

*Live the Language
Learn the Culture*

Foreign Language and Cultural Immersion Since 1968
**NATIONAL REGISTRATION CENTER
FOR STUDY ABROAD**



Costa Rica 2008-2009

For more information please visit: www.nrca.com

NRCSA is a proud member of:



National Registration Center for Study Abroad
PO Box 1393 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201 USA
Tel: (414) 278-0631 Email: study@nrca.com

National Registration Center for Study Abroad (NRCSA)

P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201 USA. Tel. 414 278 0631 Fax. 414 271 8884



Learn the Culture  Live the Language  Since 1968

INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE IDIOMAS – SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY

The campus is conveniently located in a quiet residential suburb just off a main bus route and within easy walking distance from bustling downtown San José. The University of Costa Rica is just half a mile away and there are restaurants, stores, theaters, and malls in the surrounding area. With a dynamic approach to teaching Spanish through constant conversation practice is made possible by the high level of its teaching staff. Teachers have university degrees and are selected on the basis of their teaching experience and alert, active personalities.

San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, is home to several excellent museums and many of the country's best hotels, restaurants, and nightlife options. The city's other great assets are its location and mild climate as San José enjoys pleasant weather year round and stands in a broad fertile bowl ringed by jagged mountains, some of which are active volcanoes. Downtown, the grid-plan streets are lined with an pastiche of mirrored high-rises and elegant bungalows; in the affluent suburbs at the eastern and western ends of the city, middle-class Ticos (as Costa Ricans call themselves) tend their tidy gardens, while sprawling barrios stretch to the north and south.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our Spanish immersion programs are for people who desire to speak and read Spanish in a reasonably short period of time. With this objective in mind, our programs emphasize intensive conversation practice as the most effective and rapid way of learning to converse and read in Spanish. Placement tests are given on the first day of classes to place students into small groups ranging from complete beginner to advanced. Custom text materials have been developed and are given to each student attending classes. Performance objectives for language structures, culture, and pronunciation are clearly delineated as well as functional conversational goals.

Basic Spanish Programs Group 20 or 30 hours per week & Tutor 30 hours per week. These programs include 2, 3, 4 or more weeks of study consisting of 4 to 6 lessons per day, Monday through Friday. Each lesson averages 53 minutes in length in a group setting or a tutorial. All programs stress maximum practice in conversation, under the direct guidance of a staff teacher.

Spanish & Fine Arts Excursions

20 hours per week Spanish plus 2 weeks of fieldtrips, museum visits, theaters, cooking, etc. This program is designed for those students who wish to study Spanish while enjoying the arts Costa Rican style. The program includes 4 hours of Spanish classes daily Monday - Friday combined with a myriad of fine arts events available in San Jose.

Spanish & Volunteer

20 hours per week Spanish plus 15-20 hours per week of Volunteer activities. An ideal experience for social workers, psychologists, preschool and physical education teachers, medical personnel and youth workers. Spend two or more weeks improving Spanish conversation skills while doing volunteer work.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Homestays Carefully chosen middle class, families for their friendliness and willingness to help the students practice Spanish and acquaint themselves with the Costa Rican way of life. We will make every reasonable effort to match you and your interests with an appropriate family.

The homestay includes a private room, and laundry service plus a good breakfast and a main meal. Normally, homestays begin on the weekend prior to starting classes. Student lodging with the family begins the day the student arrives in Costa Rica. Other benefits such as weekly laundry service are included.

Other Accommodations For students wishing alternate lodging arrangements, the school can make reservations at one of several nearby hotels or apart-hotels. Please specify class level and amenities desired if this type of lodging is of interest to you.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Cultural, Social & Fieldtrip Activities

One day a week, students participate in a field trip that focuses on a social or environmental issue in the Manuel Antonio area or the town of Quepos. Nature lovers enjoy Costa Rica's remarkable diversity of birds, orchids, trees, mammals, fish, butterflies, frogs and other wild things within the exemplary national park system and private protected areas.

