

# Costa Rica

## Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Summer Intersession • May 17 - June 8, 2014

Course Name: **Intensive Language and Cultural Experience for Educators: Walking in the Shoes of Your English Language Learners and All Struggling Learners**

*Intensive cultural immersion experience for K-12 teacher candidates, teachers and those in related fields*

Course Number: **EEM 597/607**

Credit Hours: **4** undergraduate/graduate

Application Due:  
**December 1, 2013**

Pre-Travel Class Meetings:

**March 6, 2014**

**April 16, 2014**

**May 6, 2014**

*pre-travel meetings are from 3:30-5:30 pm and are mandatory*

Depart Springfield for Costa Rica:

**May 17, 2014**

Depart Costa Rica for Springfield:

**June 8, 2014**

Post-Travel Meeting, Coursework Due:

**June 16, 2014**

*coursework may be submitted via email*

### Interested in going?

Contact the Program Director,  
Dr. Roberta Aram, Professor, Department  
of Childhood Education & Family Studies  
(417) 836-5365  
RobertaAram@MissouriState.edu

### Program Fee: \$3,975

**Program Fee Includes:** Roundtrip airfare, ground transport, all lodging, meals (except 7 meals at approximately \$50.00 total) entrance fees and Spanish classes, Study Away student fee and basic medical insurance. Itemized costs not available.

**Program Fee Excludes:** Passport, MSU tuition, 7 meals at approximately \$50.00 total, airport departure tax of \$29.00, incidentals/miscellaneous personal expenses, snacks, and souvenirs. \$816/988 MSU tuition for 4 hours of undergraduate/graduate credit. Both Missouri residents and non-residents pay the Mo. resident per-credit-hour tuition rate, per University policy.

**Applications are due by December 1, 2013.** A **nonrefundable deposit of \$600 will be billed to your student account.** Please see Application & Payment Procedures for MSU and Visiting Students on reverse.

### Scholarship Eligibility & Financial Aid

Students may apply for the College of Education 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.

### Course Overview & Objectives:

The purpose of these courses is to provide teacher candidates with active participation in a three-week immersion experience in Costa Rica to walk in the shoes of their English Language and struggling learners (to understand why children shut down, why they want to talk in their native language to other speakers of their language; and how they can speak conversationally, but still lack conceptual knowledge).

These courses are designed to develop in student's a deeper level of knowledge, skills and dispositions associated with effective instruction of English Language Learners (ELLs) and all struggling learners, through a firsthand immersion experience in an unfamiliar culture including home stay, observation and participation in elementary schools and a service learning project in country, as well as sight-seeing and interaction with a wide variety of Costa Ricans. They are designed to prepare students to be educated persons who can more effectively work with the increasing number of school children (about 8.7% of US school children) for whom English is not their first language (ELLs). These inquiry-based courses will actively engage students in their own learning through a variety of introspection and reflection activities grounded in the Spanish language and cultural learning immersion experiences. To affect these goals, students will explore the Latino culture inside and outside of the classroom.

**Missouri State**  
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An EO/AA Institution

**Study Away!**

Missouri State University Study Away Programs  
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**Course Overview:** This International Field Experience (EEM597/607) includes 3 ½ weeks of immersion experience in Costa Rica. Cultural activities include teaching in and visiting 4 schools, 2 service learning projects, tours, cooking classes, dancing class, and lectures. Live in Spanish speaking homes in Heredia, a safe and peaceful community with few tourists and in Monteverde, a unique community set in a world-famous Costa Rican cloud forest. Costa Rica is the safest, most economically and politically stable country in Latin America. Its people, commonly known as Ticos, are kind and peace loving. Participants will reflect on their own second language learning as they study Spanish at Centro Panamericano de Idiomas (CPI) in a small class of 4 students to 1 Spanish teacher. Participants are placed in one of 10 levels using the ACTFL exam and progress at their own pace as they learn ESL strategies through inquiry. They will keep a digital blog documenting the experience.

