands or community forestry in Bhutan.

WHERE WE WORK

LIVING OFF THE BEATEN PATH

SFS students, faculty, and staff live and work together at our ten field Centers around the world. Locations range from deep in the heart of the Australian rainforest to the tropical coastline of Panama, and each Center offers its own distinct experience in the surrounding ecosystems and communities. These are not extravagant resort hotels, but then again, you'll be much more than a tourist. Regardless of where you go, you'll become part of a community and discover a lifestyle unlike anything you've ever experienced.

SAFETY IN REMOTE CORNERS OF THE WORLD

When we send a group of students into the field, their safety is our top priority. The SFS Safety and Student Life team is dedicated to providing comprehensive safety and risk management plans in all aspects of our programs, working around the clock to minimize hazards without sacrificing the rugged and awe-inspiring nature of the SFS study abroad experience.



www.fieldstudies.org



BE PART OF SOMETHING GREATER

Through Directed Research, you will conduct hands-on field research in some of the world's most intricate and threatened ecosystems. Your work contributes to a crucial scientific effort toward a more sustainable future.

THE WORK

HANDS-ON RESEARCH IN THE FIELD

At SFS, you're conducting research *in the field* – in incredible ecosystems and dynamic communities around the world. Whether you're surveying the glaciers of Patagonia or laying underwater transects in the Caribbean, you'll experience all the excitement and challenges of field data collection.

LEARNING PRACTICAL SKILLS

The work you do during your time abroad will prepare you for a future career in grad school, STEM, and beyond. From species identification and wildlife monitoring techniques to GIS and stakeholder interviews, the skills you learn at SFS are practical, transferable, and invaluable.

THE PROJECT

EXPERIENCED RESEARCH MENTORS

Field research is complex and challenging – but with the mentorship of our experienced faculty members, you'll have all the tools and support you need to be successful. Each student works directly with a faculty member throughout the entirety of the process from project design to completion.

YOUR PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

Each SFS Center has a strategic research focus which allows our work to expand beyond the scope of one-off projects. Your project is a critical piece of this larger puzzle – you'll design your research question within a framework, giving more context and value to your results.

THE IMPACT

BUILDING A BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

Building a comprehensive body of scientific knowledge is a key step toward a more sustainable future. You're joining scientists around the world working to understand our environment and how it is changing, and in some countries where we operate, you'll even collect baseline data – the first of its kind.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

SFS research is driven by our communities. Our neighbors share their stories, observations, and needs, and in return we provide valuable data to community leaders, local environmental groups, and government agencies, allowing them to make informed and sustainable policy decisions.

DIRECTED RESEARCH

WHAT

Directed Research (SFS 4910) is a 4-credit course that gives you an introduction to conducting scientific research – developing a question, collecting and analyzing data, writing a paper, and presenting your findings

WHEN

The course is offered on all semester programs

FORMAT

Student-designed project carried out under the direction of an SFS faculty mentor

TIMEFRAME

Approximately the last 4-6 weeks of the semester

SAMPLE RESEARCH THEMES

*Climate change resilience • Elephant ecology
Agroforestry • Traditional ecological knowledge
Mountain ecology & conservation • Food security
Coral health • Sustainable ecotourism
Water quality & use • Wildlife conservation*



Directed Research was the most challenging thing I have ever undertaken, but it is a significant personal accomplishment. I have gained a better understanding of myself, what I want in life, and where I am going. I feel better prepared as a burgeoning biologist seeking to study life and ensure its conservation for generations to come.

*Daniel Erickson
University of Wisconsin-Madison*



fieldstudies.org/research

A DAY IN THE FIELD

10:30am

📍 Tanzania

STUDY AFRICAN WILDLIFE UP CLOSE

Embark on a game drive in Serengeti National Park, leaving camp after breakfast in search of lions, elephants, zebras, and wildebeest. Observe these incredible creatures up close while collecting data on their behavior. ▶

1:15pm

📍 Bhutan

HIKE TO AN ANCIENT BUDDHIST MONASTERY

Trek up a winding pathway from the SFS Center to the top of a towering ridgeline to visit Paro Taktsang, the Tiger's Nest Monastery. Here, you'll learn about the long history of Buddhism in Bhutanese culture. ▼

2:50pm

📍 Australia

RESTORE CRITICAL HABITAT IN THE RAINFOREST

Fight back against the threats of development, deforestation, and climate change as you work alongside local volunteers to regenerate important rainforest corridors in North Queensland, Australia. ▼

6:40pm

📍 Cambodia

WATCH THE SUNSET FROM A FLOATING VILLAGE

Catch the sunset from the deck of a floating village hut on Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake, where you'll spend the night. Enjoy a dinner of freshly caught fish with your host family as you learn about local customs and environmental impacts. ▼





A photograph of a dense forest. Tall, slender trees with dark trunks rise from a forest floor covered in green moss and fallen branches. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect. The overall tone is serene and majestic.

**THOSE WHO CONTEMPLATE
THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH
FIND RESERVES OF STRENGTH
THAT WILL ENDURE AS LONG
AS LIFE LASTS.**

- RACHEL CARSON

AUSTRALIA



CENTER FOR RAINFOREST STUDIES

LOCATION

Tropical North Queensland

RESEARCH THEMES

*Climate change resilience • Habitat restoration • Marsupial behavior
Aboriginal ecotourism • Post-logging forest recovery • Forest ecotones*

FIELD SKILLS

*GIS • Species ID and population monitoring • Forest survey methods
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/AUSTRALIA

WHY WE ARE HERE

This is not the Australia you know. Towering strangler fig trees and prehistoric species such as the southern cassowary and salt water crocodile can be found in these ancient rainforests. Far North Queensland is one of the most biodiverse places in the world, preserving more than 500 million years of evolutionary history. It is also home to Earth's largest living organism – the Great Barrier Reef.

Based in this rugged region, SFS conducts field exercises in Australia's legendary forests, with excursions to the edge of the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef. Our research focuses on the environmental threats that have caused rainforest fragmentation, species loss, and reef die-off, and contributes to community efforts to reverse these trends.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

At the end of a narrow, winding road, in the middle of a lush rainforest, lies this remote field station. The 153-acre property is surrounded by protected World Heritage forests, and comes alive at night with the sounds of wildlife. The nearby town of Yungaburra and city of Cairns provide the occasional return to civilization.

- ▶ Group living in 8-person cabins
- ▶ Main building with classroom, lab, and study spaces
- ▶ Student lounge with scenic porch views
- ▶ Covered outdoor dining area, on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Volleyball and extensive trail network for hiking
- ▶ Swimming and running trails at nearby Crater Lake

SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING
RAINFOREST TO REEF

Immerse yourself in the rich biodiversity of the rainforest and learn about ecological resilience in the face of climate change and other environmental threats. Connect rainforest management and conservation issues with downstream impacts on the Great Barrier Reef. Become a part of large-scale restoration ecology experiments and study environmental policy and community conservation approaches while developing skills in field research and data collection.

14

WEEKS

16

CREDITS

JAN 28 - MAY 02, 2019

SEP 02 - DEC 05, 2019



COURSES

SFS 3020	Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values	4 credits
SFS 3690	Rainforest Ecology	4 credits
SFS 3700	Principles of Forest Management	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Explore the world's oldest rainforest – the Daintree – then work alongside citizen volunteers to regenerate critical rainforest habitats.
- ▶ Travel to the Great Barrier Reef to learn about the biological links between rainforest and reef ecosystems.
- ▶ Head out of the rainforest to the edge of the Outback and explore the region's savanna ecosystems and vast limestone caves.

SUMMER

SESSION I RAINFORESTS OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

In this two-country program, you will learn how environmental and social factors have contributed to forest fragmentation in the spectacular, once-vast rainforests of Australia and New Zealand. Compare endangered species management practices, meet with indigenous communities to learn about their natural resource use, and examine ecosystem restoration approaches.

04

WEEKS

04

CREDITS

JUN 03 - JUL 03, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3540 Rainforest Management Studies 4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Learn about the Māori people's connection with nature as you explore the ancient podocarp and Kauri forests of northern New Zealand, which contain trees estimated to be more than 2,000 years old.



