THE SCHOOL FOR
FIELD STUDIES
2022

AUSTRALIA
BHUTAN
CAMBODIA
CHILE
COSTA RICA
KENYA
PANAMA
PERU
TANZANIA
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/EXPLORE
The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented event that has fundamentally changed the modern world. As the field of study abroad adapts to a new reality, our priority will always be the health and well-being of our students, staff, and the local communities where we operate. Environmental education and stewardship are at the heart of the SFS mission, and while we may have to alter schedules or other aspects of our programming, our mission and values will remain constant.
WHY SFS?

THE SFS EXPERIENCE

Nowhere else will you find a study abroad experience like The School for Field Studies – adventurous, invigorating, and fulfilling.

When you study abroad with SFS, you’re contributing to a 40-year legacy of environmental research and stewardship that encompasses countries around the world from Cambodia to Kenya to Costa Rica. With our team of experienced researchers and scientists to guide you, you will explore new ecosystems and learn about the critical environmental issues of our time. Get ready for muddy boots and dirt under your fingernails, because you will be out there doing science, not just talking about it in the classroom. And you won’t be alone – you’ll be joining a group of students who share your passion for creating a more sustainable future.

Our planet is home to an incredible diversity of life and depends on the next generation of environmental leaders to protect its future – will you be one of them?

WHO WE ARE

AN EXPERIENCED TEAM
Our faculty are skilled teachers, field researchers, and mentors. Their expertise spans many different fields including ecology, environmental policy, natural resource management, and socioeconomics.

A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY
We build long-term, collaborative relationships in the communities around our centers and have been rooted in some communities for over three decades. We develop our research plans based on the environmental issues in this local context. No matter which program you choose, you’ll become part of the community through interactions with local staff on campus, cultural events, environmental education activities, research presentations, or even pickup soccer matches.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS
Not only are you heading into the field with a group of like-minded peers, but you’re joining a network of more than 19,000 alumni with careers in the private sector, government, academia, and environmental NGOs. You’ll also work alongside SFS staff who are passionate about the environment and committed to making our world a better place.

WHAT WE DO

SFS STUDENTS DO SCIENCE
Our programs are hands-on – you’ll be out there engaging with the ecosystems you’re studying. If we spend the morning discussing an article about the issues facing African elephants, we’ll spend that afternoon in the field observing those elephants from just meters away, collecting data on their resilience to climate change. Rather than the usual classroom lecture on the impacts of an issue, SFS students do science, while conducting real research on important environmental issues.

RELEVANT LOCAL RESEARCH
With ten unique program locations, our research covers a wide spectrum of environmental issues. SFS programs provide the foundation for you to examine and answer questions about current environmental issues in an international setting. The academics and research at each location are designed around issues that are critical to the local community and surrounding ecosystems – such as marine resource management in the Turks and Caicos Islands or community forestry in Bhutan.

WHERE WE WORK

LIVE OFF THE BEATEN PATH
SFS’s students, faculty, and staff live and work together at our ten campuses around the world. Locations range from deep in the heart of Chilean Patagonia to the tropical coastline of Panama, and each center offers its own distinct experience in the surrounding ecosystems and communities. These are not extravagant resort hotels, but then again, you’ll be much more than a tourist. Regardless of where you go, you’ll become part of a community and discover a lifestyle unlike anything you’ve ever experienced.

SAFETY IN REMOTE CORNERS
When we send a group of students into the field, safety is our top priority. SFS provides comprehensive safety and risk management in all aspects of our programs. We work around the clock to mitigate risk without sacrificing the rugged and awe-inspiring nature of the SFS study abroad experience.
BE PART OF SOMETHING GREATER

Through a Directed Research project, you'll conduct hands-on field research in some of the world's most important and threatened ecosystems. Your work contributes to crucial scientific efforts to create a more sustainable future.

A DAY IN THE FIELD

8:15 am  Australia
EXPLORE THE WORLD’S OLDEST RAINFOREST

Take a walk through the towering trees of the Daintree, the oldest rainforest on our planet. Learn about the threats facing the rainforest and its inhabitants such as climate change, habitat fragmentation, and agricultural runoff.

11:15 am  Panama
SURVEY POPULATIONS OF SEA STARS ON THE BEACH

Grab your snorkel, mask, and wet suit and head to Playa Estrella, a popular tourist destination near the Center. Count sea stars in the shallow water to study the impacts of human handling on their population dynamics.

2:50 pm  Cambodia
LEARN ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES

Spend the afternoon in the Phnom Tnout forest learning about conservation efforts to protect this 6,400-hectare forest and its inhabitants like the pileated gibbon, silver langur, sambar deer, and green peafowl.

6:40 pm  Kenya
WATCH THE SUNSET OVER THE SAVANNA

After a drive through Amboseli National Park to observe elephants, zebras, primates, and many bird species, end your day in the field watching a breathtaking African sunset and comparing notes on the animals you identified.

THE PROJECT

EXPERIENCED RESEARCH MENTORS
Field research is complex and challenging – but with the mentorship of our experienced faculty, you’ll have all the tools and support you need to be successful. Each student works directly with a faculty member throughout the entirety of the research process – from project design to completion.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION
Each SFS center has a strategic research focus which allows our work to build over time and expand beyond isolated projects. Your project is a critical piece of this larger puzzle – you’ll design your research question within this context, creating a more informed and valuable result.

THE IMPACT

HELP BUILD A BODY OF KNOWLEDGE
Building a comprehensive body of scientific knowledge is a key step toward a more sustainable future. You’re joining scientists around the world working to understand our environment and how it is changing, and in some countries where we operate, you’ll even collect baseline data – the first of its kind.

GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY
SFS research is driven by our communities. Our neighbors share their stories, observations, and needs, and in return we provide valuable data to community leaders, local environmental groups, and government agencies, allowing them to make informed and sustainable policy decisions.

THE WORK

HANDS-ON RESEARCH IN THE FIELD
At SFS, you’re conducting research in the field – in incredible ecosystems and dynamic communities around the world. Whether you’re surveying the glaciers of Patagonia or laying underwater transects in the Caribbean, you’ll experience all the excitement and challenges of field data collection.

LEARN PRACTICAL SKILLS
SFS will prepare you for graduate school, your career, and to be an active environmental steward wherever your life takes you. From species identification and wildlife monitoring to GIS and stakeholder interviews, the skills you’ll learn are practical, transferable, and invaluable.

DIRECTED RESEARCH

WHAT
Directed Research (SFS 4910) is a 4-credit course that gives you an introduction to conducting scientific research – developing a question, collecting and analyzing data, writing a paper, and presenting your findings.

WHEN
The course is offered on all semester programs.

FORMAT
Student-designed project carried out under the direction of an SFS faculty mentor.

