YOUR GO-TO ADVISING RESOURCE FOR SFS STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

The School for Field Studies (SFS) is the United States’ largest environmental study abroad organization, offering transformative, field-based programs to undergraduates from across the nation. Over the last four decades, more than 19,000 students have attended our programs, and in the last five years, more than 350 colleges and universities have sent students on SFS programs.

The SFS study abroad model is unlike any other. Our programs, operating in more than 10 countries around the world, are designed to complement your institution’s academics by offering your students an immersive international experience focused on real-world environmental research, hands-on learning in the field, and community reciprocity. Students earn credit, learn practical skills, and gain a global perspective that informs and challenges their opinions about the world around them.

This Advising Guide is your go-to resource for information about the SFS model and study abroad program options. We’ve designed it to help you advise and support your students as they plan their study abroad experience. From general information about academics and student life to specific details about each program, we hope you’ll find everything you need in these pages. If you have additional questions, please visit our website, www.fieldstudies.org, or email us at admissions@fieldstudies.org.

VISUAL KEY

Throughout the guide, you’ll notice repeating colors and icons. These will help you easily identify key pieces of information.

- **SFS GENERAL PROGRAM MODEL**: Information on SFS’ program model, including academics, research, safety, and student life, are marked with this color.
- **ADMISSIONS & LOGISTICS**: Information on the student admissions process, financial aid, and travel logistics are marked with this color.
- **LOCATION-SPECIFIC INFO**: Information on specific program locations, including courses and highlights, are marked with this color.

Much of the information in the location-specific guides is broken into sections corresponding with the following icons:

- 🌍 PROGRAMS AND COURSES
- 📕 ACADEMIC FOCUS
- 🌟 HIGHLIGHTS
- 🏢 LIFE AT THE CENTER
- 🙏 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
# Table of Contents

- **General Program Information**  
  Program Model, Academics, Research, Safety

- **Student Information**  
  Eligibility, Admissions, Costs, Financial Aid, FAQ

- **Location-Specific Guides**  
  Tips & Information by Program Location

- **Australia**  
  Rainforest Studies

- **Bhutan**  
  Himalayan Env’t and Development Studies

- **Cambodia**  
  Conservation and Development Studies

- **Chile**  
  Climate Studies

- **Costa Rica**  
  Sustainable Development Studies

- **Kenya**  
  Wildlife and Water Studies

- **Panama**  
  Tropical Island Biodiversity Studies

- **Peru**  
  Amazon Studies

- **Tanzania**  
  Wildlife Management Studies

- **Turks and Caicos Islands**  
  Marine Resource Studies

## Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/Spring)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Rainforest to Reef</td>
<td>Rainforests of New Zealand and Australia</td>
<td>Watersheds of the Wet Tropics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Himalayan Environment and Society in Transition</td>
<td>Forests in the Land of the Thunder Dragon</td>
<td>Big Cats of the Himalayas: Tracking and Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Climate Change, Ethics, and Conservation</td>
<td>Elephants of the Cambodian Highlands</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Wild Patagonia: Fire and Ice</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Studies</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Sustainable Food Systems</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Sustainability Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Tropical Island Biodiversity Studies</td>
<td>Tropical Island Ecosystems: The Human Impact</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Amazon Studies</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turks and Caicos</td>
<td>Marine Resource Studies</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Marine Conservation</td>
<td>Marine Megafauna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OVERVIEW

THE SFS MODEL: A DIFFERENT KIND OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

**COHORT MODEL:** All SFS programs have a small group size (approximately 14–34 students) and all students participate in the full program, i.e. living together, taking the same classes, and going on the same field excursions.

**6-DAY SCHEDULE:** SFS programs are academically rigorous, following a 6-day/week schedule (includes classes, field excursions, research activities, and community engagement projects). Students should expect to wake up early and stay busy throughout the day!

**FIELD SETTING:** During the program, students live at a field station and spend a large amount of time outdoors. This may mean limited access to WiFi, physically rigorous activities, and exposure to a range of conditions, including rain and humidity.

**IMMERSION:** The primary focus of our programs is to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of localized environmental issues and academic topics from the ‘hard’ sciences to the social sciences, while training them in the practical skills necessary for a career in these fields. While students have many opportunities to engage with local communities in unique and meaningful ways, ‘cultural immersion’ is not our main focus like it is for many traditional study abroad programs.

**STRUCTURE:** SFS programs are more structured than some study abroad programs due to the large amount of academic content packed into each program. It is important that students are aware of this and review the policies in our field guides (see below).