SESSION II WATERSHEDS OF THE WET TROPICS

The Great Barrier Reef and the tropical rainforests of northern Australia form a complex, interconnected system. Spend your summer learning about rainforest and watershed management in this verdant region while considering the policies and actions needed to maintain healthy waterways in the face of climate change.

04

WEEKS

04

CREDITS

JUL 08 - AUG 07, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3161 Wet Tropics Watershed Ecology and Conservation 4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Go snorkeling off a Great Barrier Reef island and learn about the links between rainforest restoration and water quality on the reef.

AUSTRALIA

BHUTAN

CAMBODIA

CHILE

COSTA RICA

KENYA

PANAMA

PERU

TANZANIA

TURKS & CAICOS

BHUTAN



CENTER FOR HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

LOCATION

Paro, Western Bhutan

RESEARCH THEMES

*Mountain ecology & conservation • Climate change • River ecosystems
Forest management • Rural-urban migration • Agriculture & food security*

FIELD SKILLS

*Remote sensing and mapping • Species ID • Camera trapping & mist netting
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/BHUTAN

WHY WE ARE HERE

High in the Himalayas sits Bhutan, a small country defined by towering mountains, lush forests, and flowing rivers, and home to endemic species such as the snow leopard, tiger, golden langur, takin, and black-necked crane. The country's unique and well-known philosophy of Gross National Happiness integrates governance with rich cultural traditions, Buddhist principles, and environmental conservation.

As the country begins to modernize rapidly, the people of Bhutan are challenged to sustainably manage their wealth of natural resources in order to preserve biodiversity and secure their own economic futures. SFS works in partnership with the Bhutanese government to provide much-needed data for the creation of sustainable conservation and development policies.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center is located at one end of the stunning Paro Valley, at the base of a towering ridgeline dotted with Buddhist monasteries. Campus is a small cluster of buildings designed in the traditional Bhutanese architectural style. A pleasant 10-minute walk brings you to the markets, shops, and cultural events of Paro Town.

- ▶ Dorm living with 2-4 bunks per room
- ▶ Classroom, library, and computer lab
- ▶ Kitchen and dining hall, on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Student lounge and ping-pong tables
- ▶ Verandas with scenic views of the valley
- ▶ Hiking trails and local roads for running

SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING

HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY IN TRANSITION

Spend a semester in a corner of the Himalayas where few foreigners ever step foot. Trek through remote villages and high mountain passes to experience Bhutan's vibrant culture, Buddhist philosophy, and environmental issues firsthand. Learn about the challenges of maintaining biodiversity and traditional rural lifestyles in a time of transition. Develop skills in field research and data collection, and apply them to a research project on conservation and development issues in Bhutan.

15

WEEKS

18

CREDITS

JAN 28 - MAY 08, 2019

SEP 02 - DEC 11, 2019



COURSES

SFS 2010	Religion and Culture of Bhutan	2 credits
SFS 3040	Political and Socioeconomic Dimensions of Env't	4 credits
SFS 3050	Land Use, Natural Resources, and Conservation	4 credits
SFS 3060	Mountain Ecology	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Embark on a multi-day cultural trek to experience the natural beauty of Bhutan's countryside and the traditional lifestyles of its people.
- ▶ Visit monasteries and take part in unforgettable *tsechus* (festivals) to learn more about Buddhism and Bhutanese culture.
- ▶ Explore Bhutan's diverse range of biomes through trips to Himalayan ridges, the subtropical Punakha and Chukha Valleys, and the alpine meadows of Phobjikha.

SUMMER

SESSION I

FORESTS IN THE LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

Explore the rich culture, biodiversity, and dramatic mountain views of the Bhutanese Himalayas. Spend six weeks surveying forests, visiting ancient shrines, and studying issues of conservation and development in one of the most fascinating countries in the world. Wrap up the summer by designing and conducting a group research project.

06

WEEKS

06

CREDITS

JUN 03 - JUL 11, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3580	Eastern Himalayan Forests and Rural Livelihoods	6 credits
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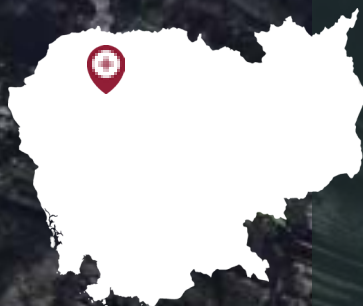


PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Trek across forested ridges and remote villages, camping out under the stars and learning about Bhutanese culture and ecosystems firsthand.



CAMBODIA



CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

LOCATION

Siem Reap

RESEARCH THEMES

*Elephant ecology • Climate change impacts • Traditional ecological knowledge
Biodiversity conservation • Environmental justice • Environmental anthropology*

FIELD SKILLS

*Species ID & wildlife monitoring • Khmer language • Conservation grant writing
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/CAMBODIA

WHY WE ARE HERE

In Cambodia, remnants of 12th-century temples share the countryside with wild forests and agricultural villages. Diverse ecosystems from the Bokor Mountains to the mighty Mekong River harbor rare species such as the Asian elephant, sun bear, and endangered Irrawaddy dolphin. The Tonle Sap Lake swells to eight times its size each year, creating a dynamic seasonal shift for the communities of fishers and farmers who call this region home.

Cambodia is extremely vulnerable to climate change. This, along with rapid development, has led to decreased food security, a loss of traditional knowledge, and the destruction of critical habitats. Organized community efforts and ethical governance are needed to reverse these trends. SFS research in Cambodia seeks to inform a viable future that balances human needs and biodiversity conservation.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

Our most urban Center lies on the outskirts of Siem Reap, near the famed temples of Angkor. Campus is a breezy, modern complex nestled in a quiet neighborhood minutes away from the bustling downtown area where you will find restaurants, shops, and markets with unique Cambodian flair.

- ▶ Dorm living with 4-person bunkrooms
- ▶ Classroom building includes library, study spaces, and balcony
- ▶ Student lounge with open loft and beanbag chairs
- ▶ Expansive open-air dining area, on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Gyms and running routes in surrounding neighborhood
- ▶ Swimming pool, volleyball court, and hammock bungalow

SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING

CONSERVATION, ETHICS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

From the ancient temples of Angkor to the floating villages of the great Tonle Sap Lake, you will learn about threats to biodiversity, environmental governance, and the ways in which conservation efforts and community livelihoods are intertwined. Traveling extensively, you will spend time in the elephant-inhabited forests of Mondulkiri, the mountain and coastal ecosystems of Kampot, the Vietnamese Mekong Delta, and at key sites along the Mekong River.

15
WEEKS

18
CREDITS

JAN 28 - MAY 08, 2019
SEP 02 - DEC 11, 2019



COURSES

SFS 2080	Language and Culture of Cambodia	2 credits
SFS 3800	Conservation Science and Practice	4 credits
SFS 3810	Ecosystems and Livelihoods	4 credits
SFS 3820	Environmental Ethics and Development	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Spend the night in a floating village on the Tonle Sap Lake and speak with villagers about climate-related livelihood challenges and adaptation strategies.
- ▶ Visit the Mondulkiri highlands to study elephant conservation and learn about the changes and challenges to the indigenous Bunong peoples' traditional lifestyles.
- ▶ Explore neighboring Vietnam: Visit the Can Tho floating markets, Ho Chi Minh city, and the Tra Su flooded mangrove forests.

SUMMER

SESSION I

ELEPHANTS OF THE CAMBODIAN HIGHLANDS

Spend your summer in the lush Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, studying the behavior and ecology of the endangered Asian elephant. Examine human-wildlife conflict and conservation pressures, and discuss elephant welfare and management practices. Visit the vibrant city of Phnom Penh and the ancient temples of Angkor to explore the history and culture of Cambodia.

04
WEEKS

04
CREDITS

JUN 03 - JUL 03, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3111	Ecology and Conservation of Asian Elephants	4 credits
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Stay at the Elephant Valley Project in the forested Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary to observe Asian elephants from meters away as they forage, bathe, and interact with each other in a protected setting.



Not only did I fall in love with the flora, fauna, and landscapes of Cambodia, but the culture and vibrancy also captivated me. It is safe to say this semester has fundamentally changed me.