TO REGISTER:

Complete the NRCSA Preregistration Form or contact the National Registration Center for Study Abroad at 207 E Buffalo Street, Suite 610 * P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201 USA, or by calling (414) 278-0631; by Fax (414) 271-8884.

**Check out our website at <http://www.nrcea.com> or
e-mail us at study@nrcea.com**

Program & Admission Information - San Jose, Costa Rica

Programs

Our Spanish immersion programs are for people who desire to speak and read Spanish, and aim to do so in a reasonably short period of time. With this objective in mind, our programs emphasize intensive conversation practice as the most effective and rapid way of learning to converse and read in Spanish.

Students arrive in San Jose with different language backgrounds. Consequently placement tests are given on the first day of classes to place students into small groups which match their conversational level. The groups range from complete beginner to advanced. Students will be moved to different groups as their Spanish improves to ensure they are always receiving the best instruction for their current language level. Under certain circumstances there may not be a group which matches the students current level. When this occurs the student will be given 3 hours of individual (one-on-one) lessons instead of 4 lessons in a group. This ensures that students should never feel like they are being over/underwhelmed by the course content. Small groups classes (and individual lessons) ensure you will receive the attention and extensive oral practice so essential to developing your language ability.

Custom text materials have been developed and are given to each student attending classes. The customized material uses a well-established language acquisition program, providing live, meaningful situations in which students can acquire communicative competence in speaking and reading Spanish. Performance objectives for language structures, culture, and pronunciation are clearly delineated as well as functional conversational goals.

Students who start later than Monday will not be able to make up missed hours. Lessons are not held on national holidays.



Basic Spanish Programs Group 20 or 30 hours per week & Tutor 30 hours per week. These programs include 2, 3, 4 or more weeks of study consisting of 4 to 6 lessons per day, Monday through Friday. Each lesson averages 53 minutes in length in a group setting or a tutorial. All programs stress maximum practice in conversation, under the direct guidance of a staff teacher.

Tutor program not available during peak dates in summer.

These programs are offered in both San Jose and Alajuela.

Spanish & Fine Arts Excursions

20 hours per week Spanish plus 2 weeks of fieldtrips, museum visits, theaters, cooking, etc. This program is designed for those students who wish to study Spanish while enjoying the arts Costa Rican style. The program includes 4 hours of Spanish classes daily Monday - Friday combined with a myriad of fine arts events available in San Jose. Events include visits to museums, art and craft centers, theaters, dance lessons, cooking lessons and dining out.

Fine Art Events:

- * One day tour to Tortuga Island, this Island is on the Gulf of Nicoya, on the Pacific Ocean.
- * A night at Melico Salazar Theater: Popular Music or Dance.
- * An evening out in the mountains overlooking San José, with dinner of typical Costa Rican foods and drinks, and folkloric dance groups.
- * Four popular Latin dance steps practiced for one hour each week.
- * One cooking session per week preparing typical Costa Rican recipes.
- * Half a day tour to a Coffee Plantation including a show.
- * A tour of the Costa Rican Gold Museum and National Theater.
- * A tour of the Costa Rican Jade Museum
- * A tour of Costa Rican Art Museum
- * A tour of the National Museum.



Programs

Basic Spanish
Spanish & Fine Arts
Spanish & Volunteer

Admissions &
Academic Credit

Activities

Cultural & Social
Activities

Comments

"I learned that I really love the language and enjoy Latin American People. I am encouraged to pursue my future goals with solid direction. I had the time of my life, I wish I could have stayed a lot longer! I wish I could come back for six months at least!"

R.N., Glendale , AZ.

"All the teachers at Intensa were very friendly, patient and were very good at teaching persons of all ages. The food with my family was the best in Costa Rica."

Physician, Oconomowoc, WI

"I enjoyed most the teachers that I had while in the school and the day to day conversations I had with friends in Spanish."

University Student, Berkeley Heights, NJ

"(NRCSA's catalogues offer information on special interest programs . . . including details . . . for hundreds of courses."