TIMEFRAME
Approximately the last four weeks of the semester

SAMPLE RESEARCH THEMES
- Climate change resilience
- Elephant ecology
- Agroforestry
- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Mountain ecology
- Rainforest conservation & restoration
- Food security
- Gender & sustainable ecosystems
- Water quality & use
- Invasive species management

“Directed Research was the most challenging thing I have ever undertaken, but it is a significant personal accomplishment. I have gained a better understanding of myself, what I want in life, and where I am going. I feel better prepared as a burgeoning biologist seeking to study life and ensure its conservation for generations to come.”

Daniel Erickson
University of Wisconsin-Madison

READ MORE ABOUT DAILY LIFE IN THE FIELD AT WWW.FIELDDSTUDIES.ORG/BLOG
“HUMANITY IS NOW STANDING AT A CROSSROADS. WE MUST NOW DECIDE WHICH PATH WE WANT TO TAKE. HOW DO WE WANT THE FUTURE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR ALL LIVING SPECIES TO BE LIKE?”

- Greta Thunberg
OVERVIEW

This is not the Australia you know. Towering strangler fig trees and rare animals like the southern cassowary and Lumholtz’s tree kangaroo can be found in these ancient rainforests. Far North Queensland is one of the most biodiverse places in the world, preserving more than 500 million years of evolutionary history. Just off the coast is Earth’s largest living structure – the Great Barrier Reef. Based in this rugged region, SFS programs explore Australia’s spectacular forests, the Great Barrier Reef, and the edge of the Outback. Our research focuses on environmental threats, both past and present, that have caused rainforest fragmentation, species loss, and reef die-off, and we work alongside local community groups and regional Indigenous people on restoration and forest restoration activities, while studying environmental policy and community conservation approaches and developing skills in field research and data collection.

LEARN ABOUT CONSERVATION IN SOME OF THE WORLD’S MOST ANCIENT ECOSYSTEMS

Explore the world’s oldest rainforest – the Daintree – then work alongside community volunteers to regenerate critical rainforest habitats.

Visit different parts of the Great Barrier Reef to snorkel, hike, and learn about the links between rainforest and reef ecosystems.

Meet with Indigenous Mandingalbay Yidinji rangers to learn about their traditional practices and approaches to environmental stewardship.

The Great Barrier Reef and the tropical rainforests of northern Australia form a complex, interconnected system. Spend your summer living in the rainforest, exploring coral reefs, and learning about watershed management in this verdant region while considering the policies and actions needed to maintain healthy waterways in the face of climate change.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Learn about the Maori people’s connection with nature as you explore the ancient paekakariki and kauri forests of northern New Zealand, which contain trees estimated to be more than 2,000 years old.

Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef and learn about the links between rainforest restoration and water quality on the reef while observing sea turtles, giant clams, corals, and other marine life up close.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

LIFE AT THE CENTER

At the end of a narrow, winding path, surrounded by lush rainforest, lies this remote field station. Our 153-acre property is surrounded by protected World Heritage forests, and you can observe incredible wildlife from the front steps of your cabin. The nearby towns of Yungaburra, Atherton, and Cairns are just a short drive away.

The School for Field Studies

www.fieldstudies.org/australia

SEMINAR

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING
RAINFOREST TO REEF

Immense yourself in the rich biodiversity of the rainforest and learn about socio-ecological resilience in the face of climate change and other environmental threats. Connect rainforest management and conservation issues with downstream impacts on the Great Barrier Reef. Contribute to field ecology experiments and forest restoration activities, while studying environmental policy and community conservation approaches and developing skills in field research and data collection.

14 WEEKS 16 CREDITS
JAN 31 - MAY 05, 2022
AUG 29 - DEC 01, 2022

COURSES

SFS 3020 Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values 4 credits
SFS 3800 Rainforest Ecology 4 credits
SFS 3700 Principles of Forest Management 4 credits
SFS 4610 Directed Research 4 credits

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Explore the world’s oldest rainforest – the Daintree – then work alongside community volunteers to regenerate critical rainforest habitats.

Visit different parts of the Great Barrier Reef to snorkel, hike, and learn about the links between rainforest and reef ecosystems.

Meet with Indigenous Mandingalbay Yidinji rangers to learn about their traditional practices and approaches to environmental stewardship.

SUMMER

SESSION I
RAINFORESTS OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

In this two-country program, you’ll travel to the diverse rainforest ecosystems of Australia and New Zealand, where environmental and social factors have led to rainforest fragmentation and decline. You’ll examine strategies for ecosystem restoration and endangered species management and meet with the Indigenous communities and conservation groups doing the work to restore these once-vast forests.

04 WEEKS 04 CREDITS
JUN 06 - JUL 06, 2022

COURSES

SFS 3540 Rainforest Management Studies 4 credits

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Learn about the Maori people’s connection with nature as you explore the ancient paekakariki and kauri forests of northern New Zealand, which contain trees estimated to be more than 2,000 years old.

SESSION II
WATERSHEDS OF THE WET TROPICS

The Great Barrier Reef and the tropical rainforests of northern Australia form a complex, interconnected system. Spend your summer living in the rainforest, exploring coral reefs, and learning about watershed management in this verdant region while considering the policies and actions needed to maintain healthy waterways in the face of climate change.

04 WEEKS 04 CREDITS
JUL 11 - AUG 10, 2022

COURSES

SFS 3161 Wet Tropics Watershed Ecology and Conservation 4 credits

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef and learn about the links between rainforest restoration and water quality on the reef while observing sea turtles, giant clams, corals, and other marine life up close.

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER
OVERVIEW

VENTURE TO THE MOUNTAIN KINGDOM OF BHUTAN, WHERE CHANGE IS ON THE HORIZON

In the Himalayas sits Bhutan, a small country defined by towering mountains, lush forests, and flowing rivers. Bhutan is home to endemic species like the snow leopard, tiger, golden langur, takin, and black-necked crane. The country's unique and vibrant culture, Buddhist philosophy, and rich biodiversity firsthand. Learn about the challenges of maintaining biodiversity and traditional rural lifestyles in a time of transition. Develop skills in field research and data collection and apply them to a research project on conservation and development issues in Bhutan.

LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center is located at one end of the stunning Paro Valley, at the base of a towering ridgeline dotted with Buddhist monasteries. Campus is a small cluster of buildings designed in the traditional Bhutanese architectural style. A peaceful 15-minute walk brings you to the markets, shops, and cultural events of Paro Town.

- Dorm living with two to four students per room
- Classroom and dedicated study spaces
- Kitchen and dining hall, and on-site cooking staff
- Verandahs with scenic views of the valley
- Student lounge and ping-pong loft
- Hiking trails and local roads for running

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING
HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY IN TRANSITION

Spend a semester in a corner of the Himalayas where few tourists ever set foot. Trek through remote villages and high mountain passes to experience Bhutan’s vibrant culture, Buddhist philosophy, and rich biodiversity firsthand. Learn about the challenges of maintaining biodiversity and traditional rural lifestyles in a time of transition. Develop skills in field research and data collection and apply them to a research project on conservation and development issues in Bhutan.

www.fieldstudies.org/bhutan

www.fieldstudies.org/summer

SEASON

SUMMER

SESSION I
FORESTS IN THE LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

Explore the rich culture, biodiversity, and scenic beauty of the Bhutanese Himalayas and learn how forests – which cover more than 70 percent of the landscape – are integral to the goals of Gross National Happiness. Spend four weeks surveying forests, visiting ancient shrines, and studying conservation and development in one of the most fascinating countries in the world.

