



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY ABROAD

THE FIELD IS YOUR CLASSROOM

SFS prepares the next generation of environmental leaders through field-based study abroad programs in 12 countries

FIELDSTUDIES.ORG

WHY SFS

EXPLORE, LIVE, AND STUDY IN EXTRAORDINARY ECOSYSTEMS

The School for Field Studies is the largest and oldest environmental study abroad provider in the United States, with 12 field stations in diverse ecosystems.

On an SFS program, you'll live in the field, work beside practicing scientists, and contribute to research that matters. Students explore climate science, wildlife management, and marine ecology while building skills in data collection and problem-solving.

Your peers will share your passion, our faculty are local experts in their fields, and the community is diverse and welcoming. And when your program is done, you'll be forever changed, joining more than 20,000 alumni building a sustainable world.



"I lived in the rainforest, went to the Great Barrier Reef several times, held baby tree kangaroos, went to the dry savanna, and even got to camp!"

SFS AUSTRALIA STUDENT • FALL 2025

SFS AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Earn academic credit that can transfer to your university, in many cases for major and/or minor requirements
- ✓ Build career-ready skills through applied learning that takes place in the field, not the classroom
- ✓ Gain research experience working alongside our faculty and community partners
- ✓ Financial aid is easy to apply for and available for all programs
- ✓ We teach all courses in English, with no language prerequisites

FOUR PILLARS OF EVERY SFS PROGRAM

FIELD LEARNING

Live, study, and work inside the very ecosystem you came to understand.

THEMATIC ACADEMICS

Courses follow the real environmental questions of your place.

CENTER-BASED

A close-knit community of students and resident scientists at your field center.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Findings return to the communities and places that host you.

THE SFS MODEL

SFS REDEFINES THE CLASSROOM

"When we were in the Serengeti, lions slept right next to our camp tents."

SFS TANZANIA STUDENT • SPRING 2026

Our programs blend the content knowledge of academic learning and research, the practical experiences of an internship, and the personal and professional growth that comes from living in another culture and working in partnership with local communities. The result is a classroom without walls.

● MORNING • CHILE

● AFTERNOON • AUSTRALIA

● EVENING • KENYA



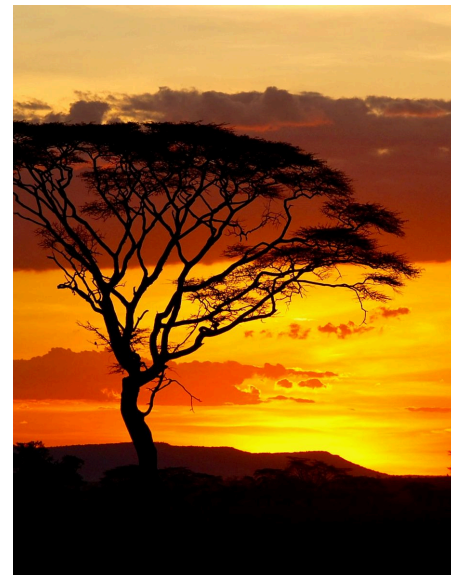
In Patagonia, students wake in camp beneath the Andes, a day of glacier and grassland fieldwork waiting just outside the tent.

CLIMATE AND EARTH SYSTEMS • P4



With the sun high over Queensland, students work beneath the canopy of a rainforest that runs all the way down to the Great Barrier Reef.

RAINFOREST STUDIES • P4



On the Kenyan savanna, the light goes long and gold as a day of wildlife counts and transects comes to an end.

ENDANGERED SPECIES • P5

1980

IN THE FIELD SINCE

12

FIELD CENTERS

29

PROGRAMS

20k+

ALUMNI

500+

PUBLICATIONS

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

29 PROGRAMS • 12 COUNTRIES • 6 CONTINENTS



AUSTRALIA

RAINFOREST STUDIES

TOPICS ■ Rainforest and coral reef ecology, wildlife conservation, land restoration

SKILLS ■ Vegetation plots & plant ID · non-invasive wildlife surveys · GIS mapping