*Daniel Oliveira
Clark University*

AUSTRALIA
BHUTAN
CAMBODIA
CHILE
COSTA RICA
KENYA
PANAMA
PERU
TANZANIA
TURKS & CAICOS



HOW AN ELEPHANT SNEAKS UP ON YOU

CAMILLE MORALES // UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO // SFS CAMBODIA

We begin every day at 7am with a fresh banana shake, a cup of hot, nutty coffee that's peculiarly distinct to Cambodia, a piece of passion fruit, and a baguette with Nutella. Then we're off in the vans, eagerly racing across the dirt roads to get to the Elephant Valley Project. Just the van ride itself is an event – there's so much to see driving through the villages, and most days we get a little delayed because there's a herd of cows or water buffalo slowly walking through the village streets, or a Khmer wedding being set up. We meet our guides in a safari-esque setting perched on top of a hill. The view over the valley is incredible; the horizon line is far in the distance and everything below it looks like a sea of blue-green trees.

Next, we all hop into Jemma's charming "truck-a-saurus" and hold on as we drive further out into the jungle. Jemma is the wonderful manager of the Elephant Valley Project, Cambodia's most ethically responsible elephant sanctuary, where we are lucky enough to study the semi-captive elephants' foraging behavior. When the dirt track ends and we can't go any further in Jemma's truck, we hop out and begin our hike down into the jungle. The mahouts (indigenous Bunong men who have passed down knowledge of how to care for elephants for generations) lead us down a few kilometers to where the elephants are browsing.

Every day it still amazes me how you won't see them coming. Suddenly, the wall of jungle before you will slightly shake, the delicate leaves will shiver, and then you'll realize a huge elephant is just meters away from you. "How did you sneak up on us?!" Jemma usually laughs. Mesmerized, I can't help but say, "Good morning, beautiful!" as the three queens of the jungle emerge. Pearl, Ning-Wan, and Mae-Nang are three of the elephants I get to observe every other morning. They used to be forced to work in logging camps or in other low-welfare conditions, but now they're retired and will live out their days peacefully foraging through the 1,500 hectares of deciduous, evergreen, and bamboo forests. They get a bath from their mahout caretakers in the Oh-Bompat River, in the valley appropriately named "Heaven." Then, as soon as they get out of the river they suck some dirt into their trunks like a vacuum, spraying it all over their bodies. This is a technique known as dusting, and helps protect their skin from the sun and insect bites. Then, they scratch themselves against the bark of a tree like the bear in "The Jungle Book." Now, their breakfast (and my research) can finally begin.

It's an all-you-can-eat buffet breakfast for the elephants in these forests. Vines, grass, tree bark – it's all fair game. We follow at a safe and respectful distance, and at precise two-minute intervals, I record everything about their behavior and the habitat they're in. As a team we methodically identify all the plant species foraged by the elephants. This research is important because it gives insight into the ways in which formerly captive elephants adapt to a more natural environment, and the information on which plant species are targeted by the elephants can be used by local farmers to strategically select which crops they're planting, thereby reducing human-elephant conflict.

Elephants have to consume ten percent of their body weight in food each day to maintain a healthy weight, so it's not surprising that most of the entries on my data sheet are about the elephants feeding; however, there are some exceptions. One of my favorite interactions we've observed was when the elephants encountered a ruby-eyed pit viper. The glint of the viper's ruby eyes caught the elephants' attention from the foliage, and the usually docile, friendly giants transformed into formidable terrors as they stomped the ground and trumpeted violently. Pearl, the youngest elephant, began to pee just like a scared human would. The Cambodian mahouts went up and caught the snake, throwing it into the river, but Pearl was still scared and continued to stomp the ground and whimper a high-pitched chirp. Ning-Wan, the matriarch of the group, soothingly intertwined her trunk around Pearl's. I'm not anthropomorphizing when I say that it was an emotional gesture. My heart skipped a beat as I watched Ning-Wan reassure Pearl that it was okay, for in that moment, the intelligence and emotional range of the elephants was truly undeniable.

This encounter made me reflect on how human intelligence is not necessarily superior to that of other animals, just different. As the renowned ethologist Frans de Waal puts it, "People often assume a cognitive ladder from lower to higher forms, with our own intelligence at the top. But what if it is more like a bush, with cognition taking different forms that are often incomparable to ours?" He dares to ask, "Are we open-minded enough to acknowledge that other species have a mental life?" Animal intelligence is like the elephant that sneaks up on you in the forest – it is huge and obviously present, but somehow at times we still fail to realize it's there! It is so important that people understand that animals are our fellow creatures, that we must protect them and love them as we love ourselves in order to better our world. I feel so lucky that all the experiences and learning opportunities I've had this semester have empowered me to go forth and increase this understanding in my future career.

READ MORE FROM OUR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS IN THE FIELD AT:



CHILE

CENTER FOR CLIMATE STUDIES

LOCATION

Puerto Natales, Patagonia

RESEARCH THEMES

*Climate change resilience • Glacial dynamics • Ecological succession
Penguin behavior • Coastal and alpine ecology • National park management*

FIELD SKILLS

*Species identification • Biodiversity assessments • Spanish language
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/CHILE

WHY WE ARE HERE

Patagonia is a stage for true wild. Towering pinnacles clash with rivers of ice, and life persists here in the face of challenging seasonal extremes. Penguins, foxes, sea lions, and guanaco are just a few of the region's hardy wildlife. Situated in the Ring of Fire, Patagonia's stunning, snow-covered volcanic range presents an unmatched opportunity to study complex geological and seismic processes.

The fragile ecosystems of southern Chile and Argentina are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – unpredictable storms, glacial melt, shifting temperatures, fires, and droughts. Our research in Patagonia examines ecology and geologic systems, the motivations and trade-offs of conservation decisions in the region, and species found nowhere else on the planet.

LIFE AT THE CENTER

Surrounded by the jagged peaks of Cerro Benítez and the deep blue waters of the Señoret Channel lies the port city of Puerto Natales – the gateway to the famous Torres del Paine National Park. Located near this bustling tourist hub is the Center for Climate Studies, your home base for expeditions throughout the region.

▶ Dorm living with 4-person bunkrooms

▶ Kitchen and dining hall, on-site cooking staff

▶ Nearby hiking trails and running routes

▶ Classroom, library, computer lab, and study spaces

▶ Student lounge with scenic views

▶ Shops and restaurants in nearby Puerto Natales



SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING

WILD PATAGONIA: FIRE AND ICE

Spend a semester amid the soaring peaks, massive glaciers, and narrow fjords of Patagonia, where the trails of Torres del Paine National Park become your classroom for research and field work. Embark on expeditions to the southernmost tip of South America and the volcanic lakes region of northern Patagonia to study climate change impacts, diverse ecosystems, and conservation in one of the world's most iconic regions.

15

WEEKS

18

CREDITS

SEP 09 - DEC 18, 2019



COURSES

SFS 2001	Language, Culture, and Society of Chile	2 credits
SFS 3081	Political and Social Dimensions of Conservation	4 credits
SFS 3601	Earth Systems and Climate Science	4 credits
SFS 3781	Patagonian Ecology	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