- Embark on a multi-day supported trek to experience the natural beauty of Bhutan’s countryside and learn about traditional rural lifestyles.
- Visit monasteries, including Tiger’s Nest, and take part in unforgettable tshechu (festivals) to learn more about Buddhism and Bhutanese culture.
- Explore Bhutan’s diverse range of biomes through trips to Himalayan ridges, subtropical Punakha and Phuentsholing, and Phobjikha’s high altitude wetlands.

- Trek through remote villages and high mountain passes to experience Bhutan’s vibrant culture, Buddhist philosophy, and rich biodiversity firsthand.
- Learn about the challenges of maintaining biodiversity and traditional rural lifestyles in a time of transition.
- Develop skills in field research and data collection and apply them to a research project on conservation and development issues in Bhutan.

- dorm living with two to four students per room
- classroom and dedicated study spaces
- kitchen and dining hall, and on-site cooking staff
- verandahs with scenic views of the valley
- student lounge and ping-pong loft
- hiking trails and local roads for running

SESSION II

BIG CATS OF THE HIMALAYAS: TRACKING AND CONSERVATION

In Bhutan, a deep reverence for life has aided in the preservation of the country’s tigers, snow leopards, and other wild cats. Using camera traps, study the conservation of these elusive creatures and learn how adaptation and management strategies can ensure their survival in a changing world.

- Set up camera traps in and around the sacred landscape of Taktsang with some of Bhutan’s top biologists to try to capture images of endangered species such as the tiger and snow leopard.

- COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER
COMMUNITY data to support a path toward a more sustainable future for Cambodia. Our research here examines these efforts on the ground and provides exponentially each year with the monsoon season, creating a dramatic seasonal shift people of Cambodia to ensure food security and limit biodiversity loss in a time of rapid resilience. Adaptation and collaborative conservation efforts are necessary for the Mekong River to the dense highland forests of Mondulkiri, are home to rare species Buddhist monasteries, and floating villages. Diverse ecosystems, from the mighty Here, remnants of 12th-century temples share the landscape with wild forests, Siem Reap

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA

CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

LOCATION

Siam Reap

CLIMATE change impacts • Elephant ecology • Traditional ecological knowledge

RESEARCH THEMES

Biodiversity conservation • Ecosystem services • Species ID & population monitoring • Ethics & ensuring Elephant behavior analysis

CORE SKILLS

Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND

SKILLS

Elephant behavior analysis • Environmental impacts assessment • Grant writing • Basic Khmer language

LIFE AT THE CENTER

Our most urban center lies on the outskirts of Siem Reap, near the famed temples of Angkor. The Center is a breezy, modern campus

FORAGING, BATHE, AND INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER IN A PROTECTED SETTING.

15 WEEKS 18 CREDITS JAN 31 - MAY 13, 2022 AUG 29 - DEC 09, 2022

SEMESTER

FALL

CLIMATE CHANGE, ETHICS, AND CONSERVATION

Spend the semester exploring Cambodia’s diverse landscapes – from the great Tonle Sap Lake to the ancient Angkor temples. Study threats to biodiversity, learn about environmental justice and policy, and discuss traditional practices with Indigenous communities. Embark on expeditions across the region, visiting an elephant sanctuary in Mondulkiri, the capital city of Phnom Penh, conservation sites along the Mekong River, and the Four Thousand Islands in Laos.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Meet the gentle giants of Mondulkiri: Visit the Elephant Valley Project, Cambodia’s first elephant sanctuary, to study elephant behavior and ecology.

Take an expedition to a vast riverine archipelago in southern Laos, home to endangered Irrawaddy river dolphins and stunning waterfalls during the wet season.

04 WEEKS 04 CREDITS JUN 06 - JUL 06, 2022

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/summer

SESSION II

FRESHWATER ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

This summer, Cambodia’s freshwater ecosystems become your classroom, from Southeast Asia’s largest freshwater lake to the mighty Mekong River. Travel across Cambodia, visiting ecological sites, floating villages, ancient temples, and the vibrant capital, Phnom Penh. Learn about endangered species conservation, fisheries, water governance, food security, and hydropower development.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Stay in a floating village on the vast Tonle Sap Lake, meeting with residents to learn about food security and lake conservation issues, and visit the Prek Toal bird sanctuary, an important nesting site.

SESSION I

ELEPHANTS OF THE CAMBODIAN HIGHLANDS

 Spend your summer in the lush Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, studying the behavior and ecology of the endangered Asian elephant. Examine human-wildlife conflict and conservation pressures, and discuss elephant welfare and management practices. Visit capital city, Phnom Penh, and the ancient Angkor temples to explore the historical and cultural significance of elephants in Cambodia.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Stay at the Elephant Valley Project in the forested Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary to observe Asian elephants from meters away as they forage, bathe, and interact with each other in a protected setting.

Spend the night in a floating village on the Tonle Sap Lake and learn from villagers about how they’re adapting their livelihoods to climate change.

Our most urban center lies on the outskirts of Siem Reap, near the famed temples of Angkor. The Center is a breezy, modern campus nestled in a quiet neighborhood minutes away from the bustling downtown area where you will find restaurants, artisan shops, markets, and many Cambodian cultural activities.

The School for Field Studies

Bonjour! Here are some highlights of our summer program in Cambodia:

- **Siem Reap**: A bustling center near the famous temples of Angkor. The Center is a modern, comfortable campus surrounded by natural beauty.
- **Lovely Areas**: Siem Reap boasts great cuisine, shopping, and nightlife. The Center is a 10-minute walk from popular districts.
- **Learning Opportunities**: Students can explore the biodiversity of Cambodia through hands-on research projects and field trips.
- **Cultural Exchange**: Engage with local communities and learn about traditional practices and customs.
- **Adaptability**: The program is designed to accommodate unexpected changes, allowing for flexibility in exploring the region.

Please check out our website for more information and to apply: [www.fieldstudies.org/cambodia](http://www.fieldstudies.org/cambodia)
SAVING THE WORLD TAKES ALL OF US

MARLOWE STARLING | UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA | SFS TANZANIA

Here in East Africa, we are studying baboon behavior, recording data on elephants in Tarangire National Park, and placing orders for custom-made clothing made of local kitenge at the tailor in town — albeit in broken Kiswahili. But perhaps first I should mention that I’m not currently majoring in wildlife management, let alone anything science-related. As a journalism major and life-long writer, my expertise lies in literature, good grammar, and great story-telling; however, I also feel deeply about contributing to the healing of our planet in some way. That’s why I’m here.

