

BHCC Study Abroad - Costa Rica - May 17, 2014 - May 28, 2014

Statement of Understanding

(If you elected Costa Rica as one of your country choices you must sign this Statement of Understanding as well as the BHCC study abroad General Statement of Understanding)

By submitting this application for the Costa Rica study abroad program I, (Print Name) _____, confirm that I have read, understand, and will agree to the following if awarded a scholarship:

1. I understand that I must complete the fall 2013 semester with a minimum GPA of 2.50 and remain in good academic standing during the spring 2014 semester or I will not be eligible to participate in this study-abroad program and will forfeit my scholarship award.
2. I understand that I will have to register for Tropical Field Studies (ENV120) for the spring 2014 semester and pay all tuition and fees. *(If you are a scholarship participant your scholarship will pay 80% of your tuition and fees.)*
3. I understand that the cost estimates listed in the brochure are subject to change and are to be used for planning purposes only. I also understand that I will incur additional costs for personal items such as field gear and hiking boots.
4. I will be prepared to pay my 20% of the costs at the first orientation session. At the discretion of the college, if I withdraw from the program, become ineligible for my scholarship, or I am unable to secure proper travel documents for any reason after signing my BHCC acceptance contract I may not be entitled to a refund of my deposit or other expenses I have incurred. Tuition and fees paid for Tropical Field Studies (ENV120) are not refundable after the first class meeting.
5. I understand that BHCC will be making flight reservations for me. If I decide to withdraw from the program, become ineligible for my scholarship, or I am unable to secure proper travel documents for any reason after airline tickets have been purchased on my behalf I may be held financially responsible for my paid airline tickets.
6. I agree to participate in all orientation sessions and learning activities connected with this study abroad program. This includes participation in four Saturday and/or Sunday afternoon classroom sessions at BHCC prior to leaving and all learning activities while in Costa Rica. *(Classroom sessions will be scheduled in April and May 2014 - exact dates and times to be determined.)*
7. I have a passport that is valid through **December 2014** or will secure one in a timely manner. If I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident it is my responsibility to check my visa status to enter Costa Rica and re-enter the U.S. I will provide BHCC with photocopies of all applicable travel documents by **January 31, 2014**. BHCC will provide assistance in obtaining passport and/or visa information.
8. I agree to comply with all requests for personal background information e.g. emergency contacts, medical issues.
9. I agree to respect the environment, culture, people, and laws of Costa Rica. As a participant I am considered an ambassador to Costa Rica representing BHCC and the United States.
10. I am in good general health and understand that this trip will require some strenuous activities. I also understand that there are certain hazards inherent in living and working in a tropical environment and I agree to follow all health and safety precautions provided by my faculty leaders.
11. I agree to follow all rules established by my hosts in Costa Rica and will follow all instructions provided by the Director and staff of the Campanario field station.
12. I agree to share a room with one or more other participants during the trip.
13. I agree not to use any portable audio devices (mp3 player, iPod, smartphone, etc.) during group activities or when I am in the forest. *Using your smartphone as a camera is permitted.*
14. I agree not to hike in the forest alone, swim by myself, or wander away from the group at anytime.
15. I agree not to bring, purchase or use any illegal drugs while in Costa Rica.
16. If I violate any policies while traveling with the group I may be sent home at my own expense.
17. I give permission to the college to use any images of me (photo and/or video) participating in any activity as part of this program. The college may use these images in college publications or for promotional purposes without any compensation to me. I waive all rights to these images. This also includes any photos and/or videos taken by me and provided to the college.
18. I must provide proof of active health insurance that will cover me while in Costa Rica. I also agree to purchase supplemental health and repatriation travel insurance that will cover me for the duration of the trip.
19. If I decide to extend my trip in Costa Rica I must make my own arrangements and notify the College in writing of my intentions prior to leaving. Once I leave the group I will no longer be the responsibility of BHCC.
20. I agree to sign the college's general "*Participant Conduct Agreement*" and the "*Acknowledgement of Risk and Consent Form*" prior to departure.
21. I agree to support the BHCC study abroad program upon my return by submitting a summary of my experience and if possible supporting future programs by participating in the study abroad fair, serving on a selection committee, and/or speaking to new participants on my personal experience in the program.

Participant's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature
(Required if applicant is under 18)

Date