

ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDY ABROAD



FALL, SPRING, AND
SUMMER PROGRAMS

THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES | 20 21

AUSTRALIA
BHUTAN
CAMBODIA

CHILE
COSTA RICA
KENYA

PANAMA
PERU
TANZANIA

TURKS & CAICOS
ISLANDS

[EXPLORE.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG](https://explore.fieldstudies.org)





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



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 urban development



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

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



LAND USE CHANGE

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



NATURAL RESOURCE 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



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Livelihood strategies that balance people's ability to make a living with sustainable resource use



TOURISM IMPACTS

The environmental and socioeconomic impacts of tourist activity, especially in sensitive ecosystems and/or places of high biodiversity

Read more about our environmental research around the world at:

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/ISSUES

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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 40-year legacy of environmental research and stewardship that encompasses countries around the world from Cambodia to Kenya to Costa Rica. With our team of experienced researchers and scientists to guide you, you will explore new ecosystems and learn about the critical environmental issues of our time. Get ready for muddy boots 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?**

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLASSROOM

STUDY IN THE WORLD’S MOST DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEMS

Living in Australia’s ancient rainforests, tracking elephants through the African savanna, 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 Andes mountains 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 – and don’t forget your binoculars!



WHO WE ARE

AN EXPERIENCED TEAM

Our faculty are skilled teachers, field researchers, and mentors. Their expertise spans many different fields including ecology, environmental policy, natural 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 communities for over three decades. We develop our research plans based on the environmental issues in this local context. 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Not only are you heading into the field with a group of like-minded peers, but you’re joining a network of more than 19,000 alumni with careers in the private sector, government, academia, and environmental NGOs. You’ll also work alongside SFS staff who are passionate about the environment and committed to making our world a better place.

WHAT WE DO

SFS STUDENTS *DO* SCIENCE

Our programs are hands-on – you’ll be out there engaging with the ecosystems you’re studying. If we spend the morning discussing an article about the issues facing African elephants, we’ll spend that afternoon in the field observing those elephants from just meters away, collecting data on their resilience to climate change. Rather than the usual classroom lecture on the impacts of coffee farming, we visit Costa Rica’s cloud forests to learn directly from farmers about how agriculture can support biodiversity. SFS students *do* science, while conducting real research on important environmental issues.

RELEVANT LOCAL RESEARCH

With ten unique program locations, our research covers a wide spectrum of environmental issues. SFS programs provide the foundation for you to examine and answer questions about current environmental issues in an international setting. The academics and research at each location are designed around issues that are 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

LIVE OFF THE BEATEN PATH

SFS students, faculty, and staff live and work together at our ten campuses around the world. Locations range from deep in the heart of Chilean Patagonia 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, safety is our top priority. SFS provides comprehensive safety and risk management in all aspects of our programs. We work around the clock to mitigate risk without sacrificing the rugged and awe-inspiring nature of the SFS study abroad experience.



www.fieldstudies.org



RESEARCH AT SFS

BE PART OF SOMETHING GREATER

Through a Directed Research project, you'll conduct hands-on field research in some of the world's most important and threatened ecosystems. Your work contributes to crucial scientific efforts to create 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.

LEARN PRACTICAL SKILLS

SFS will prepare you for graduate school, your career, and to be an active environmental steward wherever your life takes you. From species identification and wildlife monitoring to GIS and stakeholder interviews, the skills you'll learn are practical, transferable, and invaluable.

THE PROJECT

EXPERIENCED RESEARCH MENTORS

Field research is complex and challenging – but with the mentorship of our experienced faculty, 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 research process – from project design to completion.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Each SFS center has a strategic research focus which allows our work to build over time and expand beyond isolated projects. Your project is a critical piece of this larger puzzle – you'll design your research question within this context, creating a more informed and valuable result.

THE IMPACT

HELP BUILD 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.

GIVE 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 four weeks of the semester

SAMPLE RESEARCH THEMES

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



"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](https://www.fieldstudies.org/research)

A DAY IN THE FIELD

8:15 am

📍 Australia

EXPLORE THE WORLD'S OLDEST RAINFOREST

Take a walk through the towering trees of the Daintree, the oldest rainforest on our planet. Learn about the threats facing the rainforest and its inhabitants such as climate change, habitat fragmentation, and agricultural runoff.

11:15 am

📍 Panama

SURVEY POPULATIONS OF SEA STARS ON THE BEACH

Grab your snorkel, mask, and wet suit and head to Playa Estrella, a popular tourist destination near the Center. Count sea stars in the shallow water to study the impacts of human handling on their population dynamics.



2:50 pm

📍 Cambodia

LEARN ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES

Spend the afternoon in the Phnom Thnot forest learning about conservation efforts to protect this 6,400-hectare forest and its inhabitants like the pileated gibbon, silver langur, sambar deer, and green peafowl.



6:40 pm

📍 Kenya

WATCH THE SUNSET OVER THE SAVANNA

After a drive through Amboseli National Park to observe elephants, zebras, primates, and many bird species, end your day in the field watching a breathtaking African sunset and comparing notes on the animals you identified.

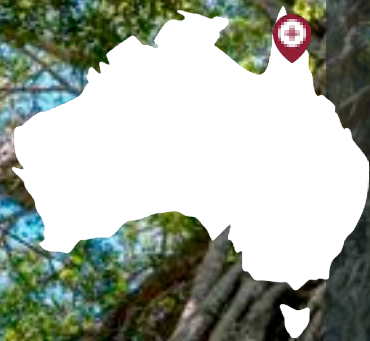




**“HUMANITY IS NOW STANDING AT A
CROSSROADS. WE MUST NOW DECIDE
WHICH PATH WE WANT TO TAKE. HOW
DO WE WANT THE FUTURE LIVING
CONDITIONS FOR ALL LIVING SPECIES
TO BE LIKE?”**

- GRETA THUNBERG

AUSTRALIA



CENTER FOR RAINFOREST STUDIES

LOCATION

Tropical North Queensland

RESEARCH THEMES

*Rainforest fragmentation and recovery • Habitat restoration • Climate change
Marsupial behavior • Aboriginal ecotourism • Ecosystem dynamics*

CORE SKILLS

*Rainforest restoration techniques • Species ID and population monitoring • Forestry survey methods • GIS
Biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • Citizen science protocols • Animal behavior observation
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

LEARN ABOUT CONSERVATION IN SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST ANCIENT ECOSYSTEMS

This is not the Australia you know. Towering strangler fig trees and rare animals like the southern cassowary and Lumholtz's tree kangaroo 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. Just off the coast is Earth's largest living structure – the Great Barrier Reef.

Based in this rugged region, SFS programs explore Australia's spectacular forests, the Great Barrier Reef, and the edge of the Outback. Our research focuses on environmental threats, both past and present, that have caused rainforest fragmentation, species loss, and reef die-off, and we work alongside local community groups and regional Indigenous people on restoration and management projects to help Australia thrive in a time of ecological uncertainty.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

At the end of a narrow, winding path, surrounded by lush rainforest, lies this remote field station. Our 153-acre property is surrounded by protected World Heritage forests, and you can observe incredible wildlife from the front steps of your cabin. The nearby towns of Yungaburra, Atherton, and Cairns are just a short drive away.