My confession? I have never conducted true scientific research. Coming from a non-STEM major, this was way out of my comfort zone, but I can tell you this: if this program speaks to you, and if you have a deep desire to contribute to conservation efforts in any way during your lifetime, do it. And, if you ask me, pushing yourself outside those boundaries of comfort is the best way to grow as a person and as a student.

We are living in an era when species are beginning to go extinct more frequently, when people continue to massacre wildlife populations for personal benefit despite international awareness of wildlife issues, and when our climate is screaming at us for help. It doesn’t only take biologists to save the world; it takes passion and initiative.

What I personally love about SFS — and what initially caught my eye and ultimately helped me decide SFS over other study abroad programs — is its openness to all majors and enthusiasm for us to have an authentic and nourishing experience in the field. Although I excelled in biology classes growing up, I had still never formally filled out a data sheet or written a scientific paper. At the end of the day, however, none of those technicalities mattered.

To be completely honest, it took me a while to get past the feelings of self-doubt and self-consciousness — things I had never experienced academically before — to realize how special it is to be a student with a different vision for how I can contribute to the environment going forward. No, I may not conduct earth-shattering research deserving of a Nobel Peace Prize, but I may well strive to earn a Pulitzer for the stories that will wake everyone up from this daydream once and for all.

One aspect of SFS programs that I find exceptionally valuable compared to other programs is their transparency. Here, you get the authentic experience. Here, you are engaged with a culture completely different from your own, in a language with different sounds and sentence structures. Here, you live alongside the locals, and you learn from them. As I write this not even two weeks into our short one-month stay, I am already fighting the tears I know will come when it is time to bid Tanzania farewell. We have befriended so many people, from staff to students to locals, who have made us feel like family over the span of only a few days.

Winnie, at the soccer field a short walk away, is my tiny Frisbee partner-in-crime. Frank makes sure we are learning (and practicing!) as much Kiswahili as possible; and at night, after dinner, we sit around the campfire roasting marshmallows and sharing stories to the sound of crickets and Creedence Clearwater Revival. We don’t sleep in 5-star hotels, and we aren’t the average tourists — or tourists at all, really. This is our temporary home, and everyone here believes that us wanafunzi, students, will change the world someday.

So, if this speaks to you, don’t hesitate. Just don’t be afraid to dive headfirst and get your hands dirty.

READ MORE FROM OUR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS IN THE FIELD AT:

fieldstudies.org/blog
Hike through the dramatic landscapes of Torres del Paine National Park and take an expedition to neighboring Argentina and the stunning Perito Moreno Glacier.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Journey to northern Patagonia’s lakes region, home to lush Valdivian rainforests, active volcanoes, Magellanic and Humboldt penguin colonies, and the unique cultural heritage of Chiloé Island.

Explore Patagonian ecosystems, from sub-polar, broadleaf evergreen forests growing alongside glaciers to broad open plains where flightless rheas and guanacos roam.

OVERVIEW
PATAGONIA IS A LAND OF WILD BEAUTY
In Chilean Patagonia, towering pinnacles clash with rivers of ice, and life persists in the face of challenging seasonal extremes. Penguins, foxes, sea lions, and guanaco are just a few of the region’s hardy wildlife. Situated in the Ring of Fire, Patagonia’s stunning, snow-covered volcanic range presents an unmatched opportunity to study complex geological and seismic processes.

The fragile ecosystems of southern Chile and Argentina are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change — unpredictable storms, glacier melt, shifting temperatures, fires, and droughts. Our research in Patagonia examines ecology and geologic systems, how conservation decisions are made in the region, and species found nowhere else on the planet.

LIFE AT THE CENTER
Surrounded by the jagged peaks of Cerro Dorotea and the deep blue waters of the Sarmiento Channel lies the port city of Puerto Natales, the gateway to the world-famous Torres del Paine National Park. Located in the heart of this biodiversity hub is the SFS Center for Climate Studies, your home base for expeditions throughout the region.

- Dorm living with two to four students per room
- Classroom and student lounge
- Nearby running routes in town
- Kitchen and dining room, and on-site cooking staff
- Blocks away from the town square, shops, and cafes
- Short walk to the Sarmiento Channel, a scenic fjord

SEASONAL OVERVIEW:
WINTER
SESSION FOUNDATIONS OF PATAGONIAN ECOLOGY
Spend your winter break studying the biodiversity and fragile habitats of southern Chile. The famous Torres del Paine, expansive Patagonian steppes, high-alpine forests, and glaciers become your classroom. You’ll practice animal observation and census techniques on species like the guanaco, Andean condor, and elusive puma, and explore how nature adapts in extreme conditions.

- Dorm living with two to four students per room
- Classroom and student lounge
- Nearby running routes in town
- Kitchen and dining room, and on-site cooking staff
- Blocks away from the town square, shops, and cafes
- Short walk to the Sarmiento Channel, a scenic fjord

WINTER
SESSION FOUNDATIONS OF PATAGONIAN ECOLOGY
Spend your winter break studying the biodiversity and fragile habitats of southern Chile. The famous Torres del Paine, expansive Patagonian steppes, high-alpine forests, and glaciers become your classroom. You’ll practice animal observation and census techniques on species like the guanaco, Andean condor, and elusive puma, and explore how nature adapts in extreme conditions.

- Dorm living with two to four students per room
- Classroom and student lounge
- Nearby running routes in town
- Kitchen and dining room, and on-site cooking staff
- Blocks away from the town square, shops, and cafes
- Short walk to the Sarmiento Channel, a scenic fjord

WINTER
SESSION FOUNDATIONS OF PATAGONIAN ECOLOGY
Spend your winter break studying the biodiversity and fragile habitats of southern Chile. The famous Torres del Paine, expansive Patagonian steppes, high-alpine forests, and glaciers become your classroom. You’ll practice animal observation and census techniques on species like the guanaco, Andean condor, and elusive puma, and explore how nature adapts in extreme conditions.

- Dorm living with two to four students per room
- Classroom and student lounge
- Nearby running routes in town
- Kitchen and dining room, and on-site cooking staff
- Blocks away from the town square, shops, and cafes
- Short walk to the Sarmiento Channel, a scenic fjord

“Here at SFS Chile, mountains are not just a pretty backdrop. Forests are not mere scenery to gaze at. Parks are not boxes to be checked on to-do lists. They are lecture halls and laboratories, sources of knowledge and reflection and inspiration.”

Jack Henry Buck
Dickinson College
The dense rainforests and mountainous landscapes of Costa Rica are brimming with life – from sloths to frogs to brightly colored toucans and hummingbirds. Costa Rica hosts an astounding 5 percent of Earth’s species despite covering only 0.03 percent of its area. Shaded coffee farms integrated into tropical forests constitute just one example of the sustainable conservation strategies for which the country is known. Efforts to preserve the wild beauty of Costa Rica are recognized worldwide, but climate change and increased urban development and tourism bring new and unforeseen challenges. Conservation leaders, farmers, land managers, and policymakers must work together using regenerative strategies to build ecological resilience and minimize climate change impacts. Our research in Costa Rica contributes vital data to innovative efforts that balance conservation and development.

