

# Ecuador

Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Summer Intersession • May 19-30, 2012

Course Name:

## Bears in the Amazon: Live for the Moment

A Recreation, Sport & Park Administration  
Special Program

Course Numbers: **REC 495 / PED 797**

Credit hours: **3** (undergraduate or graduate)

Location: **Yachana, Ecuador**

### Course Overview

This interdisciplinary course focuses on developing a special event/sustainable tourism product for world class Yachana Reserve, a 4,300-acre protected reserve in the Amazon Jungle of Ecuador.

When integrating this course into their curricula, students in a variety of majors will develop an in-depth understanding of how a specially-crafted event can preserve and present attributes of an indigenous culture.

MSU students will gain intensive cross-cultural experience by working closely with 14- to 18-year-old native students at the Yachana Reserve public school to develop, organize, market and conduct an Olympic/Foxfire-style event that will become a perpetual attraction for Yachana guests.

**Estimated Cost: \$2,800**

**Includes:** airfare, ground transportation, canoe fare, lodging, meals and Study Away student fee. Program fee is all-inclusive and cannot be separated.

**Excludes:** MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit; passport fees; misc. personal expenses.

**Nonrefundable deposit due with Program Application by Feb. 3, 2012: \$420** (will be billed to your student account)

**Balance due by April 2, 2012: \$2,380**

### Voucher Eligibility & Financial Aid

If you entered MSU as a freshman in 2009 or 2010, you may use the **Study Away \$500 voucher**. Students who receive financial aid through MSU may apply that aid to the program, if eligible. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Information Meetings: **11 a.m.-noon, Dec. 1, 2, 5 & 6, 2011** PSU 309

Pre-travel Class Meetings: **3:30-4:30 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 26, April 23 & May 7, 2012**  
Hammons Student Center Alumni Lounge

Depart Springfield for Quito, Ecuador:  
**Saturday, May 19, 2012**  
Arrive at Yachana by noon on Sun., May 20

Depart Yachana for Springfield:  
**Tuesday, May 29, 2012**  
Arrive in Springfield 8:30 a.m. Wed., May 30

Post-travel Meeting; Final Presentations and Papers Due: **3:00-5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 31, 2012**  
Hammons Student Center Alumni Lounge

### Interested in going?

Contact Dr. Steve Illum, Tourism Specialist and Professor: 836-4773 or [steveillum@missouristate.edu](mailto:steveillum@missouristate.edu)



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# Study Away!

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## Course Objectives

This program will enable participants to gain

- **First-hand knowledge** of native Kichwa culture through legend and drama and by intensive personal interaction with local Yachana School students
- **Awareness** of a sensitive ecosystem in a developing country. Students will learn about sustainable practices at the Yachana Reserve and experience the flora, fauna, terrain and night skies of the Amazon Jungle and Napo River.
- **Understanding** of how the indigenous population survives in the Jungle
- **Expertise** in the process of developing a special event at a remote destination, in accord with local customs, resources and cultural and environmental sustainability
- **Experience** in cross-cultural collaboration with students at the Yachana public school to establish a perpetual special event

## Course Schedule & Itinerary

### 2012 Pre-travel Class Meetings

It is anticipated that the class will meet five times for lecture, discussion, orientation and preparation (schedule below). Students will be expected to prepare for, attend and participate actively in each class meeting. If a student is unable to attend a meeting, special arrangements can be made. All pre-travel class meetings will be held in the **Hammons Student Center Alumni Lounge**.

**3:30-4:30 pm, Mon., Jan. 30:** Discussion of international/cross-cultural travel, Yachana

**3:30-4:30 pm, Mon., Feb. 27:** Preparation for the course and travel component

**3:30-4:30 pm, Mon., Mar. 26:** Intro discussion of recreation and special events, organizing a sustainable event in the jungle, the Yachana School student group

**3:30-4:30 pm, Mon., Apr. 23:** Components of the proposed special event

**3:30-4:30 pm, Mon., May 7:** Final preparations

### During Travel (tentative schedule)

**Sat., May 19:** 6:30 am - depart Springfield > Quito, Ecuador; arrive at night

**Sun., May 20:** Fly Quito > Coca, then travel by motorized canoe to Yachana. Box lunch on canoe. Afternoon orientation & some activities. Evening meal, planning meeting

**Mon.-Fri., May 21-25:** 7 am - meal; 8:30 am-Noon - formal lecture, training, discovery, hands-on activity (recreation, special event planning); Noon meal; hike to Yachana

School; participants & faculty to conduct class, organize special event with Yachana students; evening meal

**Sat.-Sun., May 26-27:** 7 am - meal; 10 am-Noon - Yachana special event; Noon meal; 1-3 pm - Yachana special event; 4 pm - clean-up; evening meal

**Mon., May 28:** 7:30 am - meal; attend school with Yachana students; afternoon - free time with Yachana students; evening meal

**Tues., May 29:** 8-10 am - travel Yachana > Coca by motorized canoe; fly Coca > Quito; arrive at hotel; Noon meal, then tour with local guide of historic downtown Quito. Evening meal on your own; 11:30 pm - depart Quito > Springfield (must be in the airport 3 hours ahead of departure).

**Wed., May 30:** 8:30 am - arrive at Springfield National Airport; journals due

### Post-travel Class Meeting

**3-5 pm, Thurs., May 31**

**Hammons Student Center Alumni Lounge** Groups will prepare and present Powerpoint presentations to the class; 5-page paper due

## Course Credit & Requirements

**Credit hours:** This Special Program class offers 3 hours of undergraduate (REC 495) or graduate (PED 797) credit. The program includes a substantial amount of faculty-student instructional time, as well as intensive collaboration between MSU and Yachana students. Program participants will be expected to attend daily lectures, discussions, planning meetings and Q&A sessions with local students, with the goal of organizing, marketing and conducting the special event.

**Texts:** Students will be given a list of required internet reading and optional texts.

**Assessment of learning:** Students will be evaluated on attendance at and participation in all class meetings and activities before, during and after the travel component of the program; completion of a journal while in Ecuador (this can be done simply by sending a daily email to oneself); completion of a 5-page paper (single-spaced, 12-pt. Times New Roman) discussing learning outcomes achieved, observations related to managing special events and personal growth as a result of the Yachana experience; and participation in a post-travel group presentation. Participants will be given a course Syllabus and detailed explanation of evaluation criteria at the first class meeting.

## Application & Payment Procedures:

Missouri State University students who are approved by the Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on program application. A **non-refundable deposit of \$420** will be billed to your student account upon application. The balance of the program cost will be billed to your account on **Apr. 2, 2012**.

The published program cost is based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change.

**Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% in the program fee if costs increase before or during travel.**

## Cancellation & Refund Policies:

- Students who withdraw prior to March 2, 2012 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$420 deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after March 2, 2012 for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$420 deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after Apr. 6, 2012, or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and to Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. **Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.**
- Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must also be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office.
- The program will be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 13 participants. In this event, students will receive a full refund. Up to 5 non-student guests may also join the class.