- ▶ Group living in eight-person cabins
- ▶ Main building with classroom, lab, and study spaces
- ▶ Student lounge with scenic porch views and WiFi
- ▶ Covered outdoor dining area, on-site cook, and garden
- ▶ On-campus network of trails for rainforest hikes
- ▶ Outdoor spaces for volleyball, yoga, and hammocks

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING RAINFOREST TO REEF

Immerse yourself in the rich biodiversity of the rainforest and learn about socio-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. Contribute to field ecology experiments and forest restoration activities, while studying environmental policy and community conservation approaches and developing skills in field research and data collection.

14 WEEKS | **16** CREDITS | JAN 25 - APR 29, 2021
AUG 30 - DEC 02, 2021



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 community volunteers to regenerate critical rainforest habitats.
- ▶ Visit different parts of the Great Barrier Reef to snorkel, hike, and learn about the links between rainforest and reef ecosystems.
- ▶ Meet with Indigenous Mandingalbay Yidinji rangers to learn about their traditional practices and approaches to environmental stewardship.

SUMMER

SESSION I RAINFORESTS OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

In this two-country program, you'll travel to the diverse rainforest ecosystems of Australia and New Zealand, where environmental and social factors have led to fragmentation and decline. You'll examine strategies for ecosystem restoration and endangered species management and meet with the Indigenous communities and conservation groups doing the work to restore these once-vast forests.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | MAY 31 - JUN 30, 2021



COURSE

SFS 3540	Rainforest Management Studies	4 credits
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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 living in the rainforest, exploring coral reefs, and learning about 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 05 - AUG 04, 2021



COURSE

SFS 3161	Wet Tropics Watershed Ecology and Conservation	4 credits
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef and learn about the links between rainforest restoration and water quality on the reef while observing sea turtles, giant clams, corals, and other marine life up close.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

BHUTAN

CENTER FOR HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

LOCATION *Paro, Western Bhutan*

RESEARCH THEMES *Climate change • Gross National Happiness • Mountain ecology and conservation
Forest management • Himalayan biogeography • Agriculture, food systems, and development*

CORE SKILLS *Biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • Species ID and population monitoring • GIS
Forest survey methods • Camera trapping • Natural resource management planning • Interview methods
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/BHUTAN

OVERVIEW

VENTURE TO THE MOUNTAIN KINGDOM OF BHUTAN, WHERE CHANGE IS ON THE HORIZON

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

As the country begins to urbanize, and with the looming threat of a rapidly changing climate, Bhutan is at a crossroads. In keeping with the tenets of GNH, the people of Bhutan work to balance preserving biodiversity with securing their economic future. In partnership with the Bhutanese government and the Bhutan Ecological Society, SFS provides much-needed data that informs sustainable conservation and development policies and climate adaptation strategies.



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 15-minute walk brings you to the markets, shops, and cultural events of Paro Town.

- ▶ Dorm living with two to four students per room
- ▶ Classroom and dedicated study spaces
- ▶ Kitchen and dining hall, and on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Student lounge and ping-pong loft
- ▶ Verandas with scenic views of the valley
- ▶ Hiking trails and local roads for running

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY IN TRANSITION

Spend a semester in a corner of the Himalayas where few tourists ever set foot. Trek through remote villages and high mountain passes to experience Bhutan's vibrant culture, Buddhist philosophy, and rich biodiversity 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 25 - MAY 07, 2021
AUG 30 - DEC 10, 2021

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 supported trek to experience the natural beauty of Bhutan's countryside and learn about traditional rural lifestyles.
- ▶ Visit monasteries, including Tiger's Nest, and take part in unforgettable *tshechus* (festivals) to learn more about Buddhism and Bhutanese culture.
- ▶ Explore Bhutan's diverse range of biomes through trips to Himalayan ridges, subtropical Punakha and Phuentsholing, and Phobjikha's high altitude wetlands.

SUMMER

SESSION I FORESTS IN THE LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

Explore the rich culture, biodiversity, and scenic beauty of the Bhutanese Himalayas and learn how forests – which cover more than 70 percent of the landscape – are integral to the goals of Gross National Happiness. Spend four weeks surveying forests, visiting ancient shrines, and studying conservation and development in one of the most fascinating countries in the world.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | MAY 31 - JUN 30, 2021

COURSE

SFS 3181 Himalayan Forests and Gross National Happiness 4 credits

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Trek across some of the last intact remnants of Himalayan forests – visiting remote villages, learning about Bhutanese culture, and camping out under the stars.

SESSION II BIG CATS OF THE HIMALAYAS: TRACKING AND CONSERVATION

In Bhutan, a deep reverence for life has aided in the preservation of the country's tigers, snow leopards, and other wild cats. Using camera traps, study the conservation of these elusive creatures and learn how adaptation and management strategies can ensure their survival in a changing world.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | JUL 05 - AUG 04, 2021

COURSE

SFS 3191 Tracking and Conservation of Big Cats in the Himalayas 4 credits

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Set up camera traps in and around the sacred landscape of Taksang with some of Bhutan's top biologists to try to capture images of endangered species such as the tiger and snow leopard.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

CAMBODIA



CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

LOCATION

Siem Reap

RESEARCH THEMES

Climate change impacts • Elephant ecology • Traditional ecological knowledge
Biodiversity conservation • Environmental justice • Buddhism influences

CORE SKILLS

Biodiversity assessments & survey techniques • Species ID & population monitoring • Ethics & reasoning
Elephant behavior analysis • Environmental impacts assessments • Grant writing • Basic Khmer language
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/CAMBODIA

OVERVIEW

IN CAMBODIA, CONSERVATION HAS FOUND ITS ROOTS IN COMMUNITY

Here, remnants of 12th-century temples share the landscape with wild forests, Buddhist monasteries, and floating villages. Diverse ecosystems, from the mighty Mekong River to the dense highland forests of Mondulkiri, are home to rare species like the Asian elephant, sun bear, and Irrawaddy dolphin. The Tonle Sap Lake swells exponentially each year with the monsoon season, creating a dramatic seasonal shift for the fishing and farming communities and wildlife of this flooded region.

With severe climate change impacts already visible, Cambodia is a case study in resilience. Adaptation and collaborative conservation efforts are necessary for the people of Cambodia to ensure food security and limit biodiversity loss in a time of rapid development. Our research here examines these efforts on the ground and provides data to support a path toward a more sustainable future for Cambodia.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

Our most urban center lies on the outskirts of Siem Reap, near the famed temples of Angkor. The Center is a breezy, modern campus nestled in a quiet neighborhood minutes away from the bustling downtown area where you will find restaurants, artisan shops, markets, and many Cambodian cultural activities.