GO OFF THE BEATEN PATH AND EXPERIENCE SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

The dense rainforests and mountainous landscapes of Costa Rica are brimming with life – from sloths to frogs to brightly colored toucans and hummingbirds. Costa Rica hosts an astounding 5 percent of Earth’s species despite covering only 0.03 percent of its area. Shaded coffee farms integrated into tropical forests constitute just one example of the sustainable conservation strategies for which the country is known. Efforts to preserve the wild beauty of Costa Rica are recognized worldwide, but climate change and increased urban development and tourism bring new and unforeseen challenges. Conservation leaders, farmers, land managers, and policymakers must work together using regenerative strategies to build ecological resilience and minimize climate change impacts. Our research in Costa Rica contributes vital data to innovative efforts that balance conservation and development.

OVERVIEW

GO OFF THE BEATEN PATH AND EXPERIENCE SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

The dense rainforests and mountainous landscapes of Costa Rica are brimming with life – from sloths to frogs to brightly colored toucans and hummingbirds. Costa Rica hosts an astounding 5 percent of Earth’s species despite covering only 0.03 percent of its area. Shaded coffee farms integrated into tropical forests constitute just one example of the sustainable conservation strategies for which the country is known. Efforts to preserve the wild beauty of Costa Rica are recognized worldwide, but climate change and increased urban development and tourism bring new and unforeseen challenges. Conservation leaders, farmers, land managers, and policymakers must work together using regenerative strategies to build ecological resilience and minimize climate change impacts. Our research in Costa Rica contributes vital data to innovative efforts that balance conservation and development.

LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center overlooks the vibrant Central Valley, where green is the predominant color as far as the eye can see. As part of an active sustainable farm, dorms and classrooms are nestled among orchards and gardens, while Center dog Hera keeps watch over it all. The friendly town of Atenas is a 10-minute cab ride away, offering restaurants, shops, parks, and cultural events.

The Center overlooks the vibrant Central Valley, where green is the predominant color as far as the eye can see. As part of an active sustainable farm, dorms and classrooms are nestled among orchards and gardens, while Center dog Hera keeps watch over it all. The friendly town of Atenas is a 10-minute cab ride away, offering restaurants, shops, parks, and cultural events.

Program Highlights

► Explore the cloud forests of Monteverde, home to 2.5 percent of the world’s biodiversity, to study tropical ecology and sustainable land management.
► Take a week-long expedition to Panama’s Chiriquí Highlands, a lush, forested region of volcanic peaks, coffee farms, rich Ngäbe-Buglé culture, and perpetual spring-like weather.
► Go behind the scenes at a local coffee farm and a sustainable permaculture homestead to learn how Costa Ricans are addressing agriculture and food production with conservation.

SEMESTER

FALL | SPRING
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Experience a semester of sustainability in Costa Rica, home to rainforests, volcanoes, rushing waterfalls, and a laid-back culture reflected in the common local phrase “Pura Vida.” Explore the country’s many national parks, farms, and tropical ecosystems full of spectacular biodiversity. Learn how Costa Ricans are creatively addressing conservation and development issues and discuss ecotourism, habitat connectivity, sustainable food production, and ecological restoration.

04 WEEKS  04 CREDITS
JUN 06 - JUL 06, 2022

COURSE
SFS 3141 Coffee, Chocolate, and Sustainable Development 4 credits

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT
Visit La Iguana Chocolate Farm, where you’ll harvest cacao by hand and learn about permaculture, sustainable living, and local methods of chocolate processing — and taste some too!

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

“ I cannot imagine a better semester abroad. I spent three months on a gorgeous campus learning hands-on about ecology and environmentalism. All the professors know what they are talking about and are incredibly passionate about it. It was everything I wanted and more.”

Ben Lefkowitz
Muhlenberg College

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/COSTARICA

www.fieldstudies.org/costarica
There is a strong interconnectivity between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

Meet Africa’s Wildlife: Conservation in the Face of a Changing Landscape

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

Meet Africa’s Wildlife: Conservation in the Face of a Changing Landscape

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.

In the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, Kenya’s grassy savannas, Rift Valley lakes, and mountain highlands provide habitats for an astounding diversity of life. Charismatic species such as elephants, lions, zebras, hippos, and gorillas roam this landscape, using wildlife corridors to move between national parks, sanctuaries, and protected areas. The wildlife share this region with the pastoralist Maasai people whose communities have been here for hundreds of years.

There is a strong interconnectedness between wildlife, human communities, and natural resource availability in Kenya. Climate change, drought, ecosystem fragmentation, and human development increase competition for the region’s finite natural resources. Our research here focuses on approaches to wildlife and natural resource conservation and management, local environmental policy, and human-wildlife conflict as you research the impacts of climate change and changing resource availability in the region.
OVERVIEW

TROPICAL ‘PARADISE’ IN PERSPECTIVE

Lush rainforests, hundreds of mangrove islands, and coral reefs teeming with diverse marine life – the Bocas del Toro archipelago is a vibrant living laboratory for studying tropical biodiversity. This chain of islands is populated by everything from hummingbirds and howler monkeys to stingrays, dolphins, sloths, and brightly colored poison dart frogs. At first glance, Bocas is nothing short of paradise.

However, climate change and increased tourism on the islands have led to ecosystem and natural resource degradation while also threatening Islanders’ traditional livelihoods. Our research on the environmental impacts of tourism and development on Bocas’ natural ecosystems provides the community with data necessary to support more sustainable policies and protect the beautiful islands so many call home.

LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center, once a beachfront hotel, is nestled among the slender palms of Isla Colón. You’ll take your classes over the warm waters of the Caribbean and amid the surrounding rainforests and reefs. The laid-back tourist hub of Bocas Town is a short taxi ride away, with access to shops, restaurants, and a vibrant culture that is as unique as the mix of people who live here.

In addition to your coursework, you’ll have access to the following amenities:

- Dorm living in four-person bunkrooms
- Air-conditioned student lounge and lab
- Swimming pool, kayaking, and paddleboarding
- Classroom on a sheltered dock above the ocean
- Casual a-fresca dining area, and on-site cooking staff
- Volleyball, spikeball, and beachfront hammocks

CENTER FOR TROPICAL ISLAND BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

LOCATION

Panama

RESEARCH THEMES

- Marine and terrestrial biodiversity assessments and survey techniques
- Coral health assessments
- Research design and implementation
- Scientists and citizen science
- Scientific writing and communication

CORE SKILLS

- Basic Spanish language skills

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/PANAMA

SUMMER

SESSION I

TROPICAL ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS: THE HUMAN IMPACT

The program begins with a journey across Panama, from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic, ending in Bocas del Toro. Snorkel and hike through the archipelago’s diverse environments – from coral reefs and mangroves to beaches and rainforests – and study human impacts, such as tourism, on the island’s ecosystems and communities.

