



# Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request

Required fields are marked with an \*

## Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request

### 1. Basic Details

**Activity Title** The Cultural and Natural History of Costa Rica

**Activity/Event Date** March 14-24, 2019

**Date Funding Needed By** Dec. 2018

**Previously Funded?** \* Yes

Complete this section if you have been previously funded:

**Semester/Year:** Spring 2018

**Proposal Number** 0897

**Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?** Yes

If you submitted a report for a previously funded activity, you may upload a copy.

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**Additional Proposers:** Allison Alvarado

**Academic Program(s)/ Center Name(s)** ESRM

**Estimated total Course Fee revenue** \$19,573

**Amount Requested from IRA** \$49,477.60

(Should match "Total Requested from IRA" in Activity Budget)

**Estimated Number of Students Participating** 20

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## **\*2. Brief Activity Description**

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. 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.

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 2019.

## **\*3. Learning Outcomes and Relation of IRA to Course Offerings**

Learning Objectives:

Upon Completion of this course students will be able to:

- 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

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 are also a priority.

## **\*4. Activity Assessment**

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).

### **\*5. Activity Budget**

**See attached Budget**

### **6. International Trips (only)**

If your event is an international trip submitted through the Center for International Affairs, you must upload copies of:

See attached

### **Certification**

Students go through an application process for the trip and are asked about prior trip experience. Those that participated in other UNIV 392 courses are disqualified from participating.

### **\*7. Sources of Activity Support**

Course fees are charged for this trip \$1000-\$1200.

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/supplant future expenses.

### **\*8. Promoting Participation**

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.

A campus wide poster session and student led symposium is planned for April 2019. 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. Examples of student research posters from 2018 are attached.

## 9. 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.

## 10. Approval and Acknowledgment

Please select your Program Chair and Dean from the drop-down list on the website. Your application will automatically send out for approval from your Chair and Dean before it is forwarded to the IRA committee for review.

Conditions and Considerations

### a) Artist/Performer/Speaker Fees & Honoraria

On the Activity Budget, please indicate whether the vendor's price was set by you/CI Representative, or is a fee that was set by the vendor

### b) Large Event

For a large event, consultation with the campus Event Coordinator's office at (805)437-8548 is required.

### c) Field Trip

Sponsor must comply with all policies found at:

<http://www.csuci.edu/hr/AcademicFieldTripGuidelinesandForms.htm> . If approved, Identified Risks of Participation and Release Agreement must be submitted for each student to the Program Office (Public Folders-HR Forms).

### d) Involves Human Subject Data Collection for Public Dissemination -Requires IRB Approval

If Project Sponsor proposes to conduct research with human participants, the proposal may be subject to Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) review. All research that involves any type of interaction with human subjects - from simple surveys to complex biomedical procedures - must be reviewed and approved by the IRB prior to starting the research. Data for "Public Dissemination" indicates interviews/surveys that result in a journal/poster session/newsletter, etc.

### e) IT Requirements

If your activity has IT requirements, coordination with and approval from IT Administration is required.

f) International Travel

Requires International Travel application be submitted to Center for International Affairs. Include copy of CIA budget and course syllabus in your IRA application. Risk

g) Management Consultation

Events that involve or engage students directly with a performer or artist (i.e. in a workshop or other than as a passive audience member) will require consultation with Risk Management. Requires proof of correspondence with Risk Management.

h) Space/Facilities Services Requirements

Consultation and coordination with Facilities Services is required.



**INSTRUCTIONALLY  
RELATED  
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