

## Study Abroad Program

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CATIE cordially invites groups from universities worldwide to participate in its exciting Cooperative Study Abroad Program (CSAP) based in Costa Rica. A growing number of well-known North American and European universities have discovered that this program offers their students the type of international experience they seek. Located in the beautiful Turrialba Valley, CATIE provides participants in CSAP an invaluable perspective on sustainability and an understanding of the critical economic, social and environmental challenges facing rural people seeking to apply environmentally sound management of natural resources and agricultural systems.

CATIE draws on a wealth of knowledge and experience related to the integrated management of tropical agriculture and natural resources. Participants enjoy a combination of classroom sessions and discussions, with CATIE faculty from a variety of countries, complemented with field visits to sites around the country, creating ample opportunity for participation and “hands-on” learning. Participants will discover innovative research being conducted by CATIE researchers and graduate students and strategies implemented to favor the sustainable use and management of natural resources.

CATIE often integrates the participation of other well-known partner institutions into the CSAP programs, such as the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), EARTH College, the National Biodiversity Institute (INBio), universities, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that have also played an important role in the generation of knowledge, education and outreach activities at local, regional, national and global levels. We know CATIE may not have the expertise in each area of interest of the visiting universities and therefore take advantage of the network of partners in the country,

Once formal interest is expressed to take part in the CSAP, CATIE works with participating universities to tailor the program to specific needs and interests. Oftentimes, specialists from collaborating organizations enrich the program. The following list indicates an example of the topics available to participants in our programs that are tailor-made to the needs of each group:

- Introduction to Costa Rica’s natural history and life zones
- Tropical agroforestry and silvopastoral systems
- Watershed management
- Alternative landscape-level approaches to conservation, including the design and management of biological corridors
- Principles of landscape, tropical and restoration ecology
- Biodynamic agriculture, organic and conventional production systems: coffee, bananas, cacao, pineapples, sugar cane, ornamental plants
- Agricultural certification schemes and market value chains and their impact on poverty and the environment
- Tropical lowland forest management and non-timber forest products
- Valuation and payments for ecosystem goods and services
- Conservation and restoration of cultural (archeological) resources
- Bioprospection: conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and phylogenetic resources
- Issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation in tropical landscapes, including renewable energy sources
- Sustainable economic development
- Socioenvironmental economics
- Rural enterprise development and ecoenterprise management
- Business in rural Latin America: opportunities and challenges
- Livelihood approach for rural development

Due to the comparative advantages of our country, many universities that have participated in the CSAP return again and again with new groups of students. The country is committed to conservation, with fully one quarter of its territory set aside in protected areas or national parks. This societal effort reflects a desire to preserve the remarkable variety of ecosystems found in the country. At the same time, the country is also facing challenges associated with rapid urbanization, agricultural development and climate change, topics of great interest to the CSAP program.

For more information  
Cooperative Study Abroad Program (CSAP)  
Headquarters CATIE 7170  
Cartago, Turrialba 30501 Costa Rica  
Tel: (506) 2558-2165 Fax: (506) 2558-2041  
[vjimenez@catie.ac.cr](mailto:vjimenez@catie.ac.cr)  
[csap@catie.ac.cr](mailto:csap@catie.ac.cr)