More information about our program model is available online at: [www.fieldstudies.org/why-sfs/the-sfs-model](http://www.fieldstudies.org/why-sfs/the-sfs-model)
ACADEMICS

Courses are led by full-time, permanent SFS faculty members who are skilled teachers, field researchers, and mentors. Semester programs consist of four 4-credit upper division courses and a 2-credit language and culture course (Australia and TCI do not offer the 2-credit course) for 18 credits. Summer programs consist of one 4-credit upper division course per session with two sessions offered at most centers. Course themes span biology, ecology, geography, socioeconomics and environmental policy, environmental ethics, conservation science, natural resource management, and field research. Lectures and activities take place both in the classroom and in the field, encouraging students to actively engage with the surrounding ecosystems and communities, learning firsthand about lecture topics while building practical skills.

Grades are assessed through practical and written exams, quizzes, field exercises, presentations, homework, and final papers. SFS uses a letter grade scale, and courses may not be taken on a pass/fail or audit basis. SFS courses are accredited through the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. The amount and type (major, minor, elective) of credit students receive at their home institution for coursework done on an SFS program is determined by the home institution.

Students may request learning accommodations by contacting the SFS Office of Academic Affairs at: academics@fieldstudies.org. SFS will work with the student to determine the required level of accommodation and whether it can be safely and reasonably maintained on program.

RESEARCH

SFS semester programs give students the chance to conduct meaningful, hands-on research in a field setting. Each SFS center has developed a Strategic Research Plan (SRP) to examine key environmental issues in the region. During semester programs, as part of the Directed Research (DR) course, students work directly with a faculty mentor to identify a research question that falls under the umbrella of topics in the SRP. This approach allows students to address relevant, real-world environmental issues and contribute to a larger body of scientific knowledge. The DR course takes place during the final 4–6 weeks of the program and students spend at least 10–15 days collecting data in the field.

While students attending summer programs with SFS will not complete the full Directed Research process due to time constraints, they will have the opportunity to develop a suite of field research skills that augments their undergraduate education and can be a resource for grad school applications or their careers.

More information about our research is available online at: www.fieldstudies.org/why-sfs/research

SAFETY

SFS is a leader in the study abroad industry in health and safety systems. Our structured risk management program accounts for the itineraries and logistics of students’ daily activities, and each SFS center has a Risk Assessment and Management Plan that comprehensively documents emergency response protocols and contingency plans. Several SFS staff members at each center are Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA) certified and trained on how to respond in the case of an emergency. Additionally, each SFS program is staffed with a full-time residential Student Affairs Manager (SAM) who is a certified Wilderness First Responder (WFR), sexual assault first responder, and the primary medical responder on campus. SFS works with students prior to departure, and again during the on-program orientation, to set clear expectations about health and safety and provide students with confidential channels for reporting any concerns.

More information about health and safety on SFS programs is available online at: www.fieldstudies.org/safety
ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSIONS

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for an SFS program, students must be 18 years of age and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.6 (summer programs) or 2.8 (semester programs). Semester program applicants are required to have taken one college-level course in biology, ecology, or environmental studies/science.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Students can apply to all SFS programs for free at our website. A complete application consists of the online application form plus several supplemental materials, all available online at: www.fieldstudies.org/admissions/how-to-apply

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

SFS strives to cultivate diverse and inclusive communities by supporting every student, including those who identify as a racial or ethnic minority, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, first-generation college students, and students from all underrepresented groups or underserved communities. We continue to develop strategies to support all students from the time they apply, during their program, and beyond. For more information about SFS initiatives to increase access and inclusiveness of a diverse student body, please contact Megan Telzrow, SFS’ Institutional Relations and Diversity Manager: mtelzrow@fieldstudies.org

PROGRAM COSTS AND ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

SFS PROGRAM COSTS: The cost of an SFS program covers a variety of expenses, including tuition, room and board, advising services, field excursions and expeditions, most on-program transportation, 24-hour support and emergency assistance, emergency medical evacuation insurance, and an official transcript. More information about program costs can be found online at: www.fieldstudies.org/admissions/costs

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES: Students should budget for additional expenses not included in the SFS program costs, such as flights to and from the program, visas, additional insurance, medications, and personal spending money. A program-specific budget planning sheet can be found on each individual program page on our website.