National Association of Foreign Study Advisors

- * A tour of the Children Museum.
- * A visit to craft shops in the Town of Moravia.
- * A night of Theater-in-the-round (as replacement alternative for other night events for the participants who speak Spanish fairly well)
- * Transportation from the school to all events and back as well as guide included..

Spanish & Volunteer

20 hours per week Spanish plus 15-20 hours per week of Volunteer activities. An ideal experience for social workers, psychologists, preschool and physical education teachers, medical personnel and youth workers. Spend two or more weeks improving Spanish conversation skills while doing volunteer work.

Volunteer work is done in conjunction with Spanish study: 20 hours per week Spanish plus 15-20 hours per week of volunteer. Some programs require a 4 week commitment.

[FOR DETAILS ON THE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, PLEASE CLICK HERE.](#)

Day - At - A - Glance

Your first day of classes will be similar to one of the following:

Group 20 hrs/wk

07:30 Final registration details, placement interview, and group assignment
 08:00 Welcome Orientation
 08:45 Classes Begin
 09:30 Break
 09:45 Classes
 11:00 Break
 11:10 Classes
 12:00 Lunch and free time

Group 30 hrs/wk

07:30 - 12:00 Same as Group 20 hrs/wk
 13:00 Classes
 13:50 Break
 14:00 Classes
 15:30 Free time (On Friday classes are over at noon)

* Day-At-A-Glance is a sample day and will vary depending on enrollment, time of year, lodging, etc. It is designed to show content rather than precise scheduling.

Admissions & Academic Credit

Students age 17 years and older are welcomed regardless of educational background, occupation or nationality. Students under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult. No previous knowledge of Spanish is required except where otherwise indicated.

Students desiring credit for their study programs should contact their home school or request the NRCSA Credit Fact Sheet. Generally, U.S. universities consider 15 hours of study to be equal to 1 semester credit.

For more information about academic credit in Spanish speaking countries, [please click here](#).
 For general information on academic credit, [please click here](#).

ALL NRCSA PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Foreign language immersion classes
- ✓ Small interactive group and/or one-on-one instruction
- ✓ Culture program integrated into conversation classes, activities
- ✓ Meet-the-People interaction at school, homestays, & community events
- ✓ Orientation covering attractions, how to, health, safety, entertainment
- ✓ Academic assessments, placement-exit tests, Achievement Certificate
- ✓ Lodging (reduced fee if no lodging needed)
- ✓ Meals and/or cooking facilities at most centres
- ✓ Insurance: medical and accident - see below
- ✓ Emergency Hotline staffed 24 hours/day - see below
- ✓ Housing Coordinator familiar with area homestays, apartments, hotels
- ✓ Activity Coordinator facilitates transfers, cultural/social activities, tours
- ✓ Program Director experienced working with foreign participants
- ✓ Qualified, experienced, and certified educators
- ✓ Weekly proficiency goals and progress assessments
- ✓ Planning and Orientation materials
- ✓ International Ambiance, participants from around-the-world welcome
- ✓ Telecom assistance, web/e-mail access, usually on-site
- ✓ Local taxes for included services
- ✓ 24:7 Culture Immersion w/ native speakers: class, homestay, community
- ✓ **ALL NRCSA PROGRAMS INCLUDE the following INSURANCE***