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

SEMESTER

FALL CLIMATE CHANGE, ETHICS, AND CONSERVATION

Spend the semester exploring Cambodia's diverse landscapes – from the great Tonle Sap Lake to the ancient Angkor temples. Study threats to biodiversity, learn about environmental justice and policy, and discuss traditional practices with Indigenous communities. Embark on expeditions across the region, visiting an elephant sanctuary in Mondulkiri, the capital city of Phnom Penh, conservation sites along the Mekong River, and the Four Thousand Islands in Laos.

15 WEEKS | **18** CREDITS | AUG 30 - DEC 10, 2021

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

- ▶ Meet the gentle giants of Mondulkiri: Visit the Elephant Valley Project, Cambodia's first elephant sanctuary, to study elephant behavior and ecology.
- ▶ Spend the night in a floating village on the Tonle Sap Lake and learn from villagers about how they're adapting their livelihoods to climate change.
- ▶ Take an expedition to a vast riverine archipelago in southern Laos, home to endangered Irrawaddy river dolphins and stunning waterfalls during the wet season.

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 capital city, Phnom Penh, and the ancient Angkor temples to explore the historical and cultural significance of elephants in Cambodia.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | MAY 31 - JUN 30, 2021

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.

SESSION II FRESHWATER ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

This summer, Cambodia's freshwater ecosystems become your classroom, from Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake to the mighty Mekong River. Travel across Cambodia, visiting ecological sites, floating villages, ancient temples, and the vibrant capital, Phnom Penh. Learn about endangered species conservation, fisheries, water governance, food security, and hydropower development.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | JUL 05 - AUG 04, 2021

COURSE

SFS 3211	Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation	4 credits
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Stay in a floating village on the vast Tonle Sap Lake, meeting with residents to learn about food security and lake conservation issues, and visit the Prek Toal bird sanctuary, an important nesting site.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER



SAVING THE WORLD TAKES ALL OF US

MARLOWE STARLING | UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA | SFS TANZANIA

H *ujambo!* Here in East Africa, we are studying baboon behavior, recording data on elephants in Tarangire National Park, and placing orders for custom-made clothing made of local *kitenge* at the tailor in town — albeit in broken Kiswahili. But perhaps first I should mention that I’m not currently majoring in wildlife management, let alone anything science-related. As a journalism major and life-long writer, my expertise lies in literature, good grammar, and great story-telling; however, I also feel deeply about contributing to the healing of our planet in some way. That’s why I’m here.

My confession? I have never conducted true scientific research. Coming from a non-STEM major, this was way out of my comfort zone, but I can tell you this: If this program speaks to you, and if you have a deep desire to contribute to conservation efforts in any way during your lifetime, do it. And, if you ask me, pushing yourself outside those boundaries of comfort is the best way to grow as a person and as a student.

We are living in an era when species are beginning to go extinct more frequently, when people continue to massacre wildlife populations for personal benefit despite international awareness of wildlife issues, and when our climate is screaming at us for help. It doesn’t only take biologists to save the world; it takes passion and initiative.

What I personally love about SFS — and what initially caught my eye and ultimately helped me decide SFS over other study abroad programs — is its openness to all majors and enthusiasm for us to have an authentic and nourishing experience in the field. Although I excelled in biology classes growing up, I had still never formally filled out a data sheet or written a scientific paper. At the end of the day, however, none of those technicalities mattered.



“It doesn’t only take biologists to save the world; it takes passion and initiative — from all of us.”

To be completely honest, it took me a while to get past the feelings of self-doubt and self-consciousness — things I had never experienced academically before — to realize how special it is to be a student with a different vision for how I can contribute to the environment going forward. No, I may not conduct earth-shattering research deserving of a Nobel Peace Prize, but I may well strive to earn a Pulitzer for the stories that will wake everyone up from this daydream once and for all.

One aspect of SFS programs that I find exceptionally valuable compared to other programs is their transparency. Here, you get the authentic experience. Here, you are engaged with a culture completely different from your own, in a language with different sounds and sentence structures. Here, you live alongside the locals, and you learn from them. As I write this not even two weeks into our short one-month stay, I am already fighting the tears I know will come when it is time to bid Tanzania farewell. We have befriended so many people, from staff to students to locals, who have made us feel like family over the span of only a few days.

Winnie, at the soccer field a short walk away, is my tiny Frisbee partner-in-crime; Frank makes sure we are learning (and practicing!) as much Kiswahili as possible; and at night, after dinner, we sit around the campfire roasting marshmallows and sharing stories to the sound of crickets and Creedence Clearwater Revival. We don’t sleep in 5-star hotels, and we aren’t the average tourists — or tourists at all, really. This is our temporary home, and everyone here believes that us *wanafunzi*, students, will change the world someday.

So, if this speaks to you, don’t hesitate. Just don’t be afraid to dive in headfirst and get your hands dirty.

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 impacts & resilience • Conservation policy • Glacial & freshwater dynamics
Aquaculture & aquatic ecology • Alpine & post-glacial ecology • Protected areas management*

CORE SKILLS

*Terrestrial & freshwater biodiversity assessments & survey techniques • Water quality assessments
Species ID and population monitoring • Natural resource valuation • GIS • Basic Spanish language
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/CHILE

OVERVIEW

PATAGONIA IS A LAND OF WILD BEAUTY

In Chilean Patagonia, towering pinnacles clash with rivers of ice, and life persists 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, how conservation decisions are made in the region, and species found nowhere else on the planet.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

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

- ▶ Dorm living with two to four students per room
- ▶ Classroom and student lounge
- ▶ Kitchen and dining room, and on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Nearby running routes in town
- ▶ Steps away from the town square, shops, and cafes
- ▶ Short walk to the Señoret Channel, a scenic fjord

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING WILD PATAGONIA: FIRE AND ICE

Spend a semester amid the spectacular peaks, glaciers, and fjords of Patagonia, where the trails of national parks like Torres del Paine become your classroom. Embark on expeditions throughout the diverse ecosystems and communities of this iconic region to study climate change impacts, glacial and aquatic dynamics, alpine ecology, and conservation.

15

WEEKS

18

CREDITS

JAN 25 - MAY 07, 2021

SEP 06 - DEC 17, 2021



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.
- ▶ Journey to northern Patagonia's lakes region, home to lush Valdivian rainforests, active volcanoes, Magellanic and Humboldt penguin colonies, and the unique cultural heritage of Chiloé Island.
- ▶ Explore Patagonian ecosystems, from sub-polar, broadleaf evergreen forests growing alongside glaciers to broad open plains where flightless rheas and guanacos roam.

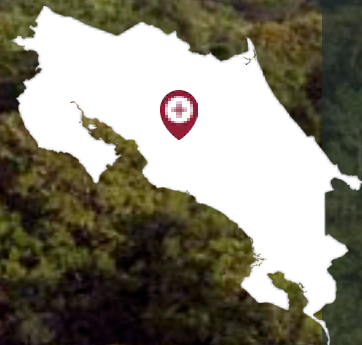


"Here at SFS Chile, mountains are not just a pretty backdrop. Forests are not mere scenery to gaze at. Parks are not boxes to be checked on a to-visit list. They are lecture halls and laboratories, sources of knowledge and reflection and inspiration."

