



Travel Seminar Application
Tropical Field Ecology
Monteverde, Costa Rica
March 13th -21st, 2010

I. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please submit all of the following:

- Completed and signed application form
- Signed Statement of Understanding
- Unofficial Transcript
- Statement of Purpose
Attach to this application **1 typed page** explaining why you have chosen this program and what your expectations are, both academically and personally.
- Code of Conduct
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty (Please utilize attached form.)
- \$250 non-refundable deposit

Completed applications must be received by the Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (Starbuck Center - Room 202) no later than 12:00 pm on Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

Applications must be complete and accompanied by the \$250 non-refundable deposit, made payable to Skidmore College, with "Tropical Field Ecology Travel Seminar '10" in memo line.

Note: HEOP/AOP and highly aided students should speak with the Office of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges and Student Aid and Family Finance about a possible deferment of the non-refundable deposit.

II. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name (exactly as it appears on your passport):

Student ID #: _____

Skidmore Academic Advisor: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Gender: Male Female Citizenship: _____ If dual citizenship: _____

Campus/Saratoga Springs Address:

Saratoga Springs Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Home Address:

Home Phone: (____) _____

Father's (or guardian's) Name: _____

Father's (or guardian's) Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Day/Work Phone: (____) _____

Father's Email: _____

Mother's (or guardian's) Name: _____

Mother's (or guardian's) Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Day/Work Phone: (____) _____

Mother's Email: _____

Please indicate any diet restrictions that you may have that will have to be addressed:

To the Student:

By signing your name below, you permit Skidmore College's Off-Campus Study & Exchanges to release information to the guardian/parent(s) you have listed above. This information will include, but is not limited to, pre-departure information regarding the program, billing statements and other financial information, and information regarding your whereabouts while you are abroad.

If you choose not to sign below, we will NOT be allowed to release any type of information to your guardian/parent(s) while you are abroad, except in the case of an emergency.

I, _____, permit Skidmore College's Office of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges to release information to the guardian/parent(s) I have indicated above.

Student Signature

Date

III. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Current class standing: 1st Year Sophomore Junior Senior

Month and year of expected graduation: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average (4.0 scale):

Overall: _____ Major(s): _____

First Major: _____

Second Major: _____

Minors: _____

How many college-level courses and credit hours will you have completed prior to the beginning of the program?

Total # of courses: _____ Total Credit Hours: _____

Please list the names and course numbers of college-level Biology, Environmental Studies and Anthropology courses that you have taken:

If you have lived, studied or traveled in a foreign country, state where and when:

IV. OTHER INFORMATION

Do you have any special needs of which we should be informed. **Please note:** This information will be kept confidential and is NOT considered as part of the application process. By informing us of special needs now, you will allow us to make arrangements that will best serve you while you are overseas and ensure that we can identify necessary resources abroad. Please use a separate sheet if necessary.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERENCES

List the individuals who are writing references for you. Submit reference forms to two faculty members.

faculty	department/office	phone	e-mail
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faculty	department/office	phone	e-mail
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VI. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Studying abroad is a privilege that is available to students who have demonstrated the ability to adjust academically and emotionally to college, and who are ready to benefit from the challenges of off-campus study. Only students in good academic, financial, and social standing are eligible to study abroad.

By signing your name below, you authorize Skidmore College's Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchanges to have access to information regarding your academic, financial, and social standing. You also authorize Skidmore's Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchanges to share any pertinent information with the faculty directors. The existence of a disciplinary record does not preclude admission, but will be considered in the overall evaluation of the application.

Please be aware that the stress of travel and adjusting to a new culture can exacerbate physical or psychological conditions that may be under control at home. Physical or psychological disorders can become serious under the stresses of a new environment. *This course will present physical challenges including carrying supplies and equipment on hikes of up to 14 KM (9 miles) on steep, rough and often muddy terrain in tropical sun, rain, heat and humidity. Accommodations will range from basic to rustic. We will be living together in close quarters (bunks in field station rooms; variable access to electricity and heated water) during the trip. If you have a physical or psychological condition, it is important that you meet with your physician or counselor to discuss how participating in this off-campus field course could affect your medical condition.* Addressing your health issues prior to studying off-campus will help you to identify those resources that will and will not be available during this program.