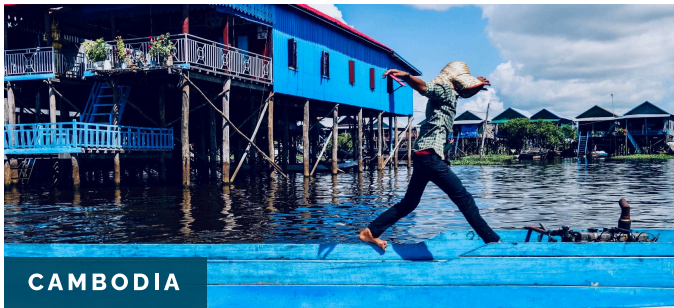


BHUTAN

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

TOPICS ■ Mountain ecology, land use and climate adaptation, Gross National Happiness and development policy

SKILLS ■ Forest inventory plots & elevation transects · camera trapping and mist-netting · GIS land-use mapping



CAMBODIA

FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

TOPICS ■ River–floodplain ecology, fisheries and food security, conservation and water governance

SKILLS ■ Water-quality testing & macroinvertebrate ID · fish surveys · QGIS mapping



CHILE

CLIMATE AND EARTH SYSTEMS

TOPICS ■ Earth systems and cryosphere science, Patagonian ecology, conservation governance

SKILLS ■ GPS, GIS & remote sensing of glacial landforms · vegetation transects and quadrats · visitor surveys

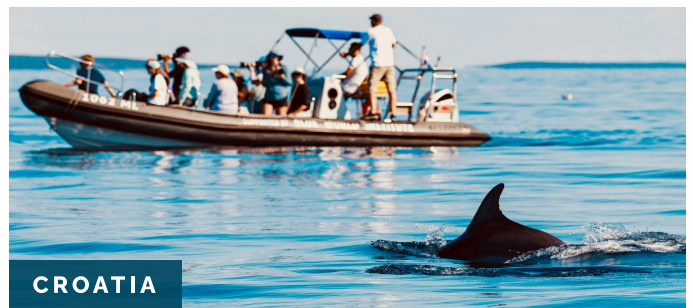


COSTA RICA

ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

TOPICS ■ Tropical biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, natural resource management, environmental justice

SKILLS ■ Bird, bat & amphibian surveys · camera trapping and QGIS mapping · community surveys



CROATIA

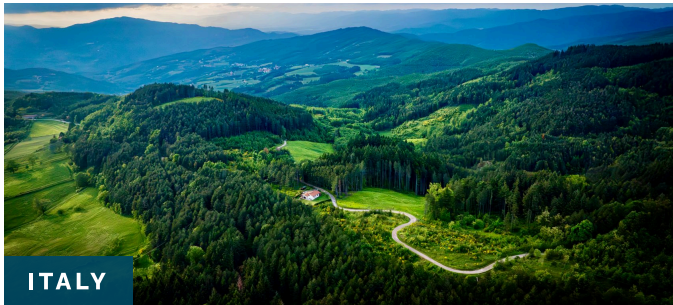
DOLPHIN & SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

TOPICS ■ Cetacean ecology, sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation, marine spatial planning

SKILLS ■ Boat-based photo-ID surveys · acoustic monitoring · sea turtle diagnostics and necropsy

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT · CONTINUED

ALL MAJORS WELCOME

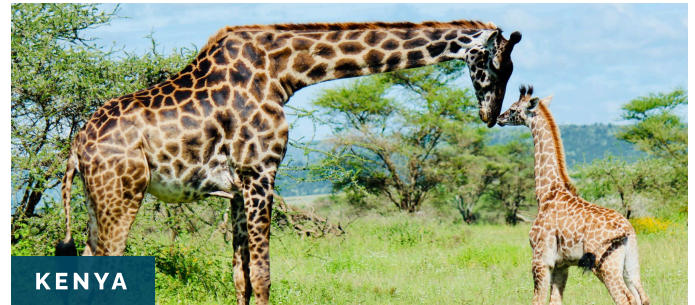


ITALY

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

TOPICS ■ Agroecology and farm biodiversity, agri-environmental policy, systems thinking

SKILLS ■ Habitat and farm sustainability assessments · soil quality testing · GIS mapping



KENYA

ENDANGERED SPECIES

TOPICS ■ Endangered species ecology, conservation decision-making, Maasai pastoralist livelihoods

SKILLS ■ Large mammal census and road counts · camera trapping and ethograms · key informant interviews