ACCIDENT INSURANCE up to \$10,000 SICKNESS INSURANCE up to \$10,000

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION up to \$25,000

EMERGENCY REUNION up to \$5,000

REPATRIATION up to \$7,500

LIFE INSURANCE \$5,000

plus

24 HOUR EMERGENCY WORLDWIDE MULTI-LINGUAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

MANY ALSO OFFER

- ✓ **Tours:** cultural visits, day and weekend fieldtrips
- ✓ **Art:** classes/workshops, craft, dance, theater, fashion, music, photo
- ✓ **Humanities:** culture, area studies, hist, lit, gov't, educ, comm, plus...
- ✓ **Health:** golf, swimming, tennis, diving, skiing, riding, plus...
- ✓ **Special:** vocabulary classes tailored to your professional needs
- ✓ **Lodging:** homestay, apartment, dorm, hotel, special diet
- ✓ **Food:** home cooking, cooking classes, dine-around, wine tasting
- ✓ **Family:** services, daycare, child classes, community services
- ✓ **Teacher:** training, workshops, practicums, practice teaching, ECH
- ✓ **Teen:** camps and youth programs (including experiential)
- ✓ **University:** credit, undergraduate and graduate
- ✓ **Professional:** development credit in many fields, licensure, CEU
- ✓ **Volunteer:** medical, social service, ecology, teach plus...
- ✓ **Internships:** business, media, arts, eco, tourism, computer, plus...
- ✓ **Business:** classes, visits, networking, executive support services
- ✓ **Peer-to-Peer:** share interests, network by profession or hobby
- ✓ **Current Events & Professional Workshops, Holiday Courses**
- ✓ **Distance** educ liaison service, independent studies, research assist
- ✓ **Free** books and course materials. Return at end of studies
- ✓ **Free** airport transfers and internet access
- ✓ **Assessment** reports for attendance, progress, acculturation if needed
- ✓ **Medical:** professional training, law, social work, sciences etc.

** If you have a problem while studying abroad, call the 24 hour hotline! Call Any Time from Anywhere! Medical or travel emergencies, legal or medical or embassy referrals, lost passport or luggage, emergency message relay, coordinating emergency prescription replacement or cash transfer, emergency translations, 24-hour medical monitoring. Problems seldom occur, but when they do, it is nice to know insurance and worldwide assistance are included in your cost for study dates prepaid through NRCSA as reflected on your NRCSA confirmation. Additional optional insurance available upon request. Refer to the certificate for specific terms, conditions and other details regarding benefits, limitations, eligibility and exclusions of this plan. Questions? Contact NRCSA: Tel: 414-278-0631 ... E-Mail: info@nrcca.com ... Web: <http://www.nrcca.com>*

For Questions, Concerns, or Registration, Contact NRCSA
National Registration Center for Study Abroad * Box 1393, Milwaukee WI 53201 USA
Tel 414-278-0631 * Fax 414-271-8884* www.nrcca.com * info@nrcca.com
Since 1968 * Language-Culture Immersion Worldwide * Start Weekly * All Ages * Credit, CEU or Enrichment

PREREGISTRATION FORM – NRCSA PROGRAMS

1. Complete & send to NRCSA, P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA • Tel. (414) 278-0631 • Fax (414) 271-8884 • Web: www.nrcca.com
2. Enclose a non-refundable deposit/registration fee of \$140 per person, per program, payable to NRCSA (\$40 registration fee & \$100 program deposit applied towards the program costs).
3. Register early. Add \$40 per person late enrollment fee if paying in full within 40 days of departure. Within 20 days, payments by certified check.
4. Credit Cards may be used for deposits (see "H" below). NRCSA street address for overnight deliveries is 207 East Buffalo Street, Suite 610, Milwaukee, WI 53202 USA. You are welcome to photocopy this form. Please send separate form for each school if taking multiple programs.

A. Name(s) _____ Sex _____ Birthdate _____ Citizenship _____
Please print

_____ Employer _____ Occupation _____
If student, school attending and year

Street: _____ Tel. Home: _____
Street address (not P.O. Box) where someone can sign for documents sent to you.

City/State/Zip: _____ Tel. Work: _____

_____ Fax: _____

_____ E-mail: _____

In Emergency, notify: _____
(Name, Address, Phone)

B. BACKGROUND: _____
Describe your background in the course you're taking abroad. Check your ability level:

- Beginner Post Beginner
 Intermediate Advanced

C. LODGING: _____
Schools will try (cannot guarantee) to meet them. Special Diet (may be available) at additional cost.

Check Preferences.

- Single Share Twin Other: _____
 Yes Smoking No Smoking Either
 Yes Pets No Pets Either
 Yes Children No Children Either

D. GOALS: _____

E. INSURANCE: Includes prepaid study dates. To extend coverage up to 30 days before/after study dates, add \$5/day or \$19/week and advise dates.