FINANCIAL AID

SFS awards more than $650,000 in need-based financial aid each year, in the form of scholarships, grants, and zero- and low-interest loans. All students are welcome to apply for SFS financial aid, and students who submit an SFS Financial Aid Application will be considered for our full range of aid options. More information about financial aid can be found online at: www.fieldstudies.org/admissions/aid
IMPORTANT NOTE ON VISAS AND PASSPORTS

SFS coordinates the visa process for all students. Students do not need to take any steps independently to obtain a visa, and should await direction from SFS. Students must have a passport valid at least 6 months after the end date of their program. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for researching applicable immigration requirements; these students should contact their Admissions Counselor to discuss.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

FIELD GUIDE: A comprehensive, program-specific field guide is available on each program page and includes packing lists, travel expectations, program policies, medical and immunization information, and details about the SFS center, the surrounding region, and program breaks.

PROGRAM MANUAL: A center-specific manual is available on each program page and includes academic information, including learning outcomes, expectations, and policies. Certain sections apply only to either semester or summer programs.

SAMPLE SYLLABI: Sample course syllabi are available on each program page and include course information, lecture topics, and a grading rubric. These syllabi are subject to change; a final syllabus will be presented upon arrival to the program.

BLOG: Our blog is full of posts written by students, staff, and faculty members. Topics cover student experiences, faculty research updates, and SFS program updates. Our blog can be found at: www.fieldstudies.org/blog
AUSTRALIA

TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

PROGRAM CONTACT
AMBER GLASS
AGLASS@FIELDSTUDIES.ORG
1.978.219.5111

CLOSEST TOWNS: Yungaburra (20 minutes by car), Atherton (40 minutes by car), Cairns (90 minutes by car)

SETTING: Large, 153-acre rainforest campus in the foothills of the Gillies mountain range

PROGRAMS AND COURSES OFFERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/SPRING)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM</td>
<td>Rainforest to Reef</td>
<td>Rainforests of New Zealand and Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COURSE(S)</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values (4 cred.)</td>
<td>Rainforest Management Studies (4 cred.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainforest Ecology (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principles of Forest Management (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directed Research (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDITS</td>
<td>16 credits</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC FOCUS: RAINFOREST STUDIES

- Regional land use and landscape-scale management
- Tropical rainforest fragmentation, restoration, and management
- Opportunities and constraints in tropical rainforest reforestation projects
- Population assessment of vertebrate species
- Climate change impacts
- Eco-cultural tourism
- Techniques practiced: GIS, species identification and population monitoring, forest survey methods, citizen science protocols, research design

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***
LIFE AT THE CENTER

WEATHER: Tropical - temperatures range from 40°F to around 90°F. Prepare for rain during all sessions.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 8-person cabins; bathrooms and showers are located in a separate, centrally located block.

TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT: Wildlife includes birds, insects, marsupials, venomous snakes, etc. Mold is common due to damp conditions.

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Information on health risks and CDC-recommended vaccines for travel to Australia is available at: www.cdc.gov/travel. Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

HIGHLIGHTS

SEMESTER
- Excursion to Daintree, the world’s oldest rainforest
- Great Barrier Reef: 2-3 excursions to reef islands to explore marine ecosystems and study impacts and links between rainforest and reef ecosystems. Go snorkeling and observe sea turtles, giant clams, corals, and other reef creatures up close.
- Indigenous Mandingalbay-Yidinji Country: Visit and learn from local Indigenous people about conservation efforts and traditional practices

SUMMER I
- New Zealand: Spend 10 days exploring ancient podocarp and Kauri forests and learning about the Māori people
- Australia: Excursion to Daintree, the world’s oldest rainforest

SUMMER II
- Great Barrier Reef: 2 excursions to reef islands to explore marine ecosystems and study impacts and links between rainforest and reef ecosystems. Go snorkeling and observe sea turtles, giant clams, corals, and other reef creatures up close.
- Skybury Coffee Plantation: Tour a local coffee farm to learn about sustainable agriculture and taste Australian-grown coffee

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- Vibrant local community, engaged in rainforest restoration and conservation efforts
- Partnerships with local organizations - participate in regular tree plantings and restoration activities
- Short homestay (1-2 nights) with local community members. Semester only.
- Community research presentations
**Academic Focus: Himalayan Environment and Development Studies**

- Mountain ecology and conservation
- Gross National Happiness
- River ecosystems
- Agriculture and rural livelihoods
- Buddhism influences
- Natural resource and forest management
- Development and conservation
- Camera trapping and wildlife conservation
- Techniques practiced: GIS, species identification, biodiversity assessment, camera trapping, radio telemetry, mist netting, conservation project proposal, research design

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 2-4 person dorm rooms; bathrooms and showers are located within each room.