- Students will gain awareness and empathy for ELLs (English Language Learners) and all struggling learners by experiencing being a Spanish Language Learner, living in an unfamiliar culture, learning in a new language, and living in a Spanish speaking home with Spanish newspapers, radio and TV.
- Students will reflect and introspect on their own use of strategies in second language learning to better understand the strategies and stages of language acquisition their current or future ELLs use.
- Students will reflect on their own learning, using Cambourne's conditions as a framework for their reflection and be able to relate this to setting up similar conditions in their own classroom for ELLs and all learners.
- Students will compare and contrast schools within two regions of Costa Rica and schools in the U.S.
- Students will gain at least a rudimentary conversational level and understanding of the structure of Spanish to facilitate their ability to communicate with their Spanish-speaking children and families.
- Students will develop cultural self-awareness and expand their knowledge of, respect for and skills in engaging Costa Rican children and adults by comparing their own culture and family traditions to the culture and family traditions of their host families.
- Students will gain a better appreciation, understanding and respect for multiple perspectives, improve their ability to successfully negotiate cross-cultural differences and realize how people are more alike than different.
- Students will examine issues related to poverty and how those affect children's learning and teacher's expectations.

## STUDY TOUR

**Saturday, May 17, 2014** Arrive in San Jose.

**Sunday, May 18, 2014** Working breakfast at hotel, guided tour and lunch at La Paz Waterfall Gardens; return to **Centro Panamericano de Idiomas** (CPI-Heredia Language School) for orientation and Spanish Language proficiency testing; meet host family, dinner with family.

**Monday, May 19 - Friday, May 23, 2014 Heredia (Central Valley/capital city area)** Begin each morning with faculty leader lecture/discussion on various topics at CPI and/or observation/teaching in English in local primary school before an afternoon of Spanish language instruction.

**Saturday, May 24, 2014** Spend the day in Manuel Antonio National Park enjoying the beach before dining with the group and checking into your hotel for the weekend.

**Sunday, May 25, 2014** Explore the beach during free time during the day, then travel to Monteverde to meet new host families over dinner.

**Monday, May 26 - Friday, May 30, 2014 Monteverde (Northern Cloud Forest area)** Begin each morning with faculty leader lecture/discussion on various topics at CPI and/or observation/teaching in English in local primary school before an afternoon of intensive Spanish language instruction.

**Saturday, May 31, 2014** Travel to Arenal Volcano/hot springs in La Fortuna; enjoy free time in the town and lunch with the group; hike nearby trails of the Sendero Silencio; enjoy hot springs, pools and dinner at resort hotel.

**Sunday, June 1, 2014** Free time, lunch and shopping in La Fortuna area; return to Monteverde in time for dinner with host family.

**Monday, June 2 - Friday, June 6, 2014** The last week of instruction at CPI Monteverde includes lectures, observations, a service project, and additional Spanish language instruction.

**Saturday, June 7, 2014** Travel to San Jose, Costa Rica's capital; guided tour of National Museum & Theatre, lunch, and free time and shopping before farewell dinner.

**Sunday, June 8, 2014** Depart San Jose.

## Course Credit & Requirements

### Assessment of Learning

- Spanish Language Immersion. Attendance, active participation and professional dispositions demonstrated in all experiences on the course including Spanish classes & homework.
- Reflective Blog or (photo) Journal (50 pts)
- Mini Research Project (50 pts)

## Application & Payment Procedures

**MSU Students:** A non-refundable deposit of **\$600** will be billed to your University account upon application (deadline Dec. 1, 2013). You will receive a second billing on Jan. 31, 2014 and a final billing on Feb. 28, 2014, for the balance of the program fee (\$3,375). MSU course tuition (\$816/988) will be billed to your University account and is due according to the university payment plan.

**Visiting Students:** A non-refundable deposit of **\$600** (check or money order) must accompany your application (deadline Dec. 1, 2014). A check or money order for the balance of the program fee (\$3,375) and MSU course tuition (\$816/988) will be due by April 25, 2014.

**IN ORDER TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY AWAY PROGRAM, THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE PROGRAM FEE MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 2, 2014. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE ONLINE OR AT THE BURSAR'S OFFICE.**

Estimated program fees based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change. Participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% if rates increase before or during travel.

## Cancellation & Refund Policies

- Students who withdraw prior to April 4, 2014 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$600 deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after April 4, 2014 or a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the \$600 deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after April 4, 2014 or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, no refunds will be issued under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and Director of Study Away Programs at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.