*Jack Henry Buck
Dickinson College*



COSTA RICA



CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

LOCATION

Atenas, Central Valley

RESEARCH THEMES

Climate change in tropical ecosystems • Agroforestry, permaculture, and conservation
Avian behavior • Food security • Urban ecology • Sustainable ecotourism

CORE SKILLS

Biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • GIS • Forestry survey techniques • Songbird mist-netting
Environmental impact assessments • Conservation strategy assessments • Basic Spanish language
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/COSTARICA

OVERVIEW

GO OFF THE BEATEN PATH AND EXPERIENCE SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

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

Efforts to preserve the wild beauty of Costa Rica are recognized worldwide, but climate change and increased urban development and tourism bring new and unforeseen challenges. Conservation leaders, farmers, land managers, and policymakers must work together using regenerative strategies to build ecological resilience and minimize climate change impacts. Our research in Costa Rica contributes vital data to innovative efforts that balance conservation and development.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center overlooks the vibrant Central Valley, where green is the predominant color as far as the eye can see. As part of an active sustainable farm, dorms and classrooms are nestled among 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 four-person bunkrooms
- ▶ Classroom, library, computer lab, and laundry room
- ▶ Open-air porch with hammocks and chairs
- ▶ Dining hall with scenic valley views, and on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Swimming pool, soccer field, outdoor classroom, pizza oven
- ▶ Rainforest Alliance Certified™ farm

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 reflected in the common local phrase "Pura Vida." Explore the country's many national parks, farms, and tropical ecosystems full of spectacular biodiversity. Learn how Costa Ricans are creatively addressing conservation and development issues and discuss ecotourism, habitat connectivity, sustainable food production, and ecological restoration.

15 WEEKS | **18** CREDITS | JAN 25 - MAY 07, 2021
AUG 30 - DEC 10, 2021

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 percent of the world's biodiversity, to study tropical ecology and sustainable land management.
- ▶ Take a week-long expedition to Panama's Chiriquí Highlands, a lush, forested region of volcanic peaks, coffee farms, rich Ngäbe-Buglé culture, and perpetual spring-like weather.
- ▶ Go behind the scenes at a local coffee farm and a sustainable permaculture homestead to learn how Costa Ricans are addressing agriculture and food production with conservation.

SUMMER

SESSION I BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Using coffee and chocolate as case studies, explore the relationship between food systems, ecology, conservation, sustainability, and economic development. Study the sociocultural history of coffee and cacao, from Indigenous histories to modern production and exports and learn about different agricultural techniques and their potential to restore biodiversity and combat climate change.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | MAY 31 - JUN 30, 2021

COURSE

SFS 3141	Coffee, Chocolate, and Sustainable Development	4 credits
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Visit La Iguana Chocolate Farm, where you'll harvest cacao by hand and learn about permaculture, sustainable living, and local methods of chocolate processing – and taste some too!

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER



"I cannot imagine a better semester abroad. I spent three months on a gorgeous campus learning hands-on about ecology and environmentalism. All the professors know what they are talking about and are incredibly passionate about it. It was everything I wanted and more."

Ben Lefkowitz
Muhlenberg College



KENYA

CENTER FOR WILDLIFE AND WATER STUDIES

LOCATION

Kimana, Rift Valley, Southern Kenya near Amboseli National Park

RESEARCH THEMES

Wildlife management & conservation • Climate change impacts • Large mammal & primate behavior
Natural resource management • Protected areas management • Community-based conservation

CORE SKILLS

Biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • Species ID and population monitoring • Interview methods
Animal behavior observations • Protected areas assessments • Human development impact assessments
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication
Basic Swahili language

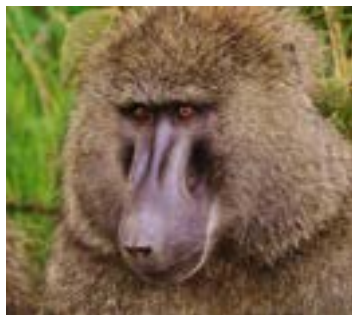
WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/KENYA

OVERVIEW

MEET AFRICA'S WILDLIFE: CONSERVATION IN THE FACE OF A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

In the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Kenya's grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and giraffes roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectivity between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region's finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and promotes successful coexistence between humans and the country's incredible wildlife.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center lies in the heart of Kenya's Rift Valley, between three world-famous national parks. The snow-capped peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro towers over miles of savanna, replete with a diversity of wildlife. Our sprawling, grassy campus includes thatched *bandas* (cabins) and a central *chumba* (main building), just down the road from the small town of Kimana.

- ▶ Dorm living with four-person *bandas*
- ▶ Kitchen and dining hall, and on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Nature trails and tree garden on campus
- ▶ Classroom, library, and study spaces
- ▶ Stunning views of Mt. Kilimanjaro from campus
- ▶ Volleyball, soccer, Frisbee, and fire pit

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING WILDLIFE, WATER, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Immerse yourself in the stunning landscapes of Kenya, exploring world-famous national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and protected areas, and meeting the Maasai and other communities. Study the behavior and ecology of iconic animals, from colossal elephants to endangered black rhinos. Learn about natural resource and wildlife management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

15 WEEKS | **18** CREDITS | JAN 26 - MAY 08, 2021
AUG 31 - DEC 11, 2021



COURSES

SFS 2060	Swahili Language and East African 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

- ▶ Embark on multi-day camping expeditions to both Amboseli National Park and Chyulu Hills and Tsavo West, attend field lectures, and hone your wildlife observation skills.
- ▶ Spend two weeks in Tanzania, with expeditions to Serengeti National Park, Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.
- ▶ Take part in an overnight homestay, staying in a traditional boma with a local Maasai family. Learn about Maasai culture, daily life, and their relationship with nature.

SUMMER

SESSION I FUNDAMENTALS OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

In this two-country fundamentals course, the world-famous national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and protected areas of Kenya and Tanzania are your classrooms. Through safari drives and field excursions, study wildlife found nowhere else on the planet. Discuss approaches to wildlife management and conservation, and learn how the Maasai and other communities interact with wildlife and nature.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | MAY 31 - JUN 30, 2021



COURSE

SFS 3500	Wildlife Management and Conservation	4 credits
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Take expeditions to Serengeti, Amboseli, and other world-famous national parks to study elephants, cheetahs, hippos, and other wildlife and compare approaches to tourism and wildlife management.