I, _____, have read and

(Please print name)

understand the above statements.

Student's Signature

Date

Skidmore College ~ Off-Campus Study & Exchanges

Starbuck Center 202

Tel: 1-518-580-5355

Email: ocse@Skidmore.edu

Web: www.skidmore.edu/ocse

Travel to Costa Rica – Code of Conduct

You will be traveling to Costa Rica as part of a group. It is important that we all agree upon a common code of behavior in order to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Traveling with others has its challenges and rewards. As a group we need to be respectful of others and create an environment conducive to learning. In order to make this seminar successful, it is imperative that we all commit to a positive educational experience. Realizing this, would you please sign and adhere to the following pledge:

I, the undersigned, promise to follow the following rules during our trip to Costa Rica:

1. **I will be prepared for and attend all classes and outings, and understand that failure to do so may result in failure of the course.**
2. I will be on time for all events, so as to not keep others waiting.
3. I will not harass or provoke wildlife, I will consult with course staff before handling wild animals and plants, and I will handle these organisms as directed.
4. I will not collect plants or animals, or samples from plants or animals such as feathers, leaves or flowers, except as directed for course research projects.
5. I will be respectful at all times of Costa Rican customs and culture.
6. I will not drink alcohol to excess, **either in public or in private.**
7. I will not bring, buy, or use illegal drugs on this trip.
8. I will dress decently and appropriately.
9. I will stay with the group. I will not go anywhere alone, or without telling others where I am going.
10. If I break the law, I know that I cannot expect the course leaders nor Skidmore College to protect me from legal action by or on behalf of Costa Rican authorities.

Signed,

_____ Date _____

_____ Please Print Name _____

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ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATION FORM

Tropical Field Ecology

Monteverde, Costa Rica

March 13th -21st, 2010

This recommendation will be used for admission to the international travel field program Tropical Field Ecology TX 301. It will not be made part of the students' educational record and no reference will be made to it for educational purposes after a decision is made on the applicant's admissibility. Therefore, this recommendation is not subject to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The applicant will not have legal access to this recommendation.

TO THE APPLICANT:

Fill in your name and Skidmore graduating class on each form. **This recommendation form should be given to a professor or teaching associate from whom you have taken a class within the last two years. Preferably, this faculty member should be from the department of your intended major.**

Applicant's name (Last, First, Middle): _____ Anticipated Graduation date: _____

TO THE FACULTY MEMBER:

Your comments will be helpful in the selection process for Tropical Field Ecology, and intensive field course that will take place in Costa Rica over Spring break 2010. Please provide a frank and full statement regarding the applicant. The student's application cannot be reviewed until we receive your input. Thank you for your assistance.

Faculty member's name: _____ Faculty Appointment: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

On a separate piece of paper please write a brief assessment of the applicant which addresses the following:

1. How long have you known the applicant? In what capacity?
2. Discuss the applicant's intellectual and academic strengths and weaknesses.
3. For success in group projects, positive interactions with hosts and resource faculty in Costa Rica, and for the safety of all participants, we need to be able to count on each member of the group to be a reliable and full participant in group activities. Please comment upon the candidate's contributions to group endeavors such as collaborative design of experiments and reliable, independent collection of data for the group. Does the candidate arrive at class and for field trips on time, fully prepared to participate in activities?
4. Because the candidate's ability to tolerate and adapt to small and very intense group living situations is extremely important for this program, please give us your assessment of the applicant's personal qualities and social skills, including positives and negatives.
5. Does the applicant have any personal problems that might interfere with his or her academic performance or relationship with other students? Has the candidate been subject to any disciplinary censure? Please explain.
6. Does the candidate have strong personal and academic motivation for studying in Costa Rica? Please explain.
7. Additional comments regarding this applicant.

	Not recommended	Without enthusiasm	Fairly strongly	Strongly	Enthusiastically
For academic promise					
For character and personal promise					
For ability to work effectively in groups					
For personal reliability and punctuality					
Overall recommendation					

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return your completed recommendation to OFF-CAMPUS STUDY & EXCHANGES, Skidmore College, 815 N. Broadway, Saratoga Springs NY 12866-1632 no later than Noon on Wednesday, October 21, 2009.

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Overall recommendation					

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