RUSTIC ENVIRONMENT: Rooms in this former hotel can be drafty but are insulated and have space heaters.

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Students are required to receive the rabies pre-exposure vaccination series. Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

HIGHLIGHTS

SEMESTER
- Hiking excursion to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger’s Nest)
- Phobjikha Valley: Observe and study Bhutan’s sacred black-necked cranes
- Multi-day trek with 1-2 nights spent camping
- Bumthang: Visit to Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Environmental Research (UWICER) and high-elevation hiking

SUMMER I
- Excursions to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger’s Nest), Phobjikha Valley, and Punakha (optional rafting opportunity)
- Multi-day trek with 1-2 nights spent camping

SUMMER II
- Excursions to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger’s Nest) and Punakha (optional rafting opportunity)
- Jigme Dorji National Park and Jigme Singye National Park: Lectures and field work on snow leopard ecology and camera trapping

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- Local partner organizations - Bhutan Ecological Society (BES) and UWICER
- Attend local festivals (tshechus)
- Short homestay (1-2 nights) with local community members.
- Community research presentations
PROGRAMS AND COURSES OFFERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/SPRING)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| PROGRAM
| Climate Change, Ethics, and Conservation | Elephants of the Cambodian Highlands | N/A |
| COURSE(S)
| Language and Culture of Cambodia (2 cred.) | Ecology and Conservation of Southeast Asian Elephants (4 cred.) | N/A |
| Conservation Science and Practice (4 cred.) | | |
| Ecosystems and Livelihoods (4 cred.) | | |
| Environmental Ethics and Development (4 cred.) | | |
| Directed Research (4 cred.) | | |
| CREDITS | 18 credits | 4 credits | N/A |

ACADEMIC FOCUS: CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

- Climate change impacts
- Religion, culture, and the environment
- Biodiversity assessment
- Human-environment nexus
- Rural livelihoods
- Development and natural resource conservation
- Sustainability
- Environmental ethics, governance, and policy
- Aquatic ecosystems
- Elephant ecology and conservation
- Techniques practiced: species identification, wildlife monitoring, ethics and reasoning, biodiversity assessment, research design, basic Khmer language skills

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***
LIFE AT THE CENTER

**WEATHER:** Hot. Spring: dry, increasing heat (80°F-100°F). Summer: monsoon season, rainy and hot (70°F-100°F). Fall: wet, humid, and hot (70°F-90°F).

**LIVING ARRANGEMENTS:** 2-4 person dorm rooms; bathrooms and showers are located within each room. Air-conditioned.

**RUSTIC ENVIRONMENT:** Students travel during the program and should expect varied and rustic living conditions. Some accommodations lack AC and/or WiFi.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Information on health risks and CDC-recommended vaccines for travel to Cambodia is available at: [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

---

HIGHLIGHTS

**SEMESTER**
- Elephant Valley Project: Visit Cambodia’s original elephant sanctuary in the forests of Mondulkiri to study elephant behavior and ecology
- Tonle Sap Lake: Stay overnight in a floating village on the lake and learn from villagers about how they’re adapting their livelihoods to climate change
- Excursions to Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, and other important cultural sites

**SUMMER I**
- Elephant Valley Project: Spend an extended period of time at Cambodia’s original elephant sanctuary in the forests of Mondulkiri. Work with semi-captive elephants and study their behavior and ecology

---

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Partnerships with government organizations - Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries
- Partnerships with local organizations - Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity
- Short homestay (1-2 nights) with local community members on the Tonle Sap Lake
- Community research presentations
CHILE

PUERTO NATALES, PATAGONIA

RURAL ————■——— URBAN

CLOSEST TOWNS: Puerto Natales (the SFS center is located in town, close to shops, restaurants, bars, markets, etc.)

SETTING: Small, cozy center and small-town environment

PROGRAM CONTACT

AMY BARKHOUSE
ABARKHOUSE@FIELDSTUDIES.ORG
1.978.219.5112

PROGRAMS AND COURSES OFFERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/SPRING)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM COURSE(S)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Patagonia: Fire and Ice</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language, Culture, and Society of Chile (2 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political and Social Dimensions of Conservation (4 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Systems and Climate Science (4 credits)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patagonian Ecology (4 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Research (4 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDITS</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC FOCUS: CLIMATE STUDIES

- Climate change impacts and resilience
- Glacial dynamics
- Geology and volcanic activity
- Penguin behavior
- Endangered species protection
- Coastal and alpine ecology
- Conservation strategy and practice
- National park visitation and protected areas management
- Techniques practiced: Species identification and population monitoring, habitat and biodiversity assessment, basic Spanish language skills, natural resource valuation

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***

12 VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE RESOURCES
WEATHER: Opposite seasons from the US - Spring semester starts warm and gets colder; fall semester starts cold and gets warmer. Temperatures range from 30°F–70°F. The region is prone to sudden and drastic weather shifts. Potential for snow during both fall and spring semesters.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 2-4 person dorm rooms; bathrooms and showers are located within each room.

