

BHCC Study Abroad - Costa Rica

May 20 2025 - May 31, 2025

Statement of Understanding

As a recipient of a scholarship for the Costa Rica study-abroad program you must agree to and sign this "Statement of Understanding" in order to participate in the program.

By accepting my scholarship award for the Costa Rica study abroad program I, (Print Name) _____, confirm that I have read, understand, and will agree to the following terms:

1. I understand that I must remain in good academic standing throughout the spring 2025 semester or I will not be eligible to participate in this study-abroad program and I will forfeit my scholarship award.
2. I understand that I will be registered for Tropical Field Studies (ENV120) for the **spring 2025** semester and pay 20% of the normal tuition and fees. *(As a scholarship awardee your scholarship will pay the remaining 80% of your tuition and fees.)*
3. I understand that the cost estimates listed in the brochure and on the website 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 trip 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 three Saturday classroom sessions at BHCC prior to leaving and all learning activities while in Costa Rica. *(Classroom sessions will be scheduled in April and May 2025 - exact dates and times to be determined.)*
7. I have a passport that is valid through **December 2025** or will secure one in a timely manner. If I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident it is my responsibility to determine whether I can enter Costa Rica and/or re-enter the U.S. in light of my current visa status. I will provide BHCC with photocopies of all applicable travel documents by **January 31, 2025**. While BHCC will provide assistance in obtaining passport and/or visa information, it remains my sole responsibility to determine whether I am eligible to travel based on my immigration status.
8. I agree to comply with all requests for personal background information e.g. emergency contacts, medical issues, physical limitations, etc.
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 understand that this trip will require some strenuous activities and that there are certain hazards inherent in living and working in a tropical environment. I have discussed these hazards with my health care provider and represent that I am in good general health to participate in this activity. I also 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, iPad, 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 understand that while participating in this activity, I remain subject to the College's policies and procedures, including but not limited to, the Student Code of Conduct and Policy on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity.
16. I agree not to bring, purchase or use any illegal drugs or alcohol while in Costa Rica.
17. If I violate any policies while traveling with the group I may be sent home at my own expense.
18. 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.
19. I must provide proof of active health insurance that will cover me while in Costa Rica. I also understand that the college will purchase supplemental health and repatriation travel insurance on my behalf that will cover me for the duration of the trip.
20. I understand that I must travel with the study group to Costa Rica and return back to the U.S. with the group.
21. I agree to sign the college's general "*Participant Conduct Agreement*" and the "*Acknowledgement of Risk and Consent Form*" prior to departure.
22. I agree to support the BHCC study abroad program upon my return by submitting an E-Portfolio 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