

EARTH University, Costa Rica



Faculty-led and customized programs

RAI offers various opportunities for students, faculty, visitors and academic institutions. We receive around 250 short-term students per year, most of whom participate in customized and faculty-led programs. In order to give students a different perspective and expose them to a different teaching style and to promote collaboration between your and our faculty, we always recommend to include faculty of both institutions in the development and delivery of the study abroad programs. We firmly believe that short-term international students will leave EARTH with increased environmental and social consciousness and with a new set of tools to help them make their contribution to the sustainability and developmental challenges of a global world. As such the short-term students are also contributing to our mission of spreading the message of sustainability globally. EARTH's regular full-time students are mostly from poor rural communities in 46 mostly developing countries. Therefore, short-term international students also enrich our campus environment and offer our regular students and faculty opportunities to create networks with people from different socio-economic backgrounds and from countries that we do not have represented in our full-time student body.

Although at EARTH we have all the logistical support (hotel, student residences, restaurant, transportation, medical center, sports facilities, security) available for your students, we rather see ourselves as your partner university or academic host rather than calling ourselves a service provider. Our international faculty from 20 different countries, our academic model, our experiential- and student centered learning methodology, our expertise and experience, combined with the logistical support make EARTH a unique partner and this will definitely contribute to making your study abroad program a success!

We will work together with you on:

- Program design and implementation
- Program pricing that suits your and your student's budget
- Marketing and recruitment

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Your customized or faculty-led program step-by-step:

Step 1: Program design & budget

Please provide us with your ideas. This can be done by phone, skype, email, web form, etcetera. We would like to know your ideas about the following items:

- Learning objectives: what would you like to accomplish? Think about discipline related- as well as global, international and intercultural learning objectives.
- Academic priorities: what program contents, focus and components would you like to include?
- What academic requirements (courses, experiential- or global learning) would this program fulfill at your university?
- How many credits should the course be? Will those be home university credits or EARTH credits?
- What would be the distribution of your faculty compared with EARTH faculty (percentagewise)?
- Possible activities on campus.
- Total duration of the program (days in Costa Rica).
- Possible dates of the program.
- Number of days on campus.
- Number of persons (students, faculty).
- Which students are you targeting, in which major(s)? Specific course, department, faculty, school, or university-wide?
- Would you like to stay in single rooms or in doubles?
- Would you need EARTH transportation or will you be renting your own vehicle?
- What would be a program price (local costs) you would think would be affordable and attractive for your students?
- What would we need to be taking into consideration in the marketing of your program to make the program appealing enough so you will meet your recruitment goal (desired number of students)?
- What would you need from us to get your program approved at your university?

Within 2-3 weeks EARTH's International Academic Relations office will prepare a draft proposal including a budget with the total program costs and the costs per student. Of course there will be ample opportunity to review and revise the program and budget. We like to make sure the program meets your and your students' needs and goals. This step will be completed once you are completely satisfied with the proposal and once the program has been approved at your institution.

Step 2: Promotion, marketing, recruitment and pre-departure

The next step – and often a challenge – is marketing the program to your students. We can support you in this process by providing promotional materials, such as photos, videos, student testimonials etcetera. If desired, we can also offer a Skype orientation/promotion session to explain the program in detail to interested students. Of course we are always available to answer any questions that you, your colleagues, your students or their parents may have. Lastly, we will work with you on a joint pre-departure information package. In order to make sure we will have enough students to

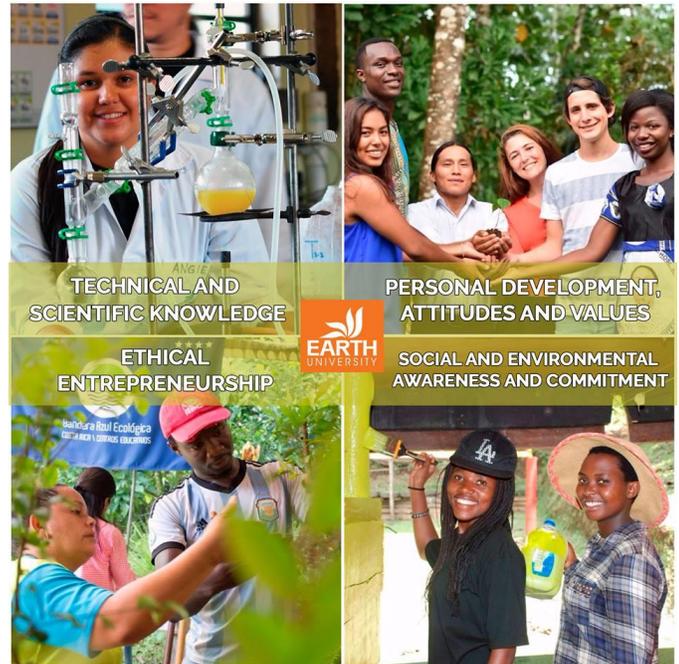
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make the program academically and economically viable, our programs always have a “go-no go” deadline. We will need final confirmation of the number of students 6 weeks before the start of the program so that we have sufficient time to make reservations and other program arrangements. This is also the moment we will send you the invoice. We will request a payment 4 weeks before the program starts.

Step 3: The onsite program

During the program we will organize:

- An on-site orientation
- A program coordinator
- A group assistant
- Classes on campus taught by your and EARTH faculty
- Campus facilities
- Housing in student dorms or campus hotel
- Three meals a day in our student restaurant on campus
- Airport transfer
- Cultural and social activities (sports, arts, music, etc.)
- 24/7 medical- and campus security support
- Student and *faculty* program evaluation



The only items we do not include are: international transportation, international health insurance, personal expenses, activities outside our campus.

Step 4: After the program

- We will be in touch to share and review the program evaluations, hear your suggestions, share our suggestions and work with you to plan the program for next year. We can provide transcripts for EARTH taught courses if desired.