- Dorm living in four-person bunkrooms
- Air-conditioned student lounge and lab
- Swimming pool, kayaking, and paddleboarding

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- Spend a day in Ngäbe communities: Hear from local Indigenous leaders, visit a women’s co-op, and take a forest walk with a local guide.

COURSE

- SFS 3000 Tourism and Island Systems: Sustainable Practices 4 credits

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

SEASONAL SELECTIVE

OVERVIEW

TROPICAL PARADISE IN PERSPECTIVE

Lush rainforests, hundreds of mangrove islands, and coral reefs teeming with diverse marine life – the Bocas del Toro archipelago is a vibrant living laboratory for studying tropical biodiversity. This chain of islands is populated by everything from hummingbirds and howler monkeys to stingrays, dolphins, sloths, and brightly colored poison dart frogs. At first glance, Bocas is nothing short of paradise.

However, climate change and increased tourism on the islands have led to ecosystem and natural resource degradation while also threatening Islanders’ traditional livelihoods. Our research on the environmental impacts of tourism and development on Bocas’ natural ecosystems provides the community with data necessary to support more sustainable policies and protect the beautiful islands so many call home.

LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center, once a beachfront hotel, is nestled among the slender palms of Isla Colón. You’ll take your classes over the warm waters of the Caribbean and amid the surrounding rainforests and reefs. The laid-back tourist hub of Bocas Town is a short taxi ride away, with access to shops, restaurants, and a vibrant culture that is as unique as the mix of people who live here.

In addition to your coursework, you’ll have access to the following amenities:

- Dorm living in four-person bunkrooms
- Air-conditioned student lounge and lab
- Swimming pool, kayaking, and paddleboarding
- Classroom on a sheltered dock above the ocean
- Casual a-fresca dining area, and on-site cooking staff
- Volleyball, spikeball, and beachfront hammocks

CENTER FOR TROPICAL ISLAND BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

LOCATION

Panama

RESEARCH THEMES

- Marine and terrestrial biodiversity assessments and survey techniques
- Coral health assessments
- Research design and implementation
- Scientists and citizen science
- Scientific writing and communication

CORE SKILLS

- Basic Spanish language skills

WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/PANAMA

SUMMER

SESSION I

TROPICAL ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS: THE HUMAN IMPACT

The program begins with a journey across Panama, from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic, ending in Bocas del Toro. Snorkel and hike through the archipelago’s diverse environments – from coral reefs and mangroves to beaches and rainforests – and study human impacts, such as tourism, on the island’s ecosystems and communities.

- Dorm living in four-person bunkrooms
- Air-conditioned student lounge and lab
- Swimming pool, kayaking, and paddleboarding

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- Spend a day in Ngäbe communities: Hear from local Indigenous leaders, visit a women’s co-op, and take a forest walk with a local guide.

COURSE

- SFS 3000 Tourism and Island Systems: Sustainable Practices 4 credits

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

SEASONAL SELECTIVE
SAVORING THE MOMENT

ANI WILLIAMS | BOWDOIN COLLEGE | SFS BHUTAN

Our breath puffed out mist in front of us as we ran toward the jagged Himalayan peaks jutting into the sky. They were so big it looked like we could reach out and touch them, despite the fact that they were still miles away. The previous night had been a full moon and as we ran, we watched it sink below the mountains. This was just another morning in Paro, Bhutan, our home for the semester.

Bhutan is a tiny country nestled between India and China, but despite its small size it has a big personality. It is located in the Himalayan biodiversity hotspot and within three weeks we had seen wild monkeys, takins (Bhutan’s national animal), wild yaks, many different species of colorful birds, and more plants than we could possibly hope to learn by the end of the semester. Bhutan is also home to the highest unclimbed peak in the world and mountains define its environment. Our home in Paro is surrounded by trails that zig zag up thousands of feet in elevation to reach monasteries perched precariously on cliffsides. Bhutan has one of the largest elevation ranges of any country (620 – 23,000 feet) and within the span of five hours our bus was able to carefully traverse the dirt roads cut into mountainsides to carry us from 7,500 feet to around 800 feet in elevation, plunging us from a dry, cool valley into a tropical world filled with banana trees and brightly colored flowers. Bhutan really is a land of extremes presenting infinite opportunities to learn and explore.

While study abroad is a chance to take classes in a different place from your home institution, I think that a great deal of the learning happens outside the classroom. From navigating cultural and language barriers, to learning how to form a close-knit community with peers and professors, to trying new foods (including lots of spicy ema datshi!), to reevaluating how you use resources and changing your habits to match the local availability of different resources, just living in Bhutan is an adventure in itself.

We’ve been here less than a month, and already my peers and I have had the opportunity to spend five days in Thimphu, Bhutan’s capital, and to stick our hands across the border into India in Phuentsholing, a transboundary city in southwestern Bhutan. We’ve walked around in awe of the vibrant colors of unknown fruits at local markets, and we’ve politely declined offers to buy insect powder from large burlap sacks at these same markets. We’re beginning to develop a system for classifying the spiciness of chilies served in practically every Bhutanese dish and we’ve gotten into the habit of turning on the water heater in anticipation of showers and doing homework with headlamps when the power goes out. We’ve had the opportunity to visit a local monastery and make the trek up to the Chele La meditation hut, situated around 13,500 feet above sea level. We’re all slowly learning how to dress ourselves in the local khims and ghos and have become experts in layering, allowing us to be comfortable during frosty mornings but also ready to embrace the hot, dry, Himalayan sun by lunchtime. Every day presents new adventures, new challenges, and new opportunities for learning and I often find myself in awe of the fact that I get to live here for the next few months.

While we only really get to spend a small fraction of our lives in Bhutan, for the duration of the semester Bhutan is our world. We also are becoming a part of the SFS community, a community that spans 10 countries across the world and has more than 40 years’ worth of alumni. A friend of mine completed SFS Panama in Fall 2018 and I’ve been able to witness how formative her experience was in shaping future career goals. And currently, my best friend is studying with SFS in Chile. Despite vast geographic distances and cultural differences between Chile and Bhutan, we get to share in the experience of a semester with SFS. I am also learning so much from my peers in Bhutan, each of whom brings a different background and perspective to our field work and life in the Himalayas. And, while at the end of the semester I’ll have to leave Bhutan, I’m grateful to know that the SFS community will extend beyond my time here.