RUGGED TERRAIN: The hiking in this program is challenging – over rough terrain and in cold/inclement weather at times.

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Information on health risks and CDC-recommended vaccines for travel to Chile is available at: www.cdc.gov/travel. Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

HIGHLIGHTS

SEMESTER
- Boat expedition across the Strait of Magellan, through the fjords of Tierra del Fuego, to Cape Horn
- Expedition to the Lakes Region of northern Patagonia, with excursions to Chiloe Island, Puerto Varas, a sea lion colony, and the region’s renowned volcanoes
- Argentina trip: Visit the town of El Calafate home to a unique ice museum, the Glaciarium and the gateway to the popular Parque Los Glaciares and the massive Perito Moreno Glacier

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- Volunteer work with Plaza Comestibles, planting edible gardens around Puerto Natales
- Community research presentations
- SFS makes its community connections in an intentional way. The SFS Chile program is new in Puerto Natales, and we are still building our network of local partnerships. Stay tuned for more information!
COSTA RICA

ATENAS, CENTRAL VALLEY

PROGRAM CONTACT

AMBER GLASS
AGLASS@FIELDSTUDIES.ORG
1.978.219.5111

RURAL  URBAN

CLOSEST TOWNS: Atenas (10 minutes by car), San Jose (1 hour by car)

SETTING: Rainforest Alliance Certified Organic Farm (oranges, mangoes, farm animals, greenhouses) at the end of a quiet neighborhood street

PROGRAMS AND COURSES OFFERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/SPRING)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM</td>
<td>Language, Culture, and Society of Costa Rica (2 cred.)</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Sustainable Food Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COURSE(S)</td>
<td>Principles of Resource Mgmt (4 cred.)</td>
<td>Coffee, Chocolate, and Sustainable Development (4 cred.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tropical Ecology and Sustainable Development (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental Ethics and Development (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directed Research (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDITS</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACADEMIC FOCUS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

- Biodiversity protection and natural resource management
- Climate change and tropical ecosystems
- Protected areas management efforts (private and public)
- Conventional and sustainable agricultural practices - agroforestry, permaculture, carbon sequestration
- Sustainable ecotourism - ecosystem health and visitor impact management plans for protected zones
- Social and economic issues that affect the protection of the natural resource base in light of ongoing economic and social transformation
- Techniques practiced: GIS, species identification, mist netting, tourism impact assessment methods, research design, basic Spanish language skills

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***
**LIFE AT THE CENTER**

**WEATHER:** Hot and humid during the day, cooler at night - temperatures range from 40°F-100°F. Rainy season is May-November, dry season is December-April.

**LIVING ARRANGEMENTS:** 4-person dorm rooms, communal bathrooms in the dorm building with unheated showers.

**TROPICAL, AGRICULTURAL SETTING:** Animals such as iguanas, monkeys, sloths, and farm animals plus scorpions and insects.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Information on health risks and CDC-recommended vaccines for travel to Costa Rica is available at: [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

---

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**SEMESTER**
- Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, home to 2.5% of the world’s biodiversity
- Visit local coffee farms, permaculture operations, coastal fishing villages to see various forms of sustainable agriculture
- Week-long expedition to Panama’s lush, forested Boquete region, known for its natural beauty and small towns

**SUMMER I**
- La Iguana Chocolate Farm: Harvest cacao by hand and learn about chocolate processing, permaculture, and sustainable living
- El Toledo Coffee Farm: Learn about organic methods of coffee production and discuss the history of coffee in Latin America

**SUMMER II**
- Manu or Tirimbina Rainforest Center: Hike through a rainforest reserve to experience the rich forest biodiversity firsthand
- Braulio Carrillo National Park, one of the largest parks in Costa Rica. Has seven diverse habitats; more than 500 species of birds and 150 species of mammals can be found here among the waterfalls, volcanoes, rivers, and forests.