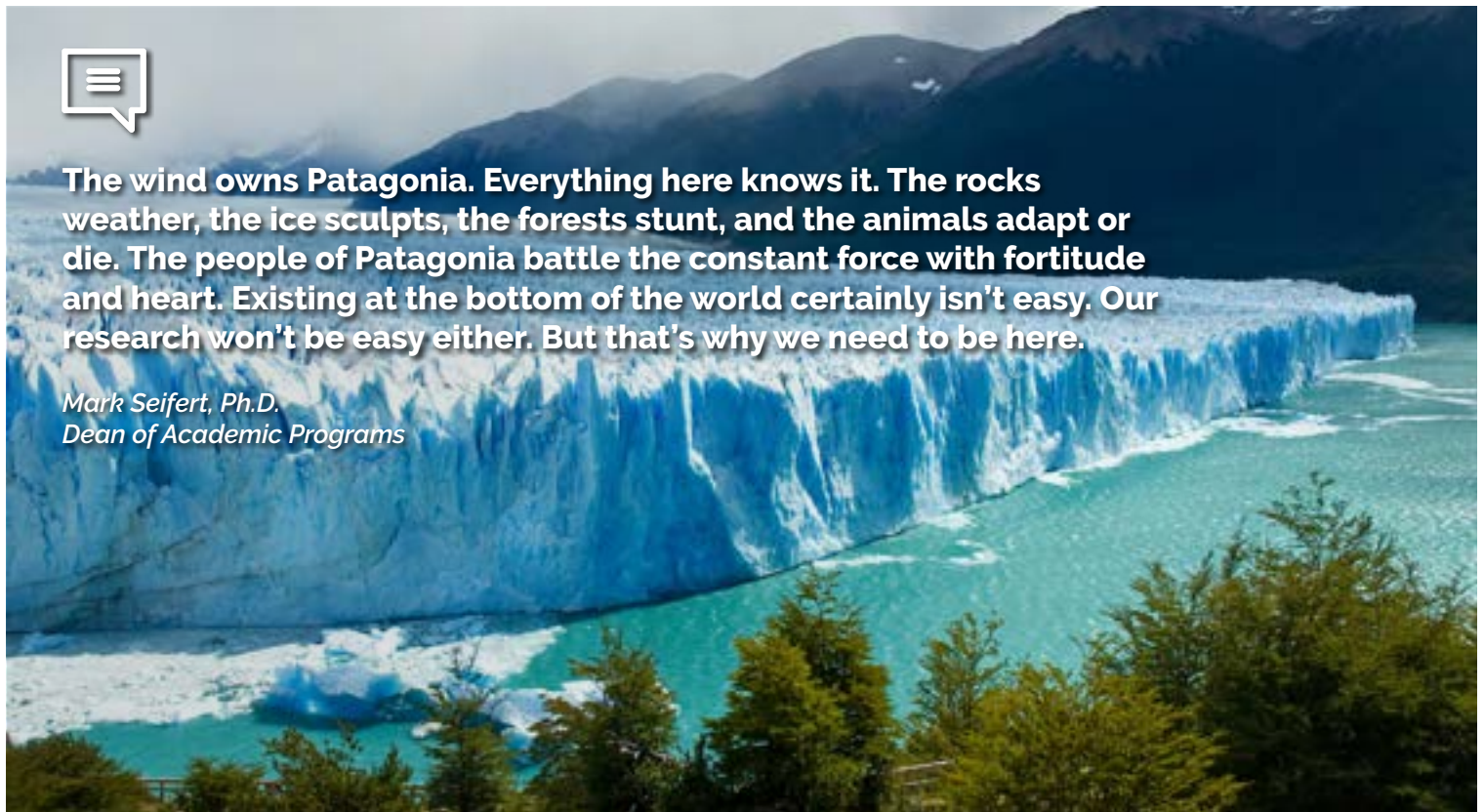
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Hike through the dramatic landscapes of Torres del Paine National Park, and take an expedition to neighboring Argentina and the stunning Perito Moreno Glacier.
- ▶ Cross the Strait of Magellan to Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost part of South America, where you'll see penguin colonies and explore glacial fjords.
- ▶ Journey to northern Patagonia's lakes region, home to the beautiful Valdivian forests, the active Calbuco and Osorno volcanoes, and massive blue whales.



The wind owns Patagonia. Everything here knows it. The rocks weather, the ice sculpts, the forests stunt, and the animals adapt or die. The people of Patagonia battle the constant force with fortitude and heart. Existing at the bottom of the world certainly isn't easy. Our research won't be easy either. But that's why we need to be here.

*Mark Seifert, Ph.D.
Dean of Academic Programs*



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COSTA RICA
KENYA
PANAMA
PERU
TANZANIA
TURKS & CAICOS

COSTA RICA

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

LOCATION

Atenas, Central Valley

RESEARCH THEMES

Agroforestry & permaculture • Carbon sequestration • Sustainable ecotourism
Hummingbird ecology & behavior • Urban ecology • National park management

FIELD SKILLS

GIS • Songbird mist-netting • Plant identification • Spanish language
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/COSTARICA

WHY WE ARE HERE

The rugged rainforests and sandy beaches of Costa Rica are brimming with life – from sloths and frogs to brightly colored toucans and hummingbirds. Costa Rica hosts an astounding 5% of Earth's species despite covering only 0.03% of its area. Shaded coffee farms integrated into the rainforest constitute just one example of the sustainable conservation strategies for which the country is known.

Despite efforts to preserve this wild beauty, climate change and increased urban development bring new and unforeseen challenges. Biodiversity is threatened, while natural resources are stretched to their limits. SFS research in Costa Rica helps NGOs, government offices and policymakers as they seek to sustain the balance between conservation and socioeconomic benefit in a time of transition.

LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center is an active organic farm overlooking the vibrant Central Valley, where green is the predominant color as far as the eye can see. Dorms and classrooms intermingle with orchards and gardens, while Center dog Hera keeps watch over it all. The friendly town of Atenas is a 10-minute cab ride away, offering restaurants, shops, parks, and cultural events.

- ▶ Dorm living with 4-person bunkrooms
- ▶ Classroom, library, computer lab, and laundry next to dorms
- ▶ Porch with hammocks and chairs for lounging
- ▶ Dining hall with scenic valley views, on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Farm with chickens, pigs, greenhouse, and gardens
- ▶ Swimming pool, soccer field, and outdoor pizza oven



SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Experience a semester of sustainability in Costa Rica, home to rainforests, volcanoes, rushing waterfalls, and a laid-back culture that reflects the national motto: "Pura Vida." Explore the country's many diverse parks, farms, and reserves to learn how Costa Ricans have balanced conservation and development issues. Wrap up the semester in the field, collecting data for your research project.

15

WEEKS

18

CREDITS

JAN 28 - MAY 08, 2019

SEP 02 - DEC 11, 2019



COURSES

SFS 2050	Language, Culture, and Society of Costa Rica	2 credits
SFS 3740	Principles of Resource Management	4 credits
SFS 3770	Tropical Ecology and Sustainable Development	4 credits
SFS 3820	Environmental Ethics and Development	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Explore the cloud forests of Monteverde, home to 2.5% of the world's biodiversity, to study hummingbird ecology and sustainable land management.
- ▶ Take an expedition to Panama: Explore Panama City and the canal before heading to the cloud forests and coffee plantations of the Chiriquí Highlands.
- ▶ Tour a local coffee farm and a sustainable permaculture homestead to learn how Costa Ricans have successfully combined agriculture and conservation.

SUMMER

SESSION I

COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE: A TASTE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Coffee and cacao are two of the world's most popular crops, and both are intimately intertwined with the culture, ecology, and history of Costa Rica. This summer, get a taste of Costa Rica as you explore the connections between these iconic crops and issues of conservation, social justice, and sustainable development.

04

WEEKS

04

CREDITS

JUN 03 - JUL 03, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3141 Coffee, Chocolate, and Sustainable Development 4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Visit coffee and chocolate farms to see a range of production and processing techniques, and learn about the role of different crops in agroecosystems.



SESSION II

FUNDAMENTALS OF SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

Spend your summer investigating issues of biodiversity conservation and sustainability in Costa Rica's vast network of national parks and protected areas – the perfect natural laboratory. Hone your research skills in the field as you design and conduct a research project, collecting data and presenting your results to members of the community.

04

WEEKS

04

CREDITS

JUL 08 - AUG 07, 2019



COURSE

SFS 4930 Research Techniques and Strategies for Sustainability 4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Explore Manuel Antonio National Park, where lush rainforests, white sandy beaches, and mischievous primates attract multitudes of visitors – as well as a host of conservation challenges.

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TURKS & CAICOS

KENYA



CENTER FOR WATER AND WILDLIFE STUDIES

LOCATION

Kimana, Rift Valley

RESEARCH THEMES

*Water quality & use • Climate change resilience • Livestock-wildlife conflicts
Community wildlife sanctuaries • National park management*

FIELD SKILLS

*Water quality assessment • Wildlife census • Swahili language
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/KENYA

WHY WE ARE HERE

In the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, Kenya's grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of flora and fauna including the Big Five – lions, elephants, leopards, buffalo, and rhinos. The region is also home to pastoralist tribal communities such as the Maasai, and its famed national parks attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

Kenya's biodiversity is under threat from ecosystem fragmentation and human development, and shifting human demographics, land-use designations, and natural resource availability are putting a strain on traditional livelihoods. Our research here focuses on one of Earth's most essential natural resources – water – as we examine the impacts of these threats and explore conservation approaches to water management that will benefit humans and wildlife alike.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center lies in the heart of Kenya's Rift Valley, nestled between three world-famous national parks. The snow-capped peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro towers over miles of savanna, replete with a diversity of wildlife. Campus is a sprawling, grassy compound made up of traditional thatched *bandas* (cabins) and a central *chumba* (main building), steps away from the friendly village of Kimana.

