

# Belize

## Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Summer • May 20-26, 2014

Course Name: **Marine & Field Biology: Belize**

Course Numbers: **BIO 527, BIO 627, BIO 197**

Credit Hours: **3** undergraduate/graduate

### Course Overview & Objectives:

This program is to carry out biodiversity field studies during an extended field trip to Belize, Central America to educate students about the wildlife, ecology, and conservation of the area.

Students will spend a week exploring the flora and fauna of Belize. Tours will be made to view terrestrial and marine wildlife and discuss conservation issues and the ecological and historical significance of the region.

### Program Fee: \$3,465

**Program Fee Includes:** Round-trip airfare, accommodation, most meals, in-country ground transportation, entrance fees to museums, parks, and other facilities, and Study Away student fee and insurance.

**Program Fee Excludes:** Ground transportation in Springfield, passport, some meals, incidentals/misc personal expenses, and souvenirs. \$612/741 MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate/graduate credit. Both Missouri residents and non-residents pay the MO resident per-credit-hour tuition rate, per University policy.

**MSU Study Away Application due by February 14, 2014.** The \$75 non-refundable deposit will be billed to your student account. Please see Application & Payment Procedures for MSU and Visiting Students on reverse.

**EF College Study Tours Enrollment Form and \$95 Enrollment Fee due:** February 14, 2014 (The balance of the program fees will be Paid directly to EF College Study Tours).

### Scholarship Eligibility & Financial Aid

Students may apply for the College of Natural and Applied Sciences Study Away scholarship. Applications are due to the Study Away office by April 11, 2014. Please see the scholarship page on the Study Away website. Additionally, students who receive financial aid may apply aid to this program. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Informational Meeting:  
TBA

Application Due:  
February 14, 2014

Pre-Travel Meeting:  
May 19, 2014  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

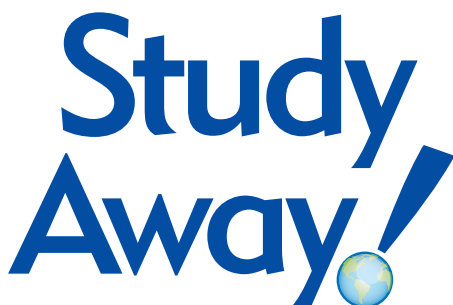
Depart Springfield:  
May 20, 2014

Return to Springfield:  
May 26, 2014

Post-Travel Meetings:  
May 29, 2014  
May 30, 2014  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### Interested in going?

Contact the Program Director,  
**Daniel Beckman**, Department of  
Biology, Temple Hall 202  
417-836-5980  
DanielBeckman@MissouriState.edu



Missouri State University Study Away Programs  
Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403  
301 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806  
P: 417-836-6368 • E: [StudyAway@MissouriState.edu](mailto:StudyAway@MissouriState.edu)  
W: <http://international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/>

**Missouri State**  
UNIVERSITY  
An EO/AA Institution

## Course Schedule & Itinerary

During the travel component, lectures (~16 hours) will be given by the Program Director and experts in Belize. There will be an additional 3-4 hours per day of organized activities during the travel component (total 25-30 hours). Post-travel classroom lectures and presentations (9 hours) will be given on the MSU campus.

### PRE-TRAVEL MEETING

**May 19, 2014, 9 am - 12 pm:** Meeting at MSU; pre-trip orientatino and lecture.

### STUDY TOUR

Dates and activities subject to change.

**May 20, 2014:** Fly to Belize. Travel to Blue Creek Rainforest Station. Introduction to Facilities.

**May 21, 2014:** Bluecreek Station activities, including ethnobotany walk, iguana hike, jungle hike.

**March 22, 2014:** Bluecreek Station activities, including howler monkey observations, bird watching walk, night wildlife observation.

**May 23, 2014:** Travel to Lubaantun Mayan site; travel by boat from Dangriga to marine biology South Water Caye on Belize barrier reefs.

**May 24, 2014:** South Water Caye activities, including surveys of terrain, exploration of beach, seagrass, and mangrove ecosystems.

**May 25, 2014:** Snorkeling on coral reefs, tour of Smithsonian Research Station, booby and frigate bird observations at Man O' War Caye.

**May 26, 2014:** Boat travel to Stan Creek; bus ride to Belize City airport. Flight home.

### POST-TRAVEL CLASS MEETING

Post-travel lecture and presentations.

**May 29, 2014**

**May 30, 2014**

### Course Credit & Requirements

Students must fulfill the academic requirements for the course as outlined below on a pass/fail basis:

- **Field Journals:** Students will keep daily journals on observations concerning biology, ecology, and conservation, and personal reflections. (33% of final grade)
- **Powerpoint and Presentation:** Students will prepare a Powerpoint presentation to be presented orally to the class at post-trip meetings. Topics will be on some aspect of biology, ecology, or conservation of Belize and/or surrounding areas. (33% of final grade)
- **Participation:** Students will be graded on participation in field trip activities and classroom meetings. Grade will be determined based on attendance, punctuality, motivation, interest level, and class discussion (33% of final grade)

**Required text:** A textbook is not required.

## Application & Payment Procedures

**MSU Study Away Application due by Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2014** - Students who are approved by the Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on the program application, available at the Study Away website and through the Program Director, Dan Beckman. The non-refundable MSU Study Away Fee of \$75 and a 2nd billing of \$157.00 which covers insurance, tips, and shared faculty expense, will be billed to your university account.

**EF College Study Tours Enrollment due by Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2014** - Once your MSU Study Away application is approved, you must complete the program enrollment form at [www.efcollegestudy tours.com/enroll](http://www.efcollegestudy tours.com/enroll). A non-refundable Enrollment Fee of \$95 must be paid at this time. The balance of program fees will be billed directly by EF College Study Tours through an automatic monthly payment plan. You may choose to have payments deducted from your checking account or charged to your debit or credit card.

**MSU Students:** Course tuition will be billed to students' University accounts and will be due according to their University payment plans.

**Visiting Students:** (non-degree-seeking students, including students enrolled at another institution, post-baccalaureate students, and other interested community members): Visiting students must submit their \$75 non-refundable deposit (by check or money order) to the Study Away Office by the application deadline in the program flyer. All fees must be paid in full before travel commences. Non-MSU students should complete the "Study Away Enrollment Form for Visiting Students"; they do not need to complete an MSU Application for Admission or pay an admission fee.

### Cancellation & Refund Policies

Students who wish to withdraw from the program must do so through EF college Study Tours. Participants should become familiar with EF College Study Tours Booking Conditions 2014 ([www.efcollegestudy tours.com/bc](http://www.efcollegestudy tours.com/bc)); this document includes details of payment, cancellation, and refund policies. Students who withdraw by April 14, 2014 will receive a partial refund; no refunds will be issued after that date.

A written notification of withdrawal must also be sent to the Program Director, Daniel Beckman, and Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403.