SESSION II PRIMATES OF THE AFRICAN SAVANNA

Primates are some of the most intelligent species on the planet and a fascinating case study on animal behavior. Venture into Kenya's protected areas to study these complex, social creatures. Using field observations and research, learn about the ecology and behavior of Syke's, colobus, and vervet monkeys, bush babies, and yellow and olive baboons as well as human-primate conflict and conservation issues.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | JUL 05 - AUG 04, 2021



COURSE

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

- ▶ Embark on overnight camping expeditions to Tsavo West and Amboseli National Parks, where you'll see primates, large cats, elephants, giraffes, and myriad birds in their natural habitats.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

PANAMA



CENTER FOR TROPICAL ISLAND BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

LOCATION

Isla Colón, Bocas del Toro Archipelago

RESEARCH THEMES

*Rainforest and marine biodiversity • Tourism impacts • Ecosystem health
Community livelihoods and perceptions • Climate change impacts • Marine protected areas*

CORE SKILLS

*Marine and terrestrial biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • Coral health assessments
Animal behavior observation • Species ID and population monitoring • Tourism impact assessments
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication
Interview methods • Basic Spanish language skills*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/PANAMA

OVERVIEW

TROPICAL ‘PARADISE’ IN PERSPECTIVE

Lush rainforests, hundreds of mangrove islands, and coral reefs teeming with diverse marine life – the Bocas del Toro archipelago is a vibrant living laboratory for studying tropical biodiversity. This chain of islands is populated by everything from hummingbirds and howler monkeys to stingrays, dolphins, sloths, and brightly colored poison dart frogs. At first glance, Bocas is nothing short of paradise.

However, climate change and increased tourism on the islands have led to ecosystem and natural resource degradation while also threatening islanders’ traditional livelihoods. Our research on the environmental impacts of tourism and development on Bocas’ natural ecosystems provides the community with data necessary to support more sustainable policies and protect the beautiful islands so many call home.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center, once a beachfront hotel, is nestled among the slender palms of Isla Colón. You’ll take your classes over the warm waters of the Caribbean and amid the surrounding rainforests and reefs. The laid-back 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 four-person bunkrooms
- ▶ Classroom on a sheltered dock above the ocean
- ▶ Air-conditioned student lounge and lab
- ▶ Casual al-fresco dining area, and on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Swimming pool, kayaking, and paddleboarding
- ▶ Volleyball, spikeball, and beachfront hammocks

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING TROPICAL ISLAND BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

Spend a semester in the dynamic community of Bocas del Toro, where you’ll experience everything from underwater ecosystems to rich green rainforests. Study tropical ecology and biodiversity, then go behind the scenes of this ‘paradise’ and examine the impacts of tourism and development on the island system’s unique habitats. Evaluate local stakeholder perceptions and environmental policies and study the principles of sustainability and conservation.

15 WEEKS | **18** CREDITS | JAN 25 – MAY 07, 2021
AUG 30 – DEC 10, 2021

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

- ▶ Snorkel in the waters of the archipelago among coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds as you study sea stars, turtles, rays, dolphins, and schools of tropical fish.
- ▶ Visit the Pacific coast and the mountains of Boquete: Explore the Gulf of Chiriquí National Marine Park, take a canopy walk through a cloud forest, and tour a sustainable coffee farm.
- ▶ Spend a day in Ngäbe communities: Hear from local Indigenous leaders, visit a women’s co-op, and take a forest walk with a local guide.

SUMMER

SESSION I TROPICAL ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS: THE HUMAN IMPACT

The program begins with a journey across Panama, from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic, ending in Bocas del Toro. Snorkel and hike through the archipelago’s diverse environments – from coral reefs and mangroves to beaches and rainforests – and study human impacts, such as tourism, on the island’s ecosystems and communities.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | MAY 31 – JUN 30, 2021

COURSE

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

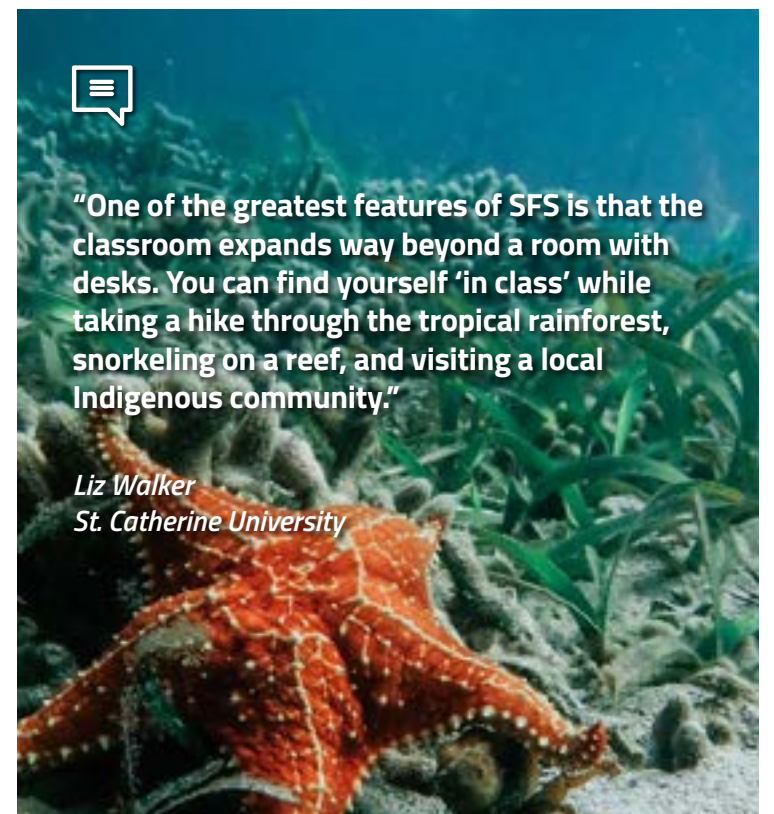
- ▶ Spend a day in Ngäbe communities: Hear from local Indigenous leaders, visit a women’s co-op, and take a forest walk with a local guide.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER



“One of the greatest features of SFS is that the classroom expands way beyond a room with desks. You can find yourself ‘in class’ while taking a hike through the tropical rainforest, snorkeling on a reef, and visiting a local Indigenous community.”

*Liz Walker
St. Catherine University*





KENDI BORONA, PH.D.

FACULTY | SFS KENYA

Dr. Borona was born and raised near a forest in the Kenyan highlands. It was because of the waters flowing from this forest that she did not have to walk for long distances to fetch water – a task expected of girls in her community. This forest and its critical watersheds were and are protected by elders through the application of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, providing water for community needs downstream. She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Forestry. She is a firm believer in the application of Indigenous Knowledge in the furtherance of just conservation regimes and sustainable community livelihoods. Over the course of her career, she has worked towards the integration of natural and cultural heritage into a concrete whole, and to locate communities firmly in their landscapes. Her teaching philosophy is anchored on the belief that education should be transformational and that it should help us create a just society for all beings. She teaches Human Dimensions of Conservation and Directed Research at SFS.