▶ Dorm living with 4-person *bandas*

▶ Kitchen and dining hall, on-site cooking staff

▶ One-mile running trail on campus

▶ *Chumba* contains classroom, computer lab, and study spaces

▶ Outdoor porch overlooking lawn area

▶ Volleyball, soccer, frisbee, and fire pit

SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING

WATER, WILDLIFE, AND COMMUNITY

Spend your semester in the national parks and communities of Kenya, studying one of Earth's most vital resources – water. Head into the field and learn how changes in water availability have cascading effects on Kenya's spectacular ecosystems and those living in them. Study the root causes of these changes and how increased resource competition impacts wildlife behavior and human livelihoods.

15

WEEKS

18

CREDITS

JAN 28 - MAY 08, 2019

SEP 02 - DEC 11, 2019



COURSES

SFS 2060	Swahili Language and East African Tribal Culture	2 credits
SFS 3071	Human Dimensions of Conservation	4 credits
SFS 3720	Wildlife Ecology	4 credits
SFS 3751	Techniques in Natural Resource Management	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Explore Amboseli National Park, known as the best place in the world to get close to free-ranging elephants.
- ▶ Embark on a two-week excursion to northern Tanzania, including expeditions to Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.
- ▶ Visit the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, a protected habitat for the critically endangered black rhinoceros.

SUMMER

SESSION I

PRIMATES OF THE AFRICAN SAVANNA

Spend your summer researching primate behavior and ecology in Kenya's national parks and ranching communities. Observe different species such as baboons, vervet monkeys, and patas monkeys in the field, and collect data on individual activities and patterns of social behavior – data which helps inform the efforts of local conservation managers and policymakers.

04

WEEKS

04

CREDITS

JUN 03 - JUL 03, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3151	Primate Behavioral Ecology in East Africa	4 credits
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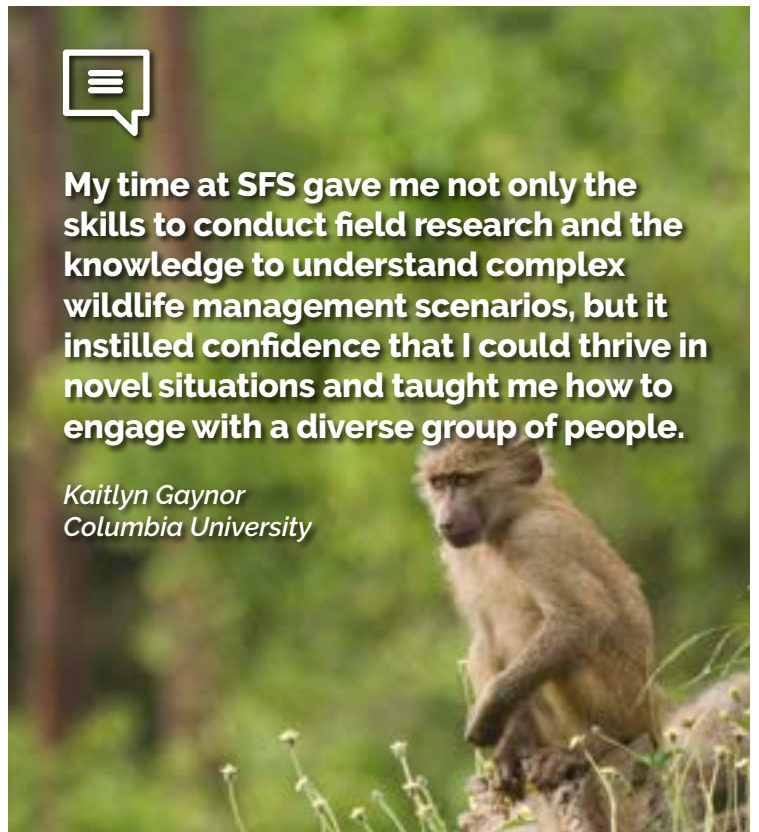
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Head to Tsavo National Park for an overnight camping expedition, where you'll get to see primates, elephants, wildebeests, and carnivores in their natural habitat.



My time at SFS gave me not only the skills to conduct field research and the knowledge to understand complex wildlife management scenarios, but it instilled confidence that I could thrive in novel situations and taught me how to engage with a diverse group of people.

*Kaitlyn Gaynor
Columbia University*



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TANZANIA
TURKS & CAICOS

PANAMA



CENTER FOR TROPICAL ISLAND BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

LOCATION

Bocas del Toro Archipelago

RESEARCH THEMES

*Marine Protected Areas • Rainforest biodiversity assessment • Tourism impacts
Ecosystem monitoring • Community livelihoods • Perceptions of conservation*

FIELD SKILLS

*Species identification • Tourism impact assessment • Spanish language
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/PANAMA



WHY WE ARE HERE

Covered in lush rainforests, hundreds of mangrove islands, and coral reefs teeming with diverse marine life, the Bocas del Toro Archipelago serves as a living laboratory for studying tropical biodiversity. This chain of islands is populated by everything from toucans and butterflies to turtles, sloths, and brightly colored poison dart frogs. At first glance, Bocas is nothing short of paradise.

Unfortunately, increased tourism on the islands has led to ecosystem and natural resource degradation while also compromising Indigenous islanders' traditional livelihoods. Our research on the environmental impacts of tourism and development in Bocas provides the community with data necessary to support more sustainable policies and protect the beautiful islands they call home.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

Among the slender palms and warm sands of Isla Colón lies the Center, a one-time beachfront hotel. At this idyllic field station, you'll take your classes in the waves of the Caribbean and the surrounding rainforests. The laidback tourist hub of Bocas Town is a short taxi ride away, with access to shops, restaurants, and a vibrant culture that is as unique as the mix of people who live here.

- ▶ Dorm living in 4-person bunkrooms
- ▶ Classroom on a sheltered dock above the water
- ▶ Swimming pool, kayaking, paddleboarding, and snorkeling
- ▶ Main building with faculty offices and air-conditioned labs
- ▶ Casual al-fresco dining area, on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Volleyball, spikeball, soccer, and beachfront hammocks

SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING

TROPICAL ISLAND BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

Spend a semester in the dynamic community of Bocas del Toro, where everything – from the thriving underwater ecosystems to the rich green rainforests – seems more alive. Go behind the scenes in this “paradise” as you study the impacts of tourism and development on the island system’s unique habitats, evaluate local environmental policies, and apply the principles of sustainability and conservation to your research project.

15
WEEKS

18
CREDITS

JAN 30 - MAY 10, 2019
SEP 02 - DEC 11, 2019



COURSES

SFS 2070	Language, Culture, and Society of Panama	2 credits
SFS 3020	Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values	4 credits
SFS 3740	Principles of Resource Management	4 credits
SFS 3790	Tropical Coastal Ecology	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Go snorkeling among coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, and other marine ecosystems to learn about life beneath the waves.
- ▶ Tour cacao and coffee farms and banana plantations to gain an understanding of how diverse forms of agriculture affect coastal environments and local economies.
- ▶ Venture into the rainforest for field lectures on biodiversity, climate change, interspecies competition, and habitat modification.

SUMMER

SESSION I

TOURISM AND TROPICAL ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Immerse yourself in the dynamic community of Bocas del Toro. Snorkel and hike through diverse environments – from coral reefs and mangroves to cloud forests and rainforests – and study the impacts of tourism on the island system and its people. Meet the local residents who depend on both tourism and natural resources and learn about current approaches to sustainable tourism in Bocas.

04
WEEKS

04
CREDITS

JUN 03 - JUL 03, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3000	Tourism and Island Systems: Sustainable Practices	4 credits
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Embark on a cross-country road trip from Panama City to Bocas del Toro to experience the full breadth of Panama’s culture, biodiversity, and sustainability practices.



