

COSTA RICA

Institute for Central American Development Studies (ICADS)

0825



...ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- Available spring, summer and fall
- Distinct semester, internship and Spanish immersive programs
- Easy transfer of credits
- Direct enrollment (You pay tuition to ICADS)

...WHY SAN JOSÉ?

San José is the capital city of Costa Rica and one of the country's most diverse areas. Both a cosmopolitan region and a traditional Central American city, San José offers a dense culture and history, and a bustling nightlife. Attractions in the city include the Costa Rican National Museum, the Jade Museum, and Central Park. While locals are incredibly friendly and many understand English, exploring the city is also a great way to improve Spanish language skills. San José's central location offers convenient access to the Pacific and Atlantic coasts as well as numerous national parks set in one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, Costa Rica. Students may also visit include indigenous communities in the Central Valley, the Atlantic Lowlands, the Talamanca mountain ranges, the Guanacaste province, and the Northern zone. Field sites vary from semester to semester according to program type and conditions.

...ELIGIBILITY

- Undergraduate student
- Good academic standing (2.5 GPA)
- Must have studied at Chatham for one year prior to study abroad.

...APPLICATION DEADLINES AND PROGRAM DATES

SPRING 2026

Application Deadline	November 1, 2025
Entry Date	February 2, 2026

SUMMER 2026

Application Deadline	March 15, 2026
Entry Date	June 1, 2026

FALL 2026

Application Deadline	May 1, 2026
Entry Date	August 31, 2026

...STUDY AT ICADS

The Institute for Central American Development Studies (ICADS) is a center for study, research, and analysis of Central American social and environmental issues. Since 1986, ICADS has focused on economic development, politics, environmental issues, sustainable development, public health, women's issues, education, human rights, and conservation. Their programs aim to increase understanding of the region with a historical perspective. ICADS programs are based in San José and in rural communities of Costa Rica.

...ACADEMICS

ICADS offers four categories of programs; three distinct semester programs, a Summer Internship program, and intensive Spanish language courses designed to immerse students in the Costa Rican context. The three semester programs are the Environment and Sustainable Development Field Program, the Social Justice & Development Internship and the Language and Society program. Semester programs are organized in blocks, which begin with a five-week block in San José, followed by different blocks of educational and co-curricular activities to meet the objectives of each program.

The ten-week summer internship program is also organized in blocks including Spanish and internship preparation, a structured internship, and a one-week reflection with written and oral presentations. During the first block students explore internship sites and themes and decide on a placement.

Spanish intensives are offered throughout the year in four-week blocks, developing students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students can add a Spanish intensive to their program before the start of a semester or summer program.

For more information on academic and internship opportunities see icads.org/study-programs

...STUDENT SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Organized activities supplement students' learning experiences and expose them to culture and to issues of importance in Costa Rica. Lectures from guest speakers, visits to local museums, and weekend excursions are all available. Additionally, students can put their Spanish to work outside of the classroom, and dive into Central American reality through volunteering opportunities at local community organizations, contingent upon Spanish level.

...ACCOMMODATIONS

ICADS' homestay coordinator gathers students' preferences to place students with homestay families representing the typical Costa Rican home. The homestay enhances students' cultural experience, while prioritizing safety. Host families are located within a ten-minute bus ride or a thirty-minute walk to ICADS. The student's host family will accompany the student to and from ICADS on the first day of classes to show each student the route. Each student is provided with a map that clearly indicates the location of his/her home as well as the location of the houses of all other students in his/her cluster. Students housed near one another walk together and share the required taxi ride when returning home at night. Meals are included with the homestay.

...TO APPLY

Apply at icads.org/apply-now.

...ESTIMATED COSTS

	SPRING 2026	SUMMER 2026	FALL 2026
Tuition & Fees	\$14,950	\$2,490-6,875	\$14,950
Housing	Included	Included	Included
Additional Expenses	\$2,000-3,000	\$1,000-2,000	\$2,000-3,000
Approximate Total	\$16,950-17,950	\$3,490-8,875	\$16,950-17,950

Tuition and fees are based on program type selected by the student.

Tuition and fees are an estimate and are subject to change. All tuition and housing fees and dates should be confirmed with the program. Tuition and housing shall be paid directly to ICADS. "Additional Expenses" is an estimate for airfare, excursions, meals, books, insurance, transportation and personal allowance. Students are responsible for all expenses.

Chatham is committed to being as transparent as possible with respect to our study abroad financial arrangements. Financial transactions and business dealings are fully disclosed. Foreign currencies can be converted at www.xe.com/currencyconverter/.



 **CHATHAM UNIVERSITY**
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Falk Hall, Lower Level
412-365-1388