Costa Rica: Organization for Tropical Studies

Reed has joined with the Organization for Tropical Studies to offer an integrated, rigorous program in tropical biology that takes place in the ecosystems and cultural context of Costa Rica. Students learn about science by doing science, including extensive field work in the varied field stations of the country. Courses are taught in English.

Qualifications: Students must have completed a full year of college level biology with lab. In addition, students must have 2 semesters of Spanish or the equivalent prior the beginning the program. Students may fulfill the Spanish prerequisite by enrolling in intensive Spanish prior to the program start date.

Term duration: Semester

Typical course load: 4 courses

Courses recorded in: Units

Translates to Reed units: Same as Reed


Translates to Reed grades*: D+, D, D- = D at Reed, others the same

*Grades from study abroad programs are displayed on the transcript, but are not calculated in the Reed GPA

Special considerations:
Coursework reported on a Duke University transcript

Fixed schedule:
- Fundamentals of Tropical Biology (See Biology Dept. chair for approval signature)
- Research Methods of Tropical Biology (See Biology Dept. chair for approval signature)
- Environmental Science/Politics of Tropics (See Political Science Dept. chair for approval signature)

Intensive Study Spanish (See Spanish Dept. chair for approval signature)

BB/07/06