- PREFER:** Homestay Involvement Freedom to Come/Go
ARE YOU? Quiet Outgoing Frequent Traveler
OBJECTIVES: Enrichment Academic Credit Job Related
HOBBIES: Reading Music Cooking Jogging Sports

F. PROGRAM INFORMATION	School/Center
Program Name (use title from Dates & Fees)	City/Country
Date: Start Program	Date: Start Lodging (most start day before)
No. of hours day/week	No. of weeks attending
Disabilities/Allergies/Health Problems	2nd Choice Program
How did you learn about NRCSA?	Social Security Number
Options (see program for choices)	
Your Signature (if you are under age 18, both parents must also sign)	

INSURANCE INCLUDED for PRE-PAID STUDY DATES

ACCIDENT / MEDICAL INSURANCE UP TO \$10,000

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION UP TO \$25,000

EMERGENCY REUNION UP TO \$5,000

REPATRIATION UP TO \$7,500

LIFE INSURANCE \$5,000

24 HOUR EMERGENCY WORLDWIDE-MULTI-LINGUAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

For More Info: <http://www.nrcca.com/INS24hrHotline.html>

H. CREDIT CARDS:

For program deposit only (**not final payment**) check:
 VISA Mastercard American Express Amount Charged \$ _____

_____ / _____
Card Number (13 or more numbers) Exp Date

SIGNATURE (as on card) PRINT name (as on card)

CHANGE FEES of at least \$35 apply for each change you make. Some "changes" may result in cancellation fees.

CANCELLATIONS are effective the day received in writing by NRCSA in Milwaukee. All payments less \$140 per program fully refundable up to 60 days prior to departure. For cancellations within 60 days of departure, \$250 per person is not refundable; within 40 days of departure, less 50% of program cost or \$300 per person (whichever is greater); within 14 days of departure, 100% of program cost is non refundable. Airline cancellation penalties, if any, are in addition to those outlined above. Cancellation penalties are per person, per program. Medical, baggage (above that included) and cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Attach a note if you have a medical condition or Rx which the school/center should know about.

CONDITIONS: Each institution listed herein is independent of the National Registration Center for Study Abroad (hereinafter referred to as NRCSA, controls, and will periodically make changes in the program. Classes may fill, be changed, or dropped by the sponsoring academic institutions. NRCSA is a division of Mibar Ltd. and is not responsible for these changes or other actions beyond its control such as strikes, postal delays or loss, mechanical breakdowns, weather, government actions, delay or acts/omissions of suppliers. NRCSA may make changes or substitutions or cancel any program. In the event of entire program cancellation by NRCSA, liability is limited to refunding all monies paid to NRCSA for said program. Passengers electing not to use portions of a program shall not be entitled to a refund. No agent or representative of NRCSA shall have the right to alter the provisions listed herein. Costs based on tariffs and exchange rates effective the date of printing of this material, and are subject to change. Additional costs resulting from such change will be paid by the participant. Registrations are valid when accepted by NRCSA in Milwaukee. The passage contract used by the airline, when issued, is the sole agreement between it and you. Photographs of or statements by participants may be used by NRCSA. NRCSA, group leaders or foreign coordinators, at their discretion, may get medical assistance for participants, or place them in a hospital, or fly them back to the U.S. for medical treatment. All costs related to medical treatment or evacuation will be paid by the participant. As visitors you are expected to adhere to foreign rules and customs. If the foreign staff feels you are not adhering to these rules and customs, your participation in the program shall terminate immediately without refund whatsoever. A "homestay" is defined as living with a local person(s) in the foreign country and may not be multi generational, multinational, etc. It is the responsibility of the participant to have required proof of citizenship and visa(s) if applicable - check with the consulate of the country(s) you will be visiting.

INFORMATION USE: Information provided to NRCSA will be shared with participating organizations to facilitate your registration.

NOTE: Classes canceled in honor of local holidays are not made up. Foreign Language schools use placement tests. If there is no group at your level, smaller group or tutor classes may be substituted with fewer hours per week. Classes are conducted entirely in the target language. See **Fast Facts Guide** for more information.