EDUCATION

Doctorate in Forest Resources Management
(University of British Columbia, Canada)

TEACHING AT SFS

SFS 3071 Human Dimensions of Conservation (Semester)
SFS 4910 Directed Research (Semester)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Community-based conservation • African cultural heritage management
Forest resource governance • Indigenous research methodologies

A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN KENYA

by Dr. Kendi Borona

Wildlife conservation has for a long time been associated with national parks. World-famous African national parks such as Maasai Mara, Amboseli, Tsavo, Serengeti, Ngorongoro, and Tarangire have showcased the abundance and diversity of wildlife to people across the world. This is mainly through numerous documentaries that have been shot in these locations.

The story that does not get shared in these films is that wildlife in many African parks is actually free-roaming and not restricted to the boundaries of the park; as animals roam out of the parks they traverse landscapes that are occupied by humans. This has been a great source of conflict between communities living around these national parks and protected areas and government authorities.

The national park idea is borrowed from the U.S. and is commonly known as the Yellowstone model. This model is anchored on emptying landscapes of their human presence and leaving a 'pristine wilderness' for wildlife to thrive. In the case of Africa, this model was introduced during the colonial period. Creating these national parks, such as the Serengeti in Tanzania or Amboseli in Kenya, meant that people

had to be forcefully removed from land that they had intimate, long-standing connections with as sources of both livelihood and spirituality. Thus, all national parks in our region of Africa, and largely across the continent, are contested by one or multiple communities.

The region around the SFS Kenya Center provides strong case studies on the impacts of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and protected areas on local human populations such as the Maasai. None of the major parks (Amboseli, Tsavo, Chyulu Hills) in the region are fenced, and wildlife such as elephants, lions, and giraffes freely move across the landscape, creating an environment rife with human-wildlife conflict.

It is against this background that a new conservation model has emerged over the last two decades where the communities surrounding these protected areas have been combining their pieces of land and establishing conservancies. Conservancies have no doubt increased the amount of land available for conservation and help safeguard land for future generations. They also help keep important migration corridors open, so that wildlife can access different habitats across the region.

Ideally, through this new model, conservancies should be community-managed with the goal of enabling communities to tap into the benefits of conservation, while seeking to rectify the wrongs of the Yellowstone model.

SFS research in this region focuses on documenting the historical development of different conservation initiatives, exploring the challenges and benefits of conservancies to community members and other stakeholders. Ultimately, we are working towards contributing to a healthy landscape for both people and wildlife. We are at the forefront of supporting community-based conservation in one of the world's most important conservation areas.

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



fieldstudies.org/blog

MEET OUR ALUMNI

...THEY'RE BUSY CHANGING THE WORLD



LAN NGUYEN

SFS Cambodia Fall '15
Ph.D. student in Ecology, Evolution, Environment,
and Society at Dartmouth College



"Without my SFS experience conducting Directed Research in the field, I would not be where I am today. I found passion in research and seeking solutions to environmental issues in the lower Mekong basin."

ANNA WEST

SFS Costa Rica Fall '13
Digital Communications Specialist at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty



"Thinking back on my SFS experience, Costa Rica was where, for the first time in my life, I combined what I liked to do with an idea of how I could serve others."



DAN MYERS

SFS Turks & Caicos Fall '09
Director of Public Affairs at National Geographic Pristine Seas



"Living in the Caribbean gave me an appreciation for the challenges faced by island communities. Fast forward six years and I started working with National Geographic Pristine Seas, a job where I've used the understanding that SFS gave me to work with island communities around the world."



MUSTAFA AJLYAKIN

SFS Panama Spring '15
Entrepreneur, Assistant Manager at Bana Roukbi Logistics & Warehousing



"From the moment I stepped foot in Panama, I knew this experience would change me. Today I carry my SFS experience with me as my happy place and mental escape, making me conscious of my impact on the world around me and confident in my ability to protect it."



PERU



CENTER FOR AMAZON STUDIES

LOCATION

Iquitos, Amazon Rainforest

RESEARCH THEMES

*Climate change • Forest and soil ecology • Sustainable aquaculture
Natural resource management • Forest recovery • Development in the Amazon*

CORE SKILLS

*Biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • Species ID and population monitoring • Camera trapping
Forest survey methods • Environmental impacts assessments • Interview methods • Basic Spanish language
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication*

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/PERU

OVERVIEW

DISCOVER THE LIVING AMAZON

In the heart of the Amazon, dense green foliage blankets the horizon as far as the eye can see. For millennia, its rich natural resources have supported human communities and an incredible diversity of wildlife species found nowhere else on the planet. This great and complex rainforest is also one of the world's most impactful ecosystems – Amazonian watersheds account for 20 percent of the world's fresh river water.

However, the forests of the Peruvian Amazon are increasingly under threat from climate change, rapid development, and extractive activities like logging and mining. From the *terra firme* and flooded forests of the lowlands to the glacial lakes and tropical montane forests of the Andes, Peru's landscapes need comprehensive and inclusive strategies for conservation. Our research here provides important insights into the fate of the Amazon and all the life that depends on it.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

Between the remote city of Iquitos and the port city of Nauta, nestled in the Amazon, sits the Center. The sounds of the forest permeate our campus, from student cabins to the pool and open-air student lounge. The rainforest is accessible via an on-campus trail system traversing our 183-acre property. Small communities and local shops are within walking distance.

- ▶ Dorm living with two to six person bunkrooms
- ▶ Open-air student lounge and study space
- ▶ Large dining area and outdoor patio, on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Trail network extends from campus into rainforest
- ▶ Traditional thatched-roof classroom
- ▶ Swimming pool, soccer field, volleyball, and hammock huts

SEMESTER

FALL

BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMAZON

Explore the extraordinarily biodiverse ecosystems of the northern Peruvian Amazon and learn about threats to the region, like climate change and resource extraction. Embark on a multi-day riverboat expedition to survey wildlife in flooded forest ecosystems and experience community-based conservation projects. Travel to the Andean highlands to visit cloud forests and the historic Incan capital of Cusco, the hub for visitors to Machu Picchu.

15 WEEKS | **18** CREDITS | AUG 30 - DEC 10, 2021



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 livelihoods of the Majuna people and explore the rainforest from one of the world's longest canopy walkways.
- ▶ Take a five-day riverboat expedition in Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Regional Conservation Area, home to species like pink river dolphins, sloths, 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 agriculture and conservation organizations.



"We saw squirrel monkeys hopping from tree to tree and pink river dolphins circling the river mouth, searching for fish. Now we are cruising in an open wooden boat under the stars, using a spotlight to search for caimans along the rainforest shore. The energy contained in this place is indescribably vibrant and the forest constantly spills over with sound and movement."