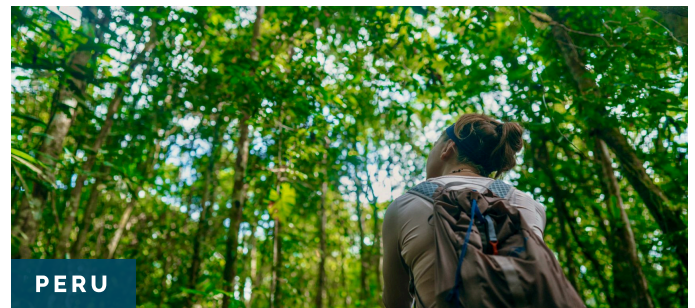


PANAMA

TROPICAL ISLAND BIODIVERSITY

TOPICS ■ Coral reef, seagrass and mangrove ecology, tropical forests, tourism and governance

SKILLS ■ Benthic transects & photo-quadrats · marine species ID · frog behavior observation



PERU

AMAZON STUDIES

TOPICS ■ Amazon and Andean biodiversity, conservation practice, political ecology and Indigenous knowledge

SKILLS ■ GPS plot surveys · pollination network monitoring · stakeholder power mapping



TANZANIA

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

TOPICS ■ Savanna wildlife ecology, wildlife management, land policy and community conservation

SKILLS ■ Road counts & large mammal ID · radio telemetry with QGIS · rangeland health assessment



TURKS & CAICOS

MARINE FAUNA & RESOURCE STUDIES

TOPICS ■ Coral reef, seagrass and mangrove ecology, fisheries management, marine governance

SKILLS ■ SCUBA-based reef surveys · conch and lionfish assessments · fish species ID

OUR RESEARCH

MEANINGFUL RESEARCH



FIELD NOTES • SFS BHUTAN

At SFS, research begins with relationships. Our faculty build long-term research plans with community partners. SFS students join faculty-led teams, help design the study, collect and analyze data in the field, and summarize findings.

Fieldwork moves in both directions: we lead with listening, and we pursue the questions that matter most to the people who host us. The culmination of your research is the presentation back to the community, whose perspective shaped the initial research question.

THE PROCESS

01

FRAME THE QUESTION

Shape your question with faculty and local partners.

02

COLLECT FIELD DATA

Run transects, surveys, sampling, and interviews.

03

ANALYZE FINDINGS

Turn raw data into statistics and maps.

04

PRESENT RESULTS

Deliver your findings back to the host community.

RESEARCH THAT BUILDS CAREER SKILLS

- ✓ Research design and implementation
- ✓ Quantitative & qualitative analysis
- ✓ Develop conservation strategies
- ✓ Scientific communication and writing
- ✓ Collect and manage field data
- ✓ Habitat and field assessments
- ✓ Community-based interview methods
- ✓ GIS mapping and spatial analysis



FIELD METHODS • SFS CAMBODIA

"Watching the views while taking plot samples of bryophytes is one of my favorite memories. Directed research as a whole was beautiful and engaging."

SFS BHUTAN STUDENT • SEMESTER 2026

"I enjoyed all of it, from long nights surveying in the highlands of Costa Rica to hours of analyzing data and finally to delivering a presentation."

SFS COSTA RICA STUDENT • SEMESTER 2026

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

INCLUSIVE ECOSYSTEMS

SFS approaches access and inclusion through the lenses of ecological and human biodiversity. You bring a unique set of lived experiences, identities, perspectives, and goals.

We foster environments where students feel supported, connected, and prepared to engage with the people and places that make each SFS program unique.



IN THE FIELD ■ SFS TANZANIA



TREE PLANTING ■ SFS AUSTRALIA

OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCESS

IDENTITY

Our Student Life Team offers identity counseling before the program begins, and students receive 24/7 support from our Health and Wellness Managers while on site.

FINANCIAL

We customize need-based financial aid awards and prioritize students who are under-recognized in the study abroad space. Aid is easy to apply for.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We thoughtfully incorporate learning accommodations and dietary, religious, and medical needs into programming. Many centers offer gender-inclusive housing.



YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS

Transformative field science education since 1980.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS · NO APPLICATION FEE

01

Stop by your school's study abroad office to discuss credit transfer and aid.

02

Browse our 29 programs to find the one that aligns with your interests.

03

Reach out to the Admissions team to connect with alumni and staff.

04

Complete your application and apply for scholarships and SFS aid.

FINANCIAL AID

SCHOLARSHIPS

NEED-BASED AID

AUTOMATIC PELL GRANT MATCH

TRAVEL GRANTS

529 FUNDS ACCEPTED

GET IN TOUCH

STUDENTS admissions@fieldstudies.org

SCHOOLS ir@fieldstudies.org