---

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Tico family day-stay with local community members (semester only)
- Collaboration with municipality on recycling efforts
- Participation in local festivals and cultural events
- Language exchange with local language school
- Gardening and composting projects with local primary school
- Community research presentations
KENYA
KIMANA, RIFT VALLEY, SOUTHERN KENYA

PROGRAM CONTACT
AMY BARKHOUSE
ABARKHOUSE@FIELDSTUDIES.ORG
1.978.219.5112

PROGRAMS AND COURSES OFFERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/Spring)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM</td>
<td>COURSES</td>
<td>PROGRAM(S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife, Water, and Climate Change</td>
<td>Intro to Swahili Language and East African Culture (2 cred.)</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Wildlife Management (Kenya/Tanzania)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wildlife Ecology (4 cred.)</td>
<td>Techniques in Natural Resource Management (4 cred.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directed Research (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDITS</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC FOCUS: WILDLIFE AND WATER STUDIES

- Wildlife ecology and behavior
- Human-wildlife conflict and habitat fragmentation
- Climate change resilience
- Natural resource management
- Primate ecology, social behavior, and intelligence
- Water conservation
- Community governance of protected areas
- Conservation strategies and challenges
- Land access and ownership within local communities
- Techniques practiced: GIS, species identification, wildlife census techniques, radio telemetry, camera trapping, animal behavior observation skills, natural resource valuation, basic Swahili and Maa language skills, research design

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***
LIFE AT THE CENTER

WEATHER: Relatively consistent, equatorial weather with some seasonality (opposite of seasons in US). Spring: rainy; temps range from 60°F to 90°F. Summer: some rain; temps range from 55°F to 75°F. Fall: some rain; temps range from 60°F to 90°F.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 4-person bandas (cabins) with twin beds; separate bathroom block has showers, sinks, and toilets

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Information on health risks and CDC-recommended vaccines for travel to Kenya is available at: www.cdc.gov/travel. Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

HIGHLIGHTS

SEMESTER
- Multi-day camping trip to explore Amboseli National Park, widely regarded as the best place in the world to get close to free-ranging elephants
- Excursions to Tsavo West National Park, Chyulu Hills National Park, and Kimana Wildlife Sanctuary
- Two-week expedition to Tanzania: Visit the SFS Center, Serengeti National Park, Tarangire National Park, Lake Manyara National Park, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area

SUMMER I
- Two-country program (Kenya and Tanzania) with extensive opportunities for travel and comparative study between the two
- Multi-day camping expeditions to Amboseli National Park (Kenya) and Serengeti National Park (Tanzania) to learn about migratory corridors, predator-prey interactions, and wildlife behavior

SUMMER II
- Overnight camping expeditions to Tsavo West, Amboseli, and Chyulu Hills National Parks to observe primates, elephants, wildebeest, and carnivores in their natural habitats.
- Visit Mzima Springs to study the role of primates in ecological succession and the ecology of Syke’s monkeys

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- Overnight homestay with a Maasai family
- Soccer and tree plantings with primary school
- Collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service for wildlife census
- Beading lessons from Maasai mamas
- Nearby all-girls secondary school; students have an open invitation to go for church and other activities
- Community research presentations
PANAMA
ISLA COLON, BOCAS DEL TORO ARCHIPELAGO

PROGRAM CONTACT
AMBER GLASS
AGLASS@FIELDSTUDIES.ORG
1.978.219.5111

CLOSEST TOWNS: Bocas Town (10 minutes by car)

SETTING: Waterfront campus with classroom over the water; former hotel with pool, paddleboards, kayaks, fire pit, outdoor dining area.

PROGRAMS AND COURSES OFFERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/Spring)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Island Biodiversity Studies</td>
<td>Tropical Island Ecosystems: The Human Impact</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language, Culture, and Society of Panama (2 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Resource Management (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Coastal Ecology (4 cred.)</td>
<td>Tourism and Island Systems: Assessment of Sustainable Practices (4 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Research (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDITS</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC FOCUS: TROPICAL ISLAND BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

- Climate change impacts on resources and livelihoods
- Assessment and monitoring of coastal and marine environments and species
- Management strategies for natural resources and biodiversity conservation
- Impacts of land use and land cover change, including agriculture, on ocean and watershed habitats
- Economic importance of tourism in island livelihoods
- Tourism impacts, habitat degradation, and social, cultural, and political dynamics within the archipelago
- Techniques practiced: Species identification, biodiversity and habitat assessment, underwater surveying, tourism impact assessment, research design, basic Spanish language skills

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***
**LIFE AT THE CENTER**

**WEATHER:** Hot and humid year-round; temps range from 70°F-90°F. Heavy and frequent rain, sometimes for days at a time.