*Katelyn Hammel
University of North Carolina*



TANZANIA



CENTER FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STUDIES

LOCATION

Rhotia, Maasai Steppe, Northern Tanzania

RESEARCH THEMES

Wildlife management & conservation • Climate change impacts • Carnivore ecology
Human-wildlife conflict • Community-based conservation • Reptile and amphibian ecology

CORE SKILLS

Biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • Animal behavior observation • Tag/recapture techniques
Camera trapping • Conservation strategy assessments • Interview methods • Basic Swahili language
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/TANZANIA

OVERVIEW

MEET THE CHARISMATIC WILDLIFE OF TANZANIA

Few places in the world are more iconic than the African savanna. In Tanzania, baobabs and acacia trees dot the horizon, while wildebeest 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 pastoralist Maasai, agro-pastoralist Iraqw, and the hunter-gatherer Hadzabe tribes, all of whom have rich cultural traditions and strong ties to the land.

Tanzania has made progress in protecting its large populations of charismatic wildlife, but this complex landscape faces many challenges. Our research focuses on understanding the impacts of climate change, habitat fragmentation, and human-wildlife conflict, while exploring approaches to community-based conservation that support successful coexistence between humans and the country's incredible wildlife.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

Learn to live the *pole pole* lifestyle at the SFS Center in Tanzania. Surrounded by world-famous national parks and wildlife, it's the perfect home base 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 just a short walk away.

- ▶ Dorm living in four-person *bandas* (cabins)
- ▶ Classroom, library, and computer lab
- ▶ Kitchen and dining hall, and on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Volleyball, gazebo, fire pit, and lounge areas
- ▶ Community soccer games and local running routes
- ▶ Markets in nearby towns of Rhotia, Karatu, and Mto Wa Mbu

SEMESTER

FALL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Explore the iconic landscapes of Tanzania as you study the ecology and behavior of charismatic species, from lions and elephants to a variety of birds and reptiles. Experience the rich culture of the Maasai, Iraqw, and Hadzabe peoples and learn about human-wildlife conflict and community conservation approaches. Examine local environmental policies and wildlife management strategies as you research the impacts of climate change, habitat fragmentation, and resource availability.

15 WEEKS | **18** CREDITS | AUG 30 - DEC 10, 2021

COURSES

SFS 2060	Swahili Language and East African 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, participating in field excursions on wildlife behavior and migratory patterns.
- ▶ Learn about lion and elephant ecology in Tarangire National Park and visit Burunge Wildlife Management Area to learn about community-based conservation.
- ▶ Spend two weeks in southern Kenya, with expeditions to Amboseli National Park, Tsavo Conservation Area, and the stunning Chyulu Hills.

SUMMER

SESSION I FUNDAMENTALS OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

In this two-country fundamentals course, the world-famous national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and protected areas of Kenya and Tanzania are your classrooms. Through safari drives and field excursions, study wildlife found nowhere else on the planet. Discuss approaches to wildlife management and conservation, and learn how the Maasai and other communities interact with wildlife and nature.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | MAY 31 - JUN 30, 2021

COURSE

SFS 3500	Wildlife Management and Conservation	4 credits
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Take expeditions to Serengeti, Amboseli, and other world-famous national parks to study elephants, cheetahs, hippos, and other wildlife and compare approaches to tourism and wildlife management.

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 05 - AUG 04, 2021

COURSE

SFS 3121	African Large Carnivores: Ecology and Conservation	4 credits
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Visit the Tarangire Lion Project to meet with researchers and study lion population dynamics and conservation challenges using radio telemetry and camera trapping data.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

TURKS & CAICOS

CENTER FOR MARINE RESOURCE STUDIES

LOCATION

South Caicos Island, Caribbean Region

RESEARCH THEMES

Climate change & the ocean • Tourism impacts • Commercial fisheries
Coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass ecosystems • Marine protected areas

CORE SKILLS

Marine biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • Coral health assessments • Snorkel/scuba skills
Species ID and population monitoring • Video and photo tracking • Natural resource valuation
Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/TCI

OVERVIEW

LEARN TO LIVE ON ISLAND TIME

The Turks and Caicos Islands are home to vibrant coral reefs, dramatic sea walls, a deep ocean trench, mangrove forests, and extensive seagrass beds, which together sustain a stunning diversity of sea life. Spotted eagle rays, 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, 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 needs with the preservation of irreplaceable natural resources.



LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center is a former 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. Get to know the small, historic town of Cockburn Harbour, engage in community activities, and spot the flamingoes, wild horses, and donkeys that call this island home.

- ▶ Dorm living with four to six students per room
- ▶ Air-conditioned classroom and computer lab
- ▶ Dock, dive shed, and small fleet of research boats
- ▶ Waterfront campus with direct access to the ocean
- ▶ Open-air dining space, and on-site cooking staff
- ▶ Volleyball, hammocks, and swimming pool by the ocean

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING MARINE RESOURCE STUDIES

Spend a semester on the island of South Caicos, where spectacular marine ecosystems are still mostly untouched by tourism and development. Don your fins and get to know a host of marine life while researching coral reefs, seagrass meadows, and mangroves. 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 25 - MAY 07, 2021
AUG 30 - DEC 10, 2021

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 or diving in the clear waters around South Caicos and conduct marine species identification exercises and reef fish surveys.
- ▶ Visit sites like the Grotto and Shark Alley to see spotted eagle rays up close, track the invasive lionfish, and monitor the health of corals.
- ▶ Take an excursion to the islands of Middle Caicos, North Caicos, and Providenciales to explore the variety of ecosystems in the TCI, including caves and protected wetlands.

SUMMER

SESSION I FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE CONSERVATION

Explore the spectacular reefs and turquoise waters of South Caicos, snorkeling or diving with rays, turtles, brilliantly colored fish, and other marine life. In this fundamentals course, you'll learn about the environmental issues and policies affecting these ecosystems and the island community, and gain the skills needed to conduct marine field research.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | MAY 31 - JUN 30, 2021

COURSE

SFS 3530 Tropical Marine Ecosystems: Monitoring and Management 4 credits

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ Lay underwater transects and assess the health of the island's coral reefs, which are among the largest in the world and are home to diverse marine species including the valuable queen conch.

SESSION II MARINE MEGAFaUNA

Spend your summer studying sharks, turtles, and rays in the waters surrounding the island of South Caicos. In this specialized course, you'll learn about the ecology and conservation of these and other marine megafauna through in-water field lectures, snorkel or dive sessions, and video tracking exercises.

04 WEEKS | **04** CREDITS | JUL 05 - AUG 04, 2021

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 and other predators to analyze species abundance and diversity inside and outside protected areas.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

BEFORE YOU APPLY

- Visit your study abroad office to discuss credit transfer, approved programs, financial aid, and any internal processes.
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss how an SFS program fits in with your degree plan.
- Visit the SFS website to learn more about programs, read student stories on the blog, and figure out which program is the best fit for you.
- Consider scheduling an advising session with a member of the SFS Admissions team.
- Make an account on the SFS website and begin your application. No application fee.

WHEN TO APPLY

SFS reviews and accepts applications on a rolling basis, and there is no SFS application deadline. So, apply early to be considered for your first-choice program. Make sure to check with your home school regarding school-specific study abroad application deadlines.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Students receive academic credit for SFS programs. Check with your academic or study abroad advisor and/or registrar's office before applying to learn how your SFS coursework will be applicable to your degree.