Research is one of the best parts of studying here in Bocas with SFS. The biodiversity and many different ecosystems offered in Panama are amazing to study and prevent us from ever being bored.

*Alaina Eckert
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

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ACHIM HÄGER

PROFESSOR // SFS COSTA RICA

Originally from Germany, Dr. Häger received his degrees from the University of Göttingen, where he worked as a researcher on cloud forest ecology from 2002-2006. During that time, he taught field research and forest management courses at the University while also spending much of his time living and working in Costa Rica. In 2008, Dr. Häger joined the SFS Center for Sustainable Development Studies, where he teaches classes covering tropical ecology, natural resource management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and field research.

EDUCATION

Doctorate in Forestry Sciences (*University of Göttingen, Germany*)

TEACHING AT SFS

SFS 3740 Principles of Natural Resource Management (*Semester*)

SFS 4910 Directed Research (*Semester*)

SFS 3520 Sustaining Tropical Ecosystems in Costa Rica (*Summer*)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Agroforestry • Climate change adaptation and mitigation • GIS Ecology • Biodiversity and conservation • Soil science

CLOUD FOREST COFFEE

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

by Dr. Achim Häger

Monteverde is world-famous for its unique cloud forests and its biodiversity, which is stunning, even by Costa Rican standards.

However, if we want to conserve tropical biodiversity throughout this century, we must think beyond pristine forests and protected areas. Forests are intimately connected with the agricultural landscapes that surround them.

My students and I spent six days in Monteverde to develop research projects at a place called Life Monteverde. Life Monteverde was founded by families from Monteverde who integrate traditional agricultural livelihoods with agro-ecotourism and education. Activities take place on a 17-hectare coffee farm that is embedded in a landscape composed of forest fragments, pastures with scattered trees, and other land-use types. The farm itself implements sustainable practices and consists of a diverse mixture of coffee plots, forests and windbreaks

(strips of trees that protect crops and livestock from the constant winds and wind-blown mist).

After some preparation, including a thorough exploration of the place – and several cups of freshly roasted coffee – students settled in quickly at the farm and started asking questions.

Do tree species in windbreaks enhance local biodiversity?

Is coffee an invasive species?

Are there synergies between tree species diversity and carbon storage?

Is growing coffee better for soils than cattle pasture?

Do nearby forests help or hurt coffee yields?

One thing I really loved about the farm was that we got immediate feedback from the

owners and workers at the place. It provided a helpful reality check on the feasibility, and – more importantly – the relevance of research questions to local people.

At the end of the day, we learned that the future of tropical biodiversity greatly depends on how people manage the land surrounding remnant forests and protected areas. Meaningful research can help to find a balance that allows sustainable livelihoods for local farmers without further encroaching on remaining forests, while simultaneously increasing the diversity and connectivity of farms for wildlife species.

READ MORE FROM OUR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS IN THE FIELD AT:



fieldstudies.org/blog

MEET OUR ALUMNI

THEY'RE BUSY CHANGING THE WORLD



— **Miwa Tamanaha**

SFS Mexico Fall '99
Deputy Director of Hawaiian community-based conservation organization Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)



I fell in love with a landscape and came home with a deep conviction: There are places in the world for which we are called to find the time, effort, and resources to protect and conserve. This is at the very foundation of who I am and what I do today.

— **Elizabeth Imada**

SFS Costa Rica Spring '11
Environmental Specialist at San Diego Gas & Electric



Because of SFS, I have the career I have today. After SFS, I knew for sure that I needed to be outside, not in a lab. Now, I spend my days in the field and help my community by doing so.



— **Sarah Hines**

SFS Kenya Spring '01
Science Delivery Specialist at the U.S. Forest Service



Immersing myself in nature and learning through a lived experience was personally transformative. SFS helped me to better understand social-ecological systems and connectivity; to this day, I consider my semester spent studying abroad in east Africa to be one of the best decisions of my life.



— **Ben Goldfarb**

SFS Australia Fall '07
Independent Environmental Journalist



SFS inspired my passion for biodiversity conservation and helped me channel my journalistic ambitions in a particular direction. I came to understand the fundamentals of field research, and developed a profound appreciation for the mental and sometimes physical rigor that goes into conducting a field study or experiment.



PERU



CENTER FOR AMAZON STUDIES

LOCATION

Iquitos, lowland Amazon

RESEARCH THEMES

*Forest & soil ecology • Mammal ecology & conservation • Land use impacts
Natural resource management • Forest recovery • Development in the Amazon*

FIELD SKILLS

*Species ID & population monitoring • Biodiversity surveys • Spanish language
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/PERU

WHY WE ARE HERE

In the heart of the Amazon, dense green foliage blankets the horizon as far as the eye can see. Here, rich natural resources have supported human populations for millennia, including indigenous groups still living in these forests. As one of the most ecologically diverse countries on the planet, Peru provides an ideal place to study a variety of ecosystems, their inhabitants, and environmental threats.

Climate change, rapid development, and extractive activities like logging and mining pose a grave threat to Peru's dramatic landscapes and the organisms they support. From the glacial lakes and tropical montane forests of the Andes to the flooded forests of the lowlands, Peru is critically important in researching the fate of the Amazon.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

Amid the vast rainforests of the Amazon, halfway between the remote city of Iquitos and the port city of Nauta, sits the Center. Campus is a small group of buildings connected by elevated walkways, and the sights and sounds of the forest are accessible via an on-campus trail system which traverses our 183-acre property. Small villages within walking distance provide access to local shops.

- ▶ Dorm living with 2-6 person bunkrooms
- ▶ Large kitchen, on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Traditional thatched-roof classroom
- ▶ Main building with dining area, staff offices, study space
- ▶ Trail network extends from campus into rainforest
- ▶ Swimming pool, soccer field, volleyball court, hammock huts

SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING

BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMAZON

Explore the lush ecosystems and extraordinary biodiversity of the north Peruvian Amazon. Study threats to the region firsthand – from climate change to resource extraction – and get at the heart of Peru's conservation and development issues. Embark on a multi-day excursion to the Andean highlands, where you'll hike through cloud forests and visit the historic Incan capital of Cusco, the hub for visitors to Machu Picchu.

15

WEEKS

18

CREDITS

JAN 28 - MAY 08, 2019

SEP 02 - DEC 11, 2019



COURSES

SFS 2090	Language, Culture, and Society of Peru	2 credits
SFS 3800	Conservation Science and Practice	4 credits
SFS 3831	Tropical Ecology of the Amazon	4 credits
SFS 3840	Political Ecology of Developing Landscapes	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