**LIVING ARRANGEMENTS:** 4-person dorm-style rooms with attached bathrooms (shower and toilet).

**TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT:** Animals such as howley monkeys and sloths; waterfront property with some biting insects.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Information on health risks and CDC-recommended vaccines for travel to Panama is available at: [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

---

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**SEMESTER**
- Begin the program with a historical tour of Panama City - Panama Canal and the Casco Viejo historic district
- Spend time in Ngöbe Indigenous communities learning about land rights, sustainable tourism, and conservation approaches
- Coral health assessment at Isla Zapatillas
- Field trip to Changuinola on the mainland: Visit a banana plantation and learn about agro-tourism
- Multi-day expedition to the Pacific coast and Chiriquí Highlands

**SUMMER I**
- Sea star population assessment at Isla Zapatillas
- Spend time in Ngöbe Indigenous communities learning about land rights, sustainable tourism, and conservation approaches
- Snorkeling and rainforest hikes at various sites within the archipelago

---

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Swim lessons, marine science education, and nature-based activities with local children
- Bird workshop with local women’s tourism cooperatives
- Collaboration with local businesses on plastic recycling project
- Collaboration with local and Indigenous tour operators
- Local sports tournaments and events
- Community research presentations
## Programs and Courses Offered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester (Fall/Spring)</th>
<th>Summer I</th>
<th>Summer II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity and Development in the Amazon</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course(s)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language, Culture, and Society of Peru (2 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Science and Practice (4 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Ecology of the Amazon (4 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Ecology of Developing Landscapes (4 cred.)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Research (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
<td>18 credits</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Academic Focus: Amazon Studies

- Forest and soil ecology
- Plant ecology and identification
- Tropical biodiversity and conservation
- Sustainable agriculture
- Natural resource management
- Rural livelihoods
- Fisheries management
- Development in the Amazon
- Community land management
- Techniques practiced: GIS, species identification and population monitoring, conservation strategy assessment, interviewing, mapping techniques, research design, basic Spanish language skills

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***
**WEATHER:** Hot - expect intense heat and humidity. Temperatures range from 70°F-90°F, but the humidity makes it feel much hotter. Intense rains are common. Two weeks are spent at much higher elevation with a cool climate.

**LIVING ARRANGEMENTS:** Up to 6-person dorm rooms, one separate bathroom block shared between students

**TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT:** This is a tropical environment with rustic, remote conditions. Things mold quickly in the humidity, and the air is thick and buggy. Facilities are not impervious to bugs.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Students are required to receive the rabies pre-exposure vaccination series. Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

---

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**SEMESTER**
- Multi-day riverboat expedition on a research vessel to the Tamshiyavu-Tahuayo Conservation Area, home to species like pink river dolphins, sloths, piranhas, primates, macaws, and giant river otters
- Sucusari Community Reserve: Meet with Indigenous Maijuna community and learn about community conservation efforts, while hiking across one of the world’s longest canopy walkways
- Cusco and the Sacred Valley: 2-week trip to the Andean highlands to explore cloud forests and historic Incan culture

---

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- Vibrant local community, engaged in rainforest restoration and conservation efforts
- Partnerships with local organizations - participate in regular tree plantings and restoration activities
- Short homestay (1-2 nights) with local community members. Semester only.
- Community research presentations
PROGRAM CONTACT

AMY BARKHOUSE
ABARKHOUSE@FIELDSTUDIES.ORG
1.978.219.5112

PROGRAMS AND COURSES OFFERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/SPRING)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COURSE(S)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Techniques in Wildlife Management (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Ecology (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Research (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CREDITS</strong></td>
<td>18 credits</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC FOCUS: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STUDIES

- Wildlife management and conservation
- Climate change impacts
- African large mammal behavior and ecology
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Habitat assessments
- Community-based conservation
- Reptile ecology and conservation
- Carnivore behavioral ecology and predator-prey interaction
- Natural resource management
- Techniques practiced: GIS, species identification and wildlife census techniques, habitat and biodiversity assessment, natural resource valuation, radio telemetry, basic Swahili language skills, research design

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***
**WEATHER:** Relatively consistent, equatorial weather with some seasonality (opposite of seasons in US). Spring: rainy; temps range from 60°F to 90°F. Summer: some rain; temps range from 55°F to 75°F. Fall: some rain; temps range from 60°F to 90°F.