I’ve found myself wondering a lot about what specific moments will stick with me the most after I leave Bhutan. In the one month that we’ve been here I’ve seen and done too much to possibly hope to remember everything. I think in general, I’ll remember appreciating the little things like watching sunlight slowly retreat up the mountain slopes each afternoon, noticing the intricate, colorful Buddhist symbolism painted on most buildings, or savoring a cup of tea on the terrace each morning listening to the birds wake up around me. Some days in Bhutan stretch on forever, packed with new experiences, challenges, learning, and growth, but then morning comes again, and I get to run up toward the jagged Himalayan peaks, searching for the moon against the sky. And for now, I’m just trying to savor these little moments.

FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/BLOG

READ MORE FROM OUR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS IN THE FIELD AT:
Take a multi-day excursion to the village of Sucusari to learn about the livelihoods of the Maijuna people and explore the rainforest from one of the world’s longest canopy walkways.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Take a five-day riverboat expedition in Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Regional Conservation Area, home to species like pink river dolphins, sloths, piranhas, primates, macaws, and giant river otters.
Visit a manatee rescue center, tropical fish exporter, and potato and butterfly farms to study a range of local agriculture and conservation organizations.

OVERVIEW
DISCOVER THE LIVING AMAZON
In the heart of the Amazon, dense green foliage blankets the horizon as far as the eye can see. For millennia, its rich natural resources have supported human communities and an incredible diversity of wildlife species found nowhere else on the planet. This great and complex rainforest is also one of the world’s most impactful ecosystems—Amazonian watersheds account for 20 percent of the world’s fresh river water.

However, the forests of the Peruvian Amazon are increasingly under threat from climate change, rapid development, and extractive activities like logging and mining. From the lowland and flooded forests of the lowlands to the glacial lakes and tropical montane forests of the Andes, Peru’s landscapes need comprehensive and inclusive strategies for conservation. Our research here provides important insights into the fate of the Amazon and all the life that depends on it.

LIFE AT THE CENTER
Between the remote city of Iquitos and the port city of Nauta, nestled in the Amazon, sits the Center. The sounds of the forest permeate our campus, from student cabins to the pool and open-air student lounge. The rainforest is accessible via an on-campus trail system traversing our 183-acre property. Small communities and local shops are within walking distance.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- Take a multi-day excursion to the village of Sucusari to learn about the livelihoods of the Maijuna people and explore the rainforest from one of the world’s longest canopy walkways.
- Take a five-day riverboat expedition in Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Regional Conservation Area, home to species like pink river dolphins, sloths, piranhas, primates, macaws, and giant river otters.
- Visit a manatee rescue center, tropical fish exporter, and potato and butterfly farms to study a range of local agriculture and conservation organizations.

SEMESTER
FALL
BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMAZON
Explore the extraordinarily biodiverse ecosystems of the northern Peruvian Amazon and learn about threats to the region, like climate change and resource extraction. Embark on a multi-day riverboat expedition to survey wildlife in flooded forest ecosystems and experience community-based conservation projects. Travel to the Andean highlands to visit cloud forests and the historic Incan capital of Cusco, the hub for visitors to Machu Picchu.

15 WEEKS 18 CREDITS  AUG 29 - DEC 09, 2022

COURSES
- SFS 2090 Language, Culture, and Society of Peru 2 credits
- SFS 3800 Conservation Science and Practice 4 credits
- SFS 3831 Tropical Ecology of the Amazon 4 credits
- SFS 3840 Political Ecology of Developing Landscapes 4 credits
- SFS 4910 Directed Research 4 credits

WEB: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/PERU
MEET THE CHARISMATIC WILDLIFE OF TANZANIA

Few places in the world are more iconic than the African savanna. In Tanzania, baobabs and acacia trees dot the horizon, while wildlife stampedes through the Serengeti on their Great Migration. The Big Five – lions, elephants, leopards, buffalo, and rhinos – are all found here. Tanzania is also home to the pastoralist Maasai, agro-pastoralist Iraqw, and the hunter-gatherer Hadzabe tribes, all of whom have rich cultural traditions and strong ties to the land.

Tanzania has made progress in protecting its large populations of charismatic species, from lions and elephants to a variety of birds and reptiles. Tanzania is also home to the pastoralist Maasai, agro-pastoralist Iraqw, and the hunter-gatherer Hadzabe tribes, all of whom have rich cultural traditions and strong ties to the land.

LIFE AT THE CENTER

Learn to live the pole-pole lifestyle at the SFS Center in Tanzania. Surrounded by several famous national parks and wildlife, it’s the perfect home base for expeditions into the field. Campus is reminiscent of summer camps, with plenty of outdoor and communal spaces, while the small, friendly community of Rhotia is just a short walk away.

- Dorm living in four-person bungalows (lumbas)
- Kitchen and dining hall, and on-site cooking staff
- Community soccer games and local running routes
- Classroom, library, and computer lab
- Volleyball, gazebos, fire pit, and lounge areas
- Markets in nearby towns of Rhotia, Kagera, and Mto Wa Mbu
These marine ecosystems are critical to the fisheries-driven local economy, but they are under enormous pressure from coastal development, rising demand for seafood, and the impacts of climate change. Our research plays an important role in supporting island residents and government authorities as they work to balance economic needs with the preservation of irreplaceable natural resources.

TURKS & CAICOS

OVERVIEW

LEARN TO LIVE ON ISLAND TIME

The Turks and Caicos Islands are home to vibrant coral reefs, dramatic sea walks, a deep ocean trench, mangrove forests, and extensive seagrass beds, which together sustain a stunning diversity of sea life. Spotted eagle rays, sharks, sea turtles, humpback whales, and dozens of fish species thrive among the sandy shoals, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and coral reefs surrounding the islands.

These marine ecosystems are critical to the fisheries-driven local economy, but they are under enormous pressure from coastal development, rising demand for seafood, and the impacts of climate change. Our research plays an important role in supporting island residents and government authorities as they work to balance economic needs with the preservation of irreplaceable natural resources.

The Center is a former hotel overlooking the crystalline waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Spectacular sunsets, open-air facilities, warm sunshine, and a refreshing ocean breeze define this marine field station. Get to know the small, historic town of Cockburn Harbour, engage in community activities, and spot the flamingoes, wild horses, and donkeys that call this island home.

LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center for Marine Resource Studies

LOCATION

South Caicos Island, Caribbean Region

RESEARCH THEMES

Climate change & the ocean • Tourism impacts • Commercial fisheries

Coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass ecosystems • Marine protected areas

Marine biodiversity assessments and survey techniques • Coral health assessments • Snorkel/scauba skills

Species ID and population monitoring • Video and photo tracking • Natural resource valuation

Research design and implementation • Data collection and analysis • Scientific writing and communication

SKILLS

Coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass ecosystems • Marine protected areas

Climate change & the ocean • Tourism impacts • Commercial fisheries

Core Courses

COURSES

SFS 3020 Environmental Policy and Socioeconomic Values 4 credits
SFS 3730 Tropical Marine Ecology 4 credits
SFS 3740 Principles of Resource Management 4 credits
SFS 4910 Directed Research 4 credits

WINTER

SESSION I: FOUNDATIONS OF TROPICAL MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

JAN 31 - MAY 13, 2022

15 WEEKS 16 CREDITS

AUG 29 - DEC 09, 2022

FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE CONSERVATION

Explore the spectacular reefs and turquoise waters of South Caicos, snorkeling or diving with rays, turtles, brilliantly colored fish, and other marine life. In this introductory course, you’ll learn about the environmental issues and policies affecting these ecosystems and the island community, and gain the skills needed to conduct marine field research.