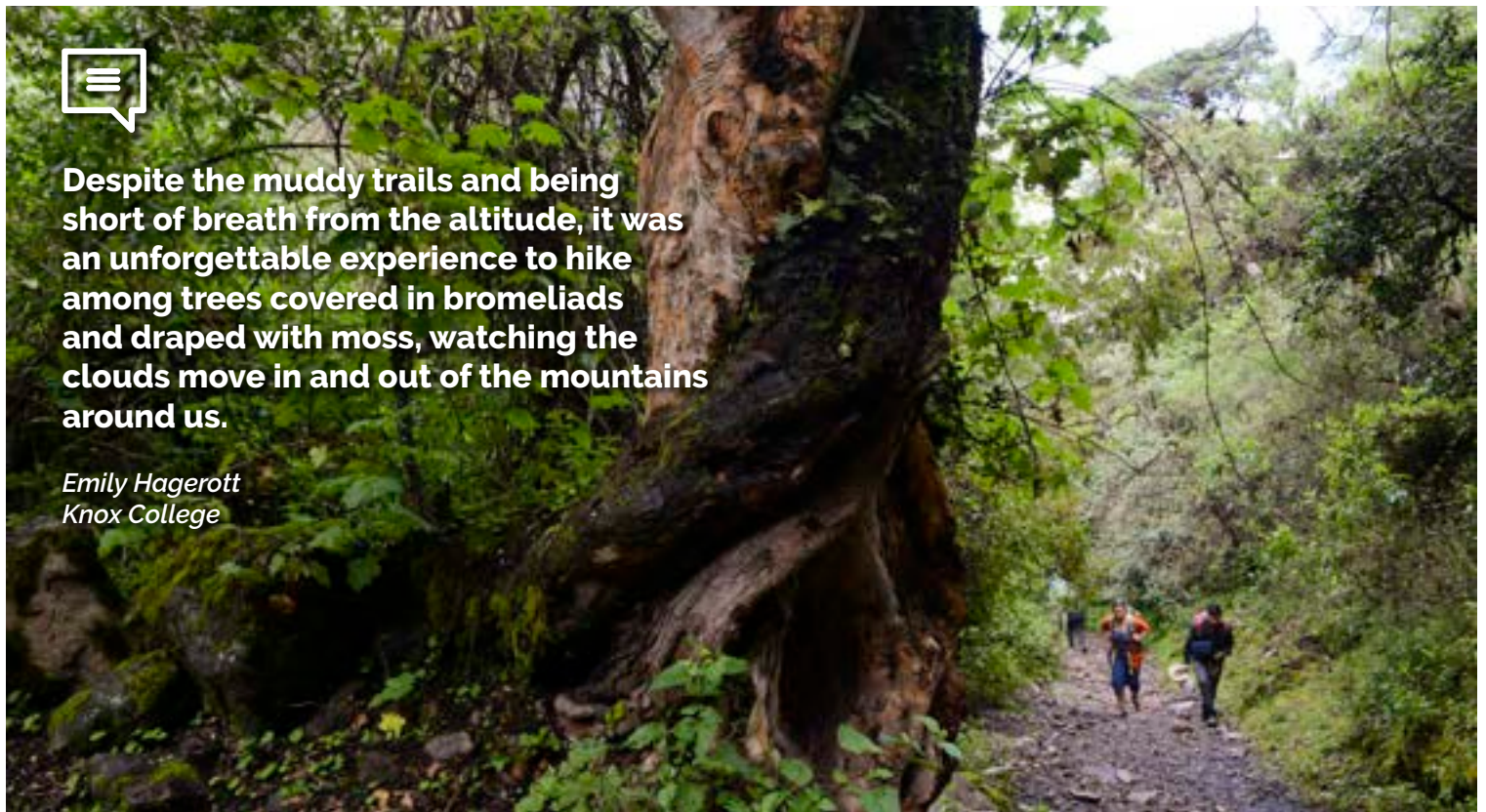
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Take a multi-day excursion to the village of Sucusari to learn about the traditions of the Majjuna people and explore the jungle from the world's longest canopy walkway.
- ▶ Take an overnight riverboat expedition in Peru's large national reserve, Pacaya-Samiria, home to species such as pink river dolphins, bats, piranhas, primates, macaws, and giant river otters.
- ▶ Visit a manatee rescue center, tropical fish exporter, and potato and butterfly farms to study a range of local conservation efforts.



Despite the muddy trails and being short of breath from the altitude, it was an unforgettable experience to hike among trees covered in bromeliads and draped with moss, watching the clouds move in and out of the mountains around us.

*Emily Hagerott
Knox College*



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TURKS & CAICOS

TANZANIA



CENTER FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STUDIES

LOCATION

Rhotia, Maasai Steppe

RESEARCH THEMES

*Wildlife conservation • African large mammal behavior • Carnivore ecology
Human-wildlife conflict • Climate change • Community-based conservation*

FIELD SKILLS

*GIS • Wildlife census techniques • Natural resource valuation • Swahili language
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/TANZANIA

WHY WE ARE HERE

Few places in the world are more iconic than the plains of Africa. In Tanzania, baobabs and acacia trees dot the horizon, while wildebeests stampede through the Serengeti on their Great Migration. The Big Five – lions, elephants, leopards, buffalo, and rhinos – are all found here. Tanzania is also home to the Maasai and Iraqw tribes, some of the few remaining semi-nomadic tribes in East Africa.

This rich landscape faces many challenges, including habitat fragmentation and destruction, poaching threats, climate change impacts, and ever-increasing competition for limited natural resources. Our research focuses on understanding these impacts in order to develop sustainable solutions for conservation of natural resource and reduce conflict between humans and wildlife.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

Learn to live the *pole pole* lifestyle at SFS' Moyo Hill Camp. Surrounded by Tanzania's world-famous national parks and wildlife, it's the perfect base camp for expeditions into the field. Campus is reminiscent of summer camp, with plenty of outdoor and communal spaces, while the small, friendly community of Rhotia is a short walk away.

▶ Dorm living in 4-person *bandas* (cabins)

▶ Classroom, library, and computer lab

▶ Kitchen and dining hall, on-site cooking staff

▶ Volleyball, gazebo, fire pit, and lounge areas

▶ Community soccer games and local running routes

SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Step beyond the tourist experience during a semester in Tanzania. Meet the country's charismatic wildlife – from magnificent lions and elephants to thunderous herds of wildebeest and graceful gazelles – as you learn about their ecology and behavior. Experience the rich culture and traditions of Tanzania's Maasai, Iraqw, and Hadzabe tribal communities while collaborating on issues of human-wildlife conflict and climate change. Finish the semester in the field with an in-depth research project.

15

WEEKS

18

CREDITS

JAN 28 - MAY 08, 2019

SEP 02 - DEC 11, 2019



COURSES

SFS 2060	Swahili Language and East African Tribal Culture	2 credits
SFS 3020	Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values	4 credits
SFS 3710	Techniques in Wildlife Management	4 credits
SFS 3720	Wildlife Ecology	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Embark on a multi-day camping expedition in Serengeti National Park, attending field lectures on the behavior and migratory patterns of the park's largest mammals.
- ▶ Conduct research on lion and elephant ecology in Tarangire National Park, and visit Burunge Wildlife Management Area to learn about community-based conservation.
- ▶ Take a two-week expedition to southern Kenya, including excursions to Amboseli National Park and the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary.



SUMMER

SESSION I

FUNDAMENTALS OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Spend your summer in the world-famous national parks of Northern Tanzania and interact with local communities to learn about sustainable wildlife conservation. Through hands-on field exercises and expeditions throughout the region, you'll be on the ground studying protected areas management and community conservation efforts.

04

WEEKS

04

CREDITS

JUN 03 - JUL 03, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3500 Wildlife Management and Conservation 4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Take game drives in Serengeti, Tarangire, and Lake Manyara National Parks and Ngorongoro Conservation Area to study wildlife ecology and nature-based tourism

SESSION II

CARNIVORES OF THE AFRICAN PLAINS

Tanzania is home to more than 35 species of carnivores, including the African lion, cheetah, leopard, and wild dog – all of which are on the IUCN Red List. Study the behavioral ecology and conservation challenges facing these incredible creatures, while observing some of Africa's largest remaining carnivore guilds up close.

04

WEEKS

04

CREDITS

JUL 08 - AUG 07, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3121 African Large Carnivores: Ecology and Conservation 4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Head into the field with the Tarangire Lion Project, a long-term field research and conservation program, and learn lion research techniques from the experts.

TURKS & CAICOS



CENTER FOR MARINE RESOURCE STUDIES

LOCATION

South Caicos Island

RESEARCH THEMES

*Climate change & ocean acidification • Tourism impacts • Commercial fisheries
Coral health & resilience • Marine Protected Areas • Environmental education*

FIELD SKILLS

*Coral health assessment • Marine species identification • Acoustic tracking
Research design • Data collection • Scientific writing and presentation*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/TCI

WHY WE ARE HERE

The Turks and Caicos Islands are home to vibrant coral reefs, dramatic sea walls, and a deep ocean trench, which together sustain a stunning diversity of sea life. Spotted eagle rays, lemon sharks, sea turtles, humpback whales, and dozens of fish species thrive among the sandy shoals, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and coral reefs surrounding the Islands.

These marine ecosystems are critical to the fisheries-driven local economy, but they are under enormous pressure from coastal development, a rising demand for seafood, and the impacts of climate change. Our research plays an important role in supporting island residents and government authorities as they work to balance economic need with the preservation of irreplaceable natural resources.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center is a small converted hotel overlooking the crystalline waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Spectacular sunsets, open-air facilities, warm sunshine, and a refreshing ocean breeze define this marine field station. A 5-minute walk brings you to the small, historic town of Cockburn Harbour, where students and faculty frequently engage in community activities.