**LIVING ARRANGEMENTS:** 4-person bandas (cabins) with twin bunk beds; bathrooms and showers in each room.

**ELEVATION:** The SFS Center is at a high elevation (over 5,000 ft. above sea level) and the weather on campus tends to be cool/misty.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Information on health risks and CDC-recommended vaccines for travel to Tanzania is available at: [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

---

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**SEMESTER**
- Multi-day camping expedition in Serengeti National Park; attend field lectures on the behavior and migratory patterns of the park’s largest mammals
- Excursions to Tarangire National Park and Lake Manyara National Park to learn about lion and elephant ecology, park management issues, and conservation strategies
- Two-week trip to the SFS Center in Kenya, with expeditions to Amboseli, Chyulu Hills, and Tsavo West National Parks

**SUMMER I**
- Two-country program (Kenya and Tanzania) with extensive opportunities for travel and comparative study between the two
- Multi-day camping expeditions to Amboseli National Park (Kenya) and Serengeti National Park (Tanzania) to learn about migratory corridors, predator-prey interactions, and wildlife behavior

**SUMMER II**
- Visit the Tarangire Lion project to learn from leading lion researchers: Analyze pride population dynamics and individual behavior using radio telemetry and camera trapping data.

---

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- Tree plantings with Rhotia tree nursery and local primary school
- Day-long homestay with local community members in Rhotia
- Work with Rhotia Community Library
- Community research presentations
TURKS AND CAICOS
SOUTH CAICOS ISLAND

RURAL ← URBAN

CLOSEST TOWNS: Cockburn Harbour (5-minute walk; the SFS Center is on the outskirts of town)

SETTING: Waterfront, former hotel (pool, ocean swim zone, outdoor dining area)

PROGRAM CONTACT
AMBER GLASS
AGLASS@FIELDSTUDIES.ORG
1.978.219.5111

PROGRAMS AND COURSES OFFERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER (FALL/SPRING)</th>
<th>SUMMER I</th>
<th>SUMMER II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Resource Studies</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Marine Conservation</td>
<td>Marine Megafauna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COURSE(S)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values (4 cred.)</td>
<td>Tropical Marine Ecosystems: Monitoring and Management (4 cred.)</td>
<td>Marine Megafauna Ecology and Conservation (4 cred.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Marine Ecology (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Resource Management (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Research (4 cred.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDITS</td>
<td>16 credits</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC FOCUS: MARINE RESOURCE STUDIES

- Marine ecology and conservation
- Climate change and ocean acidification
- Approaches to sustainable tourism and fisheries
- Marine resource management
- Traditional island livelihoods
- Coral health and resilience
- Marine protected areas
- Coastal management
- Techniques practiced: Species identification, habitat and biodiversity assessment, underwater surveying, tourism impact assessment, research design

***Topics and techniques may differ by term.***

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE RESOURCES
LIFE AT THE CENTER

WEATHER: Hot and dry year-round. Temperatures vary little throughout the year, with a mean of 80°F. Wet season from September-January, dry season from February-August.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: Dorm-style living (4-6 students per room) with attached bathroom (shower and saltwater toilet).

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Information on health risks and CDC-recommended vaccines for travel to Turks and Caicos is available at: www.cdc.gov/travel. Students should also refer to the program-specific Field Guide (see page 2, “Online Resources for Students”).

HIGHLIGHTS

SEMESTER
- Snorkeling at Shark Alley and the Grotto to see eagle rays up close and study behavior and population dynamics using photo tracking
- Multi-day expedition to Middle and North Caicos, ending on Providenciales: Explore hidden beaches and one of the Caribbean’s largest cave systems, tour an old cotton plantation, and learn about Indigenous history in TCI.
- Invasive lionfish abundance survey
- Dive at the Admiral Cockburn Land and Sea National Park. PADI Open Water SCUBA course and PADI Advanced Open Water course offered

SUMMER I
- Coral reef health assessment using underwater transects
- Opportunities for snorkeling and/or diving. PADI Open Water SCUBA course offered

SUMMER II
- Collect data on sharks and other predators using Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations (BRUVS)
- Opportunities for snorkeling and/or diving. PADI Advanced Open Water course offered

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- Semester students are expected to devote at least three hours a week to community engagement
- Saturday community days with local children: swim lessons, environmental activities, crafts
- Snorkel and marine research clubs with high school students
- Youth soccer practice, music lessons
- Participation in local community events
- Community research presentations