

Sustainable Futures: Monteverde, Costa Rica

Summer 2010: May 24 through August 4



- **Interdisciplinary Study Abroad Program in Sustainability**
- **Disciplines of Landscape Architecture, Architecture, and Planning**
- **Consortium of schools, students, and faculty from around North America**

- **10-week Semester**
- **Two 5-week sessions**
- **1-week travel break after first 5 weeks**
- **12 credit hours: 6 credit hour studio**

- **Monteverde Institute (MVI) is the host sponsor (www.sustainablefutures.org/)**
- **Well equipped Library, Classrooms, Auditorium, and a Studio “Bodega”**
- **On-site director/course coordinator works with faculty from differing universities**

- **“Clean Energies” Field Trip and others are sponsored through the Institute**
- **All tuition, room and board is included in Program Cost of approximately \$7,000.00**
- **Students participate in home stays**

What and Where is the Monteverde Institute?

The Monteverde Institute (MVI) is a Costa Rican non-profit association dedicated to advancing knowledge and practice on the sustainable management of resources through education, applied research and community engagement. Connecting local communities and organizations to the wider international academic community, the Institute seeks to understand, find appropriate solutions to, and disseminate information on the environmental, social, cultural and economic issues faced not only by Monteverde, but also by communities around the world.

Monteverde is located in the highlands of northwestern Costa Rica, and is reached by 22 miles of winding dirt road off the Pan-American Highway. To the west are Pacific-facing slopes and the Nicoya Peninsula, which are seasonally dry. The crest of the mountainous ridge just above Monteverde, known as the continental divide, is blanketed by a cool, wet cloud forest. Verdant wet forest extends from this crest down to the Atlantic lowlands, providing a striking contrast to the drier Pacific slope. This unique situation of contrasting wet and dry forest presents an extraordinary opportunity to study plant-animal interactions, ecology, sustainability, and natural history.

What is the Purpose of the Sustainable Futures Summer Studio?

The Monteverde Institute in collaboration with host universities in North America offers a summer studio course entitled *Sustainable Futures*. This studio course brings architects, planners, and landscape architects to Monteverde for a 10-week, full summer semester service-learning program in sustainability. The teaching team includes faculty from a consortium of universities with specialties in Landscape Architecture, Architecture and Urban and Rural Planning. The *Sustainable Futures* community-based interdisciplinary studio offers university students and interested professionals the opportunity to live and work in a rural, but rapidly developing region in Costa Rica on projects concerned with creating futures that are ecologically and socially just.

Course Credits: 12 credit hours Total (Undergraduate or Graduate)

Sustainable Futures Design Studio – 6 credit hour – Environmental, Social, Economic Sustainability

Projects are developed in collaboration with local communities that address issues of environmental, material and social sustainability. Projects are used by community groups to make physical changes, serve as design concepts for future professional development, and as planning and policy tools for the community.

Sustainable Design Seminar – 3 credit hour – Cross-cultural Study of Sustainability

Seminar format examines the biological diversity and natural resources of the Monteverde region of Costa Rica. From tiny orchids to the impressive quetzal to spectacular landscapes, we will discuss how the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Preserve has become one of the most famous tropical protected areas in the world. We will examine Costa Rica's sustainable practices such as the Biodiversity Law enacted in 1998 to protect the country's biodiversity.

Cultural Immersion – 3 credit hour – Required course in Spanish and Cultural Awareness

This course is designed to facilitate the experience of living in and pursuing professional education in a different culture. Components include readings and lectures, Spanish-language instruction, home-stay experience and reflection, weekly discussions on international practice, and reflective writings.

Itinerary and Participation

The semester is open to any student in CAP in third year or higher. No minimum number of students from BSU is required, but a maximum of 7 students will be able to participate for Summer 2010. The application process will include an interview and faculty recommendations. The study abroad program is a full 10-week summer term, equivalent to a fall or spring semester on-campus. The summer semester begins May 24th and ends August 2nd. It is divided into two summer terms with a one-week break in between during which time students' travel throughout Costa Rica. The first week of the first summer term is orientation and cultural immersion coupled with intensive Spanish language instruction.

Arrive in San Jose Costa Rica on Monday, May 24, 2010

Week Break: June 26 through July 4

Return to Muncie from San Jose on Monday, August 2, 2010

Program Cost

<i>Program Support:</i> includes lodging and all food, classroom space, in-country transportation, local coordinator, and program support costs including BSU technology fee, CAP fee	\$4,200
<i>Tuition fee:</i> 12 credit hours for BSU off-campus	\$2,880 or 3,072
12 at 240.00 undergraduate or 256.00 (graduate) estimated	
Additional estimated costs: <i>Air fare</i>	\$500 to 800
<i>Personal expenses</i> (for travel during one-week break, souvenirs, books, health and beauty items)	\$1,000 to 1,500
Total (program fee + estimated costs)	<u>\$8,580 – \$9,572</u>