- ▶ Dorm living in 4-6 person bunkrooms
- ▶ Main building includes student lounge and study/work space
- ▶ Adjacent classroom building with staff offices
- ▶ Large kitchen, open-air dining space, on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Dock, dive shack, and small fleet of research boats
- ▶ Volleyball, hammocks, and swimming pool overlooking the ocean

SEMESTER

FALL • SPRING MARINE RESOURCE STUDIES

Spend a semester on the island of South Caicos, where spectacular marine ecosystems are largely untouched by tourism and development – for now. Don your wetsuit and conduct research on coral reefs, seagrass meadows, underwater mangroves, and a host of marine life. Evaluate fisheries resources and policies while collecting data that helps community members balance their rights and needs with the island's conservation goals.

15
WEEKS

16
CREDITS

JAN 28 - MAY 08, 2019
SEP 02 - DEC 11, 2019



COURSES

SFS 3020	Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values	4 credits
SFS 3730	Tropical Marine Ecology	4 credits
SFS 3740	Principles of Resource Management	4 credits
SFS 4910	Directed Research	4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Go snorkeling and/or diving in the clear waters around South Caicos to conduct marine species identification and coral bleaching exercises.
- ▶ Tag sea turtles in the field and collect morphological data to gain an understanding of behavior and population dynamics.
- ▶ Take an excursion to the islands of Middle and North Caicos to explore the variety of ecosystems in TCI, including caves, tropical forests, and protected wetlands.

SUMMER

SESSION I FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE CONSERVATION

The spectacular reefs and turquoise waters of South Caicos serve as laboratories for field lectures and underwater expeditions in this summer session. Snorkel and/or dive among these incredible marine ecosystems, learn about the environmental issues and policies affecting them, and gain the skills needed to conduct research in collaboration with members of the community.

04
WEEKS

04
CREDITS

JUN 03 - JUL 03, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3530 Tropical Marine Ecosystems: Monitoring and Management 4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Collect data on the distribution, size and age structure of the queen conch, a species critical to the local economy and a national symbol of the Islands.



SESSION II MARINE MEGAFaUNA

Spend your summer studying sharks, whales, turtles, and rays in the waters surrounding South Caicos. Learn about the ecology and conservation of these and other 'marine megafauna' through field lectures, snorkel and/or dive sessions, and capture-tag-track exercises.

04
WEEKS

04
CREDITS

JUL 08 - AUG 07, 2019



COURSE

SFS 3131 Marine Megafauna Ecology and Conservation 4 credits



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Deploy Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations (BRUVS) and collect video footage of sharks to analyze species abundance and diversity inside and outside protected areas.

AUSTRALIA

BHUTAN

CAMBODIA

CHILE

COSTA RICA

KENYA

PANAMA

PERU

TANZANIA

TURKS & CAICOS

ADMISSIONS, PROGRAM COSTS & FINANCIAL AID



PLAN
Talk to your home school, friends, & family



APPLY
Up to 1 year in advance - space is limited!



INTERVIEW
30-minute phone interview with SFS



PREPARE
Complete paperwork, book flights, pack your bags



LEARN
Your SFS adventure begins!

When to Apply

SFS reviews applications on a rolling basis and students may apply up to one year in advance. While there is no application deadline, you should apply early to be considered for your first-choice program. Make sure to check with your home institution regarding school-specific study abroad application deadlines.

Academic Credit

Students come from more than 175 colleges and universities to attend SFS programs each year and most are able to transfer credit for their participation. Check with your academic or study abroad advisor and/or registrar's office before applying to learn how your SFS coursework will be applicable for credit in your degree program.

SFS students receive academic credit in one of two ways: (1) Students receive transcripts from the University of Minnesota, the School of Record for SFS programs; (2) Students receive credit directly from their home schools. Participants receive official transcripts approximately six weeks after the conclusion of the program.

Eligibility

- > 18+ years of age
- > You must be in good academic and disciplinary standing on your home campus.
- > Semester course prerequisite: One college-level ecology, biology, or environmental studies/science course (or related coursework, as assessed by SFS) with a grade of C or better must be completed prior to the start of an SFS semester program.
- > Summer course prerequisites: None
- > Gap-year students and recent college graduates are welcome to apply.

FINANCIAL AID

SFS works closely with your home school to help you fund your program. Many applicants receive aid through their home institutions or other outside sources, so check with your financial aid office to see what aid may apply to an SFS program. All students are eligible to apply for SFS need-based financial aid, regardless of whether you receive aid on your home campus. All students who exhibit financial need will receive some form of aid from SFS.

SFS awards more than \$500,000 in need-based financial aid each year. Aid packages are usually a combination of scholarships, grants, and loans.

The following is a selection of SFS need-based scholarships; please visit our website for complete descriptions of our scholarships.

Pell Grant Match Award
SFS matches Federal Pell Grant funding for semester students who use their Pell Grant to help pay for an SFS program.

Diversity Scholarship
To broaden participation of students from under-represented groups in study abroad

Andreas Family Scholarship
Available to students attending U.S. public colleges and universities



fieldstudies.org/admissions/aid/

Program Costs

Spring 2019 | Summer 2019 *

Program	Semester	Summer I	Summer II
Australia	\$22,955	\$6,950	\$5,975
Bhutan	\$24,950	\$8,975 (6-week program)	
Cambodia	\$21,950		\$6,450
Chile	See our website		
Costa Rica	\$20,755	\$5,690	\$5,690
Kenya	\$22,400	\$7,130	
Panama	\$21,705	\$5,950	
Peru	\$21,950		
Tanzania	\$23,250	\$7,485	\$7,485
Turks & Caicos Islands	\$22,985	\$6,350	\$6,350

*Fall 2019 program costs will be announced on our website in January 2019.

Program cost includes pre-departure advising services from an SFS Admissions Counselor; visa and travel coordination; room and board; on-site orientation; field excursions and expeditions (including park entrance and research fees); program-related ground transportation; 24-hour support and emergency assistance from on-site residential staff; emergency medical evacuation insurance; official transcript with 16-18 credits (semester) or 4-8 credits (summer).

For complete course budgets, including out-of-pocket expenses, please visit fieldstudies.org/admissions/costs.

Non-Discrimination Policy

SFS is an equal opportunity institution. SFS admits students of any sex, religion, race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or economic status to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of SFS. SFS does not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, or other protected status in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and scholarship and loan programs.

QUESTIONS?

Admissions:
admissions@fieldstudies.org

Safety and Student Life:
safety@fieldstudies.org

Academic Affairs:
academics@fieldstudies.org

Call us:
800.989.4418

Chat with us: fieldstudies.org

Connect with SFS:



#theSFS

sabzzzk
Isla Colón, Bocas



203 likes
sabzzzk Find you a study abroad that'll take you to the jungle #instauvm



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Instagram
@thesfs

tshawtyyy
Vân Giảo



247 likes
tshawtyyy Navigating Vietnam

zarakzewski
Lirubamba, Peru



496 likes
zarakzewski Spent all day at a potato park! Fun fact: there are about 3800 types of potato in Peru!

sierramarierose
Bocas del Toro, Panama



112 likes
sierramarierose This is my classroom 🇸🇩 #thesfs

thesfs_costarica
Atenas, Alajuela, Costa Rica



30 likes
thesfs_costarica Starting the day off right picking oranges on our Rainforest Alliance certified orange grove #thesfs #freshlysqueezeed

michellee919
Tarangire National Park, Tanzania



232 likes
michellee919 School's pretty fun when this is your classroom 🐘

ankeritephotography
Cockburn Harbour, Turks And Caicos Islands



27 likes
ankeritephotography I tried to ask him how old he was but he couldn't understand my bubbles 🐢 #seaturtle #turksandcaicos #scubadiving #ocean #schoolforfieldstudies #southcaicos #gopro #internlife

nikkitenaglia
La Presa/Atenas



81 likes
nikkitenaglia Studying in Costa Rica isn't too bad I guess 🇸🇩 #schoolforfieldstudies



THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES

100 CUMMINGS CENTER, SUITE 534-G
BEVERLY, MA 01915-6239

P 800-989-4418

F 978-922-3835

ADMISSIONS@FIELDSTUDIES.ORG



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www.fieldstudies.org