ELIGIBILITY

- 18+ years of age by program start.
- You must be in good academic and disciplinary standing on your home campus.
- GPA requirements: 2.8 cumulative GPA for semester programs; 2.6 cumulative GPA for summer programs.
- Course prerequisites: For semester programs, one college-level ecology, biology, or environmental studies/science course (or related coursework, as assessed by SFS). For summer programs, no course prerequisites.
- Gap-year students and college graduates are welcome to apply.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

SFS strives to cultivate inclusive communities, encouraging student cohorts that represent human diversity across the globe. Our programs aim to support every student, including those who identify as a racial or ethnic minority, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, first-generation college students, and students from all underrepresented groups or underserved communities. We continue to develop strategies to support all students from the time they apply, during their program, and beyond. SFS recognizes that when all students' voices are valued and heard, confidence in academic ability thrives to the benefit of entire communities.

CHAT WITH AN SFS ALUM

Speaking with a former SFS student is one of the best ways to learn about SFS. Our alumni can answer general questions about SFS, their specific program, and a range of other topics such as: dietary accommodations, identity abroad, self-care, navigating financial aid, and travel tips. If you'd like to be put in touch with SFS alumni, please contact admissions@fieldstudies.org.

FINANCIAL AID

All students are eligible to apply for SFS need-based financial aid, regardless of whether they receive aid on their home campus. Every student who exhibits financial need will receive some form of aid from SFS.

SFS awards more than \$650,000 in need-based financial aid each year. Aid packages are usually a combination of scholarships, grants, and loans.



fieldstudies.org/admissions/aid

PROGRAM COSTS

Spring 2021 | Summer 2021*

**Fall 2021 program costs will be announced on our website in January 2021.*

Program	Semester	Summer I	Summer II	Summer Combined
Australia	\$23,980	\$7,600	\$6,450	\$13,050
Bhutan	\$25,950	\$6,950	\$6,950	\$12,900
Cambodia	\$22,850	\$6,730	\$6,450	\$12,180
Chile	\$25,950			
Costa Rica	\$21,530	\$5,950	\$5,950	\$10,900
Kenya	\$22,900	\$7,585	\$6,450	\$13,035
Panama	\$22,900	\$6,150		
Peru	\$22,850			
Tanzania	\$23,950	\$7,585	\$7,175	\$13,760
Turks & Caicos	\$24,950	\$6,950	\$6,950	\$12,900

†Students participating in two summer sessions receive a \$1,000 discount. Amounts listed include this discount.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tuition and research fees
- Room and board, on campus and on excursions
- Pre-program advising and on-site orientation
- Visa and travel coordination
- Airport transfers for arrival and departure
- Field excursions and cultural activities
- Student success and wellness team on site
- 24/7 mental health and well-being support
- Emergency evacuation and repatriation insurance
- Official transcript processing

Airfare and personal expenses are not included. For complete program budget planning, including estimated out-of-pocket expenses, please visit www.fieldstudies.org/admissions/costs.

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

Schedule an advising session:
fieldstudies.org/admissions



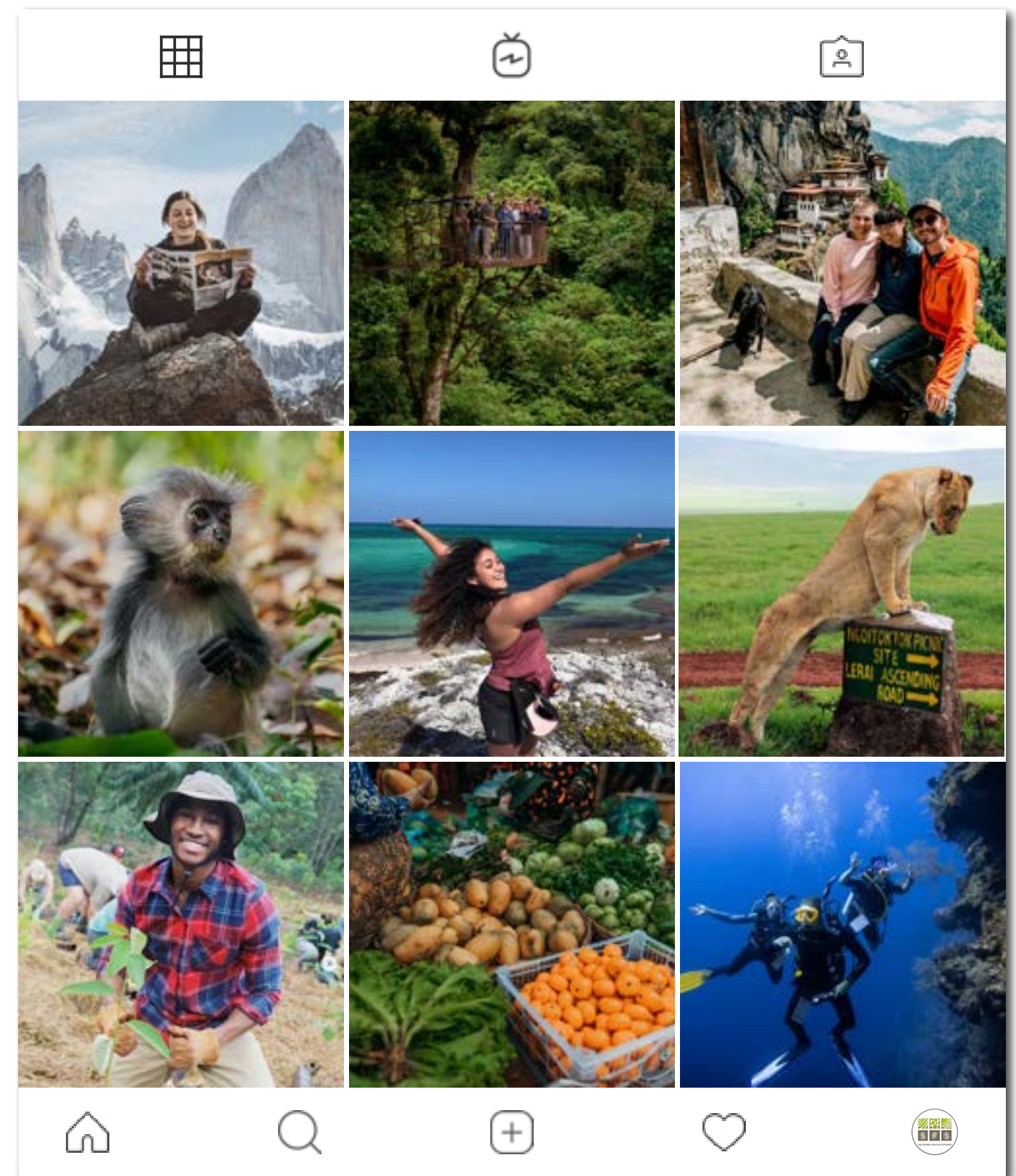
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