SESSION II: MARINE MEGAFAUNA

Summer

JUN 06 - JUL 06, 2022

04 WEEKS/ SESSION

JUL 11 - AUG 10, 2022

04 CREDITS/ SESSION

Go snorkeling or diving in the clear waters around South Caicos and conduct marine species identification exercises and reef surveys.

Visit sites like the Grotto and Shark Alley to see spotted eagle rays up close, track the mousedeer, and monitor the health of corals.

Take an excursion to the islands of Riddle Caicos, North Caicos, and Providenciales to explore the variety of ecosystems in the TCI, including caves and protected wetlands.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Exploring the spectacular reefs and turquoise waters of South Caicos, snorkeling or diving with rays, turtles, brilliantly colored fish, and other marine life. In this introductory course, you’ll learn about the environmental issues and policies affecting these ecosystems and the island community, and gain the skills needed to conduct marine field research.

SESSION II: MARINE MEGAFAUNA

Spending your summer studying sharks, turtles, and rays in the waters surrounding the island of South Caicos. In this specialized course, you’ll learn about the ecology and conservation of these and other marine megafauna through in-water field lectures, snorkel or dive sessions, and video tracking exercises.

COURSES

SFS 3530 Tropical Marine Ecosystem Monitoring + Management 3 credits
SFS 3131 Marine Megafauna Ecology and Conservation 6 credits

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER

SUMMER

SESSION I: FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE CONSERVATION

JUN 06 - JUL 06, 2022

04 WEEKS SESSION

JUL 11 - AUG 10, 2022

04 CREDITS SESSION

FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE CONSERVATION

Explore the spectacular reefs and turquoise waters of South Caicos, snorkeling or diving with rays, turtles, brilliantly colored fish, and other marine life. In this introductory course, you’ll learn about the environmental issues and policies affecting these ecosystems and the island community, and gain the skills needed to conduct marine field research.

SESSION II: MARINE MEGAFAUNA

Spending your summer studying sharks, turtles, and rays in the waters surrounding the island of South Caicos. In this specialized course, you’ll learn about the ecology and conservation of these and other marine megafauna through in-water field lectures, snorkel or dive sessions, and video tracking exercises.

COURSES

SFS 3530 Tropical Marine Ecosystem Monitoring + Management 3 credits
SFS 3131 Marine Megafauna Ecology and Conservation 6 credits

COMBINE TWO SUMMER SESSIONS AND GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SFS EXPERIENCE: WWW.FIELDSTUDIES.ORG/SUMMER


ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

BEFORE YOU APPLY
- Visit your study abroad office to discuss credit transfer, approved programs, financial aid, and any internal processes.
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss how an SFS program fits in with your degree plan.
- Visit the SFS website to learn more about programs, read student stories on the blog, and figure out which program is the best fit for you.
- Consider scheduling an advising session with a member of the SFS Admissions team.
- Make an account on the SFS website and begin your application. No application fee.

WHEN TO APPLY
SFS reviews and accepts applications on a rolling basis, and there is no SFS application deadline. So, apply early to be considered for your first-choice program. Make sure to check with your home school regarding school-specific study abroad application deadlines.

ACADEMIC CREDIT
Students receive academic credit for SFS programs. Check with your academic or study abroad advisor and/or registrar’s office before applying to learn how your SFS coursework will be applicable to your degree.

ELIGIBILITY
- 18+ years of age by program start.
- You must be in good academic and disciplinary standing on your home campus.
- GPA requirements: 2.8 cumulative GPA for semester programs; 2.6 cumulative GPA for summer programs.
- Course prerequisites: For semester programs, one college-level ecology, biology, or environmental studies/science course/related coursework, as assessed by SFS. For summer and winter programs, no course prerequisites.
- Gap-year students and college graduates are welcome to apply.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
SFS strives to cultivate inclusive communities, encouraging student cohorts that represent human diversity across the globe. Our programs aim to support 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. SFS recognizes that when all students’ voices are valued and heard, confidence in academic ability thrives to the benefit of entire communities.

CHAT WITH AN SFS ALUM
-speaking with a former SFS student is one of the best ways to learn about SFS. Our alumni can answer general questions about SFS, their specific program, and a range of other topics such as: dietary accommodations, identity abroad, self-care, navigating financial aid, and travel tips. If you’d like to be put in touch with SFS alumni, please contact admissions@fieldstudies.org.

FINANCIAL AID
All students are eligible to apply for SFS need-based financial aid. Regardless of whether they receive aid on their home campus, every student who enrolls in an SFS program will receive some form of aid from SFS.

SFS awards a generous amount in need-based financial aid each year. Aid packages are usually a combination of scholarships, grants, and loans. See fieldstudies.org/admissions/aid for more information.

SAFETY AND STUDENT LIFE
Students participating in two summer sessions, or returning for a second SFS program, receive a $1,000 discount.

WHEN TO APPLY
Program Semester Summer I Summer II Winter
Australia $23,980 $7,600 $6,450
Bhutan $25,000 $7,100 $7,100
Cambodia $22,850 $6,850 $6,850
Chile $25,000 $4,550
Costa Rica $21,530 $5,975 $5,975
Rwanda $22,900 $7,600 $6,450 $4,250
Panama $22,000 $8,350
Peru $22,850
Tanzania $23,950 $7,350 $7,250
Turks & Caicos $24,950 $7,100 $7,100 $4,550

Students participating in two summer sessions, or returning for a second SFS program, receive a $1,000 discount.

WHAT’S INCLUDED
- Tuition and research fees
- Room and board, on-campus and on excursions
- Pre-program advising and on-site orientation
- Visa and travel coordination
- Airport transfers for arrival and departure
- Field excursions and cultural activities
- Student success and wellness team on site
- 24/7 mental health and well-being support
- Emergency evacuation and repatriation insurance
- Official transcript processing

AIRFARE AND PERSONAL EXPENSES ARE NOT INCLUDED. For complete program budget planning, including estimated out-of-pocket expenses, please visit www.fieldstudies.org/admissions/costs.

QUESTIONS?
Admissions: admissions@fieldstudies.org
Safety and Student Life: health@fieldstudies.org
Academic Affairs: academics@fieldstudies.org
Call us: 800.989.4418
Chat with us: fieldstudies.org
Schedule an advising session: fieldstudies.org/admissions

The School for Field Studies
SFS students do science. @thesfs

4,753 Followers 475 Following

4,753 Followers 475 Following

The School for Field Studies
SFS students do science. @thesfs

4,753 Followers 475 Following