

Experience a dynamic classroom where the emphasis is on cross-cultural learning in an applied setting.

## Costa Rica: A Natural Law and Policy Laboratory

Few countries are better suited to the study and application of international and comparative environmental law than the tiny tropical republic of Costa Rica. As a peaceful, stable, and democratic state, Costa Rica welcomed the first generation of tropical biologists from around the world and has since become host for some of the oldest and most respected tropical science field stations in the neotropics.

At the same time, Costa Rica has been at the forefront of some of the most significant environmental policy innovations on the global stage. From carbon trading on the Chicago Board of Trade and genetic resource access agreements under the biodiversity convention to national biological corridor strategies and the constitutional right to a healthy environment, Costa Rica has been a leader in the development of environmental law and policy. The UF/UCR Joint Program builds on these programs to make environmental law a field experience.

## For Information

Details, photos, curriculum, fees and application:

[http://conservation.law.ufl.edu/summer\\_costarical](http://conservation.law.ufl.edu/summer_costarical)

Or contact:

Thomas T. Ankersen

Legal Skills Professor and Director

University of Florida/University of Costa Rica

Joint Program in Environmental Law

UF College of Law

Center for Governmental Responsibility

PO Box 117621

Gainesville, FL 32611-7621

Phone: 352-392-0421

Fax: 352-392-3800

E-mail: [ankersen@law.ufl.edu](mailto:ankersen@law.ufl.edu)

University of Florida Levin College of Law:

[www.law.ufl.edu](http://www.law.ufl.edu)

Universidad de Costa Rica:

[www.ucr.ac.cr](http://www.ucr.ac.cr)



**UF LAW**  
COSTA RICA PROGRAM



Study International and Comparative Environmental Law in Costa Rica

☞ Applied

☞ Interdisciplinary

☞ International





## Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica

The University of Florida College of Law's Environmental and Land Use Law Program enjoys a special relationship with the University of Costa Rica (UCR) College of Law, the product of five years of teaching, applied academic exchange and co-curricular development. At the heart of this relationship is the UF/UCR Joint Program in Environmental Law, offered each summer from mid-June to early August to law and graduate students from throughout the Western Hemisphere.

This American Bar Association-approved program is unique among similar programs in the extent of participation by students and young professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean and participation of graduate students in the environmental sciences and related fields.

## Program Highlights

### Faculty

Guest professors from the U.S., Latin America, and the Caribbean complement core faculty from the UF College of Law and University of Costa Rica. UF Law faculty have more than 10 years of experience working in the region.

### A Diverse, Cross-Cultural Classroom

The program works with the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW) to bring together attorneys, scientists, and students from the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean. Each year the program and E-LAW offer up to five fellowships to Latin American students to complement the 20 U.S. students and seven Costa Rican students who are admitted to the program. The result is a rich mix of culture and experience where classes are in English, but "environmental law creole" is the common language.

### Conservation Clinic

Clinic students work in cross-cultural teams with Costa Rican students and E-LAW fellows from elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean. Students in the clinic have filed petitions before international environmental treaty organizations, conducted comparative legal analyses in support of multilateral agreements, and worked with not-for-profit organizations and communities on matters such as pesticide contamination litigation, coastal conservation and private lands conservation arrangements.

### Field Trips

The UF law Costa Rica Program also enjoys a unique partnership with the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, a sea turtle advocacy group with offices in Florida and Costa Rica. Costa Rica Program students benefit from the opportunity to travel to the CCC's Tortuguero field station and work side by side with field scientists tagging nesting sea turtles, while gaining insights into both the law and biology of sea turtles.



### A Rich Curriculum

Students can earn up to seven law and graduate credits over the course of the six weeks. Program courses include:

- 🌀 International Environmental Law (2 credits)
- 🌀 Comparative Environmental Law (3 credits)
- 🌀 Joint Program Clinic (2 credits)

### Specialty Courses and Co-Curricular Activities

The program also periodically offers specialty courses such as environmental dispute resolution (2 credits), co-curricular activities such as sponsorship of a joint UF/UCR international environmental moot court team (1 credit), and externships with not-for-profit law groups in Costa Rica during the regular academic year (3-6 credits).



## A Center of Environmental Law Excellence

The IUCN World Conservation Union has recognized the University of Costa Rica Law School as a Center of Environmental Law Excellence. UCR is the second law school in the Latin American & Caribbean region to achieve this recognition.