

## Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Fall 2017

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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 15-25, 2018
Date Funding Needed By	January 2018
Previously Funded?	Yes
Semester/Year	Fall 2015
Proposal #	0702
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	Yes
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	<a href="#">irareportform3CostaRica2016.pdf</a>
Additional Report #1	<a href="#">Costa_Rica_2017_evals.pdf</a>
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	Field Trip, International Travel
Brief Activity Description	<p>Based at field research stations in Las Baulas National Marine Reserve, Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, La Selva Biological 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> <p>In addition, faculty from UNA will be invited to CSUCI to provide university lectures, and interaction with CI students to facilitate a richer exchange during the spring semester 2018.</p>
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	<p>Learning Objectives:</p> <p>Upon Completion of this course students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• articulate an interdisciplinary understanding of the complexities of international conservation</li> <li>• demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between conservation initiatives and the local community</li> <li>• demonstrate a familiarity with field research techniques used during the project (for example GIS data collection, identification of species, and recording of species behavior)</li> <li>• analyze the effectiveness of service learning activities</li> </ul> <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 issues, Biology students engaged in ornithology will also be a priority in 2018.</p>
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	<a href="#">CopyofCostaRicaBudget_2018.xls</a>
CIA Budget	<a href="#">CopyofCostaRicaBudget_2018.xls</a>
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	<a href="#">392SyllabusCostaRica_18.pdf</a>
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	<p>Students in the course will be charged a course fee that covers airfare and additional course costs (approx. \$900/student=\$18,000).</p> <p>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. In addition, the faculty staff and students from Universidad Nacional in Costa Rica are not compensated for their time and effort through the grant. We are currently seeking additional funding through the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program within NSF to supplement and plant future expenses.</p>
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 has always had twice as many applicants as we have 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, Liberal Studies, Communication, Biology, and ESRM disciplines.
Bring Benefit to Campus	A campus wide poster session and student led symposium is planned for April 13, 2017. 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. Our personal practices while we are in residence in the country will adhere to sustainable tourism best practices. Students will learn by doing in understanding what constitutes sustainable tourism.
Program Chair/Director	donald.rodriguez
Dean	james.meriwether
Acknowledgement	I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate.

Program Chair/Director Review

Recommendation	I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Donald Rodriguez
Date/Time	2/27/2017 2:57:45 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-VM-3652
Comments	—

Dean Review

Recommendation	I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	James Meriwether
Date/Time	3/8/2017 4:31:17 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-6L-7634
Comments	Two brief comments. First, my understanding is that there has been discussion between the proposer and the CIA Advisory Committee along the way, and that there is now a revised syllabus with a number of changes regarding the academic component (e.g. readings detailed). I've seen that syllabus, and am considering it the one for this proposal, even though an older version is attached here. Second, in regard to the budget, my understanding is that in the past there were rough guidelines used regarding the ratio of faculty to students (and the expenses involved). It may be that in this instance the plan is for this course to be transitioned from one faculty member to another, but I really don't know. I simply recommend that some clarity about this may be useful.

IRA Committee Decision

Decision	—
Comments	—

Current Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Assigned To
IRA Committee Decision	3/8/2017 4:31:17 PM	David Daniels

Completed Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Time Completed	Completed By
Review from james.meriwether, Dean	2/27/2017 2:57:45 PM	3/8/2017 4:31:17 PM	James Meriwether
Review from donald.rodriguez, Program Chair/Director	2/27/2017 2:56:31 PM	2/27/2017 2:57:45 PM	Donald Rodriguez
Fill out Request	2/25/2017 9:15:07 PM	2/27/2017 2:56:31 PM	Donald Rodriguez

Actions

- [IRA Committee Decision](#)
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