Pitzer College in Costa Rica Environmental Studies Summer Program 2021
In collaboration with the Institute for Central American Development Studies (ICADS)

Program Dates  July 1 to August 15
The dates have been set for late summer to allow more time for students to receive a Covid vaccination, which will be required for participation on the program.

Courses  Foundations of Tropical Ecology BIO108L PZ (1 course or 4 semester units)
This course involves readings, site visits and lectures along with extensive field and laboratory work. After an initial introduction to Costa Rica’s history, politics, culture and environmental issues, the course focuses on tropical marine ecology, tropical terrestrial ecology, agricultural science and Costa Rican indigenous communities and their relation to the local ecology. This course satisfies the natural science graduation requirement at Pitzer College. For students who have completed an introductory biology sequence, the course can be counted as an upper division Keck Biology and EA-Science elective by arrangement with the instructor.

Spanish Language (1 course or 4 semester units)
Intensive language instruction (1:4 maximum teacher to student ratio). Students will be placed in classes appropriate for their level. Students who are fluent in Spanish will have a writing intensive independent study project on a selected topic.

Prerequisites  None. There will be online orientation and preparatory meetings during late May and early June.

Housing  Students will live with families in the San Jose area and in the villages of Platanillo and/or Tinamastes in Southern Costa Rica and are encouraged to participate fully in family life. Only one student is placed in each home to maximize use of Spanish.

Meals  Breakfast and dinner will be taken with the family. A stipend is provided for lunches at local restaurants while in San Jose. Students will eat lunch at the Firestone Center for the second part of the course in Southern Costa Rica.

Study Trips  Conditions permitting, study trips will include visits to local museums, a Nicaraguan immigrant community, several indigenous communities, archeological sites, biological stations, local farms and an animal sanctuary. During the third week of the program, students will visit the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica in route to Bocas del Toro, Panama for the tropical marine biology course.

Cost  The total cost for the program has been set at $11,000. This amount will cover tuition for two courses worth of credit, all program activities and study trips, full room and board, and round-trip flight. Financial Aid will be available for Pitzer students who normally receive financial aid.

A Note on COVID-19  We are optimistic, but ultimately, running the program will be dependent on how the pandemic plays out both here in the US and in Costa Rica, vaccine roll out and effectiveness, possible travel restrictions and other factors. Students who submit an application will be given regular updates as we move towards summer. A final decision on the program status will be made on May 14. Interested non-Pitzer students should check with their study abroad offices to see about their own college's policies on study abroad for this summer and credit transfer.

Application Due Date  Currently accepting applications until May 10
To request an application, go to the following link: Study Abroad Application Request - Summer Programs.

Questions: Please contact Mike Donahue at mike_donahue@pitzer.edu