



Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Fall 2015

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IRA Funds Request for The Natural and Cultural History of Costa Rica

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Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Donald Rodriguez
Activity Title	The Natural and Cultural History of Costa Rica
Activity/Event Date	March 19-27, 2016
Date Funding Needed By	October 2015
Previously Funded?	Yes
Semester/Year	Spring 2013
Proposal #	0487
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	Yes
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	irareportform3CostaRica2013.pdf
Additional Report #1	—
Additional Report #2	—
Additional Report #3	—
Additional Proposers	—
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	ESRM
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	15,664.60
Amount Requested from IRA	35,725.40
Estimated Number of Students Participating	20
Conditions and Considerations	International Travel
Brief Activity Description	<p>Based at field research stations in Las Baulas National Marine Reserve, Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, and Arenal National Park, participants will learn about and participate in a variety of coastal and interior conservation studies, featuring aquatic and terrestrial research. Students will also study the scholarship and the work of local authors to appreciate historical and cultural contexts of the conservation work. Students will also participate in a community-based restoration programs and consider the opportunities and dilemmas of ecotourism. This course will allow students to experience relationships between core facets of CSUCI's mission: interdisciplinarity, international and multicultural experience, and service learning. Moreover, students will participate in a learning community in which their own perspectives are both valued and challenged by others and by real-life situations. Writing will play a significant role in demonstrating learning outcomes both at the field site and upon return to campus.</p> <p>Detailed description of facilities, personnel, community, research goals, types of field work, travel details will be available by the start of the semester prior to travel during Spring Break.</p>
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	<p>Learning Objectives: Upon Completion of this course students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • articulate an interdisciplinary understanding of the complexities of international conservation • demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between conservation initiatives and the local community • demonstrate a familiarity with field research techniques used during the project (for example GIS data collection, identification of species, and recording of species behavior) • analyze the effectiveness of service learning activities <p>The field research portion of this course relates directly to the ESRM curriculum, which emphasizes direct experience as well as understanding conservation goals within wider cultural, political, and ecological contexts. The literary, writing and cultural study aspects of the course may also attract Spanish majors and English majors seeking international and multicultural experiences. Communication majors emphasizing environmental</p>

	mediation may also see direct connections to their courses. Biology majors will see direct connections with sea turtle restoration and conservation. The service aspect of the course provides an opportunity for students from any major to connect with the university mission.
Description of Assessment Process	The culminating assessment of the course will be a poster session open to the university community in which students work in teams to represent the research they've participated in as well as their learning in other aspects of the course. Students will also be evaluated as to the quality and consistency of their participation in all aspects of the course. Examples of past posters and student reflection papers can be made available upon request (they actually accompanied the CIA application).
Activity Budget	CopyofCostaRicaBudget.xls
CIA Budget	CopyofCostaRicaBudget.xls
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	392SyllabusCostaRica_16.pdf
CIA Certification	I certify that students attending this trip are not previous or repeat attendees of a prior International UNIV 392 Trip
Other Sources of Funding	No formal support, but it's worth saying that our partner organization, The Great Basin Institute, contributes a great deal of staff time and expertise that is not reimbursed by the level of our funding. They view this as an outreach opportunity to expand their knowledge and connections internationally and to make a contribution to communities and ecosystems in Costa Rica.
Target Audience/Student Marketing	When this course has been offered in the past we used global emails, posted flyers, and color posters to solicit student involvement. It should be noted that this course had twice as many applicants as we had room to accommodate. Students were selected based on faculty referrals, personal statement of interest, and representativeness of a diversity of majors. In past offerings students were from Business, Psychology, English, Spanish, Communication, Biology, and ESRM disciplines.
Bring Benefit to Campus	A campus wide poster session and student led symposium is planned after the trip. Students will show videos, and explain their research to the broader campus community and to the general public. Students will advertise this session broadly on campus through posters, and flyers displayed across campus. This session facilitates recruiting the next cadre of students for the course in subsequent years.
Sustainability	Costa Rica has been widely acknowledged as the most sustainable country in the world. Many of the ecotourism enterprises and small lodges have a zero sum carbon budget. Many of the practices that are integrated in the country will be evident at the lodges we will stay at in the country. Students will learn through example about carbon neutrality, and sustainable practice.
Program Chair/Director	donald.rodiguez
Academic Affairs AVP	karen.carey
Acknowledgement	I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate.

Program Chair/Director Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Donald Rodriguez
Date/Time	2/26/2015 4:40:04 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-3B-5426

Academic Affairs AVP Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Karen Carey
Date/Time	2/26/2015 2:15:23 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-PF-1935