

TROPICAL ECOLOGY

Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace formed many of their seminal ideas about evolution while traveling in the tropics and experiencing firsthand the overwhelming diversity of plants and animals that inhabit tropical ecosystems. Loyola's Tropical Ecology study abroad program combines lectures and discussions on campus with fieldtrips to Central and South America to increase student understanding and appreciation of the evolution, maintenance, and conservation of biological diversity in the tropics.

Students enrolled in Tropical Ecology BIOL Z250 earn three hours of science credit during the spring semester while learning about biological and physical processes that shape and maintain tropical ecosystems, becoming familiar with major groups of tropical plants and animals, and preparing for a fieldtrip to either Roatan, Honduras or Brazil.

Roatan, Honduras - the primary goal of this fieldtrip is for students to learn about tropical marine ecosystems while snorkeling, scuba diving, and kayaking on coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds. This fieldtrip provides a great opportunity for students to become scuba certified.

Brazilian Pantanal – the primary goal of this trip is to experience the amazing biodiversity and unique culture of the largest wetland ecosystem in the world. Participants may observe jaguars, giant anteaters, giant river otters, capybaras, caimans, anacondas, hyacinth macaws, rheas, and a variety of spectacular insects and spiders. We will compare and contrast the ecology of the Pantanal with coastal Louisiana and other magnificent wetlands.
Pending Approval

Join the adventure and see the Loyola Tropical Group in action!!!



MEDICAL CONCERNS

The Center for International Education (CIE) will be happy to discuss health care concerns you may have related to study abroad. Integration into a new culture and learning environment creates particular challenges, both mental and physical, for an individual. For this reason, if you are currently receiving treatment for any chronic illness it is strongly recommended that you talk with the CIE director or your doctor about plans to manage your health condition abroad.

Students should consult with a physician to determine the vaccinations for Honduras or Brazil that are recommended by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Visit cdc.gov/travel/ to learn more about medical precautions that may be needed for your trip abroad.

Fieldtrips include extensive long hikes over mountainous terrain, snorkeling, diving, and other strenuous physical activities. If you have any concerns about your ability to perform any of these activities or have other special needs or disability-related concerns, please contact CIE at Loyola, cie@loyno.edu.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND THE ONLINE APPLICATION

Visit: <http://studyabroad.loyno.edu/?go=TropicalEcology>

Contact: Dr. Frank Jordan
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**LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS**

Department of Biological Sciences
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2018 STUDY ABROAD FIELD COURSES

TROPICAL ECOLOGY

ROATAN, HONDURAS March 24-31
and

An amazing location in the tropics! (July)





COURSES

Students must register for the Tropical Ecology lecture course in the spring semester and for at least one of the following fieldtrips to Latin America. Students will earn 3 hours of common curriculum science credit for the lecture and one hour for the fieldtrip.

BIOL Z250: Tropical Ecology: This lecture-based course is taught during the spring and provides an overview of the biology, ecology, and conservation of flora and fauna of tropical ecosystems in preparation for study abroad.

BIOL Z251 021: Tropical Ecology Roatan (March 24 - 31): Students in this fieldtrip travel to Roatan, Honduras during Easter break for study of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests.

BIOL Z251 022: Tropical Ecology Pantanal (July 2018) Students in this fieldtrip travel to the Brazilian Pantanal for about two weeks for intensive study of the biological diversity in the world's largest wetland ecosystem.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Loyola's general academic policies apply to study abroad programs. Students must attend all classes and trips (except in case of illness) to fulfill the requirements for the courses.

FACULTY

Frank Jordan, Ph.D., is Professor of Biological Sciences at Loyola University New Orleans. His research focuses on ecology and conservation of fishes.

Aimee Thomas, Ph.D., is Visiting Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Loyola University New Orleans. Her research focuses on science education, natural history, and the biology of tropical spiders.

Robert Thomas, Ph.D., is Professor of Environmental Communications at Loyola University New Orleans. His research focuses on science education, environmental journalism and communication, natural history, and the biology of tropical snakes.

SCUBA CERTIFICATION

Students going to Roatan, Honduras will spend most of their time scuba diving on beautiful coral reefs. Scuba certification and diving is included in the cost of the trip. from a New Orleans dive shop beforehand.

PROGRAM COSTS

The fieldtrip to Roatan, Honduras is \$3200 and the fieldtrip to Brazil is around \$6000, final cost for the Brazil trip will be determined during the spring. Both fees include airfare, lodging, group meals, local transportation, entrance, and activity fees.

Scuba certification and unlimited diving is included in the price of the Roatan trip. Students getting certified in Roatan will also need to spend ≈\$175 extra to complete PADI on-line training prior to the trip. All scuba divers must have a valid Divers Alert Network (DAN) card and dive insurance.

Full payment is collected at the beginning of the semester along with tuition and other class fees. No refunds will be made after plane tickets are purchased, so students may want to consider purchasing travel insurance.

Students should bring enough money to cover incidental expenses, snacks, souvenirs, gifts, etc. A list of clothing and gear needed for the fieldtrip will be provided in class.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

In order to attend either program, students must have valid up-to-date passports and any necessary visas. U.S. citizens do not need visas for Honduras but do need visas for Brazil. The university will apply for the visa to Brazil for all U.S. citizens as long as passports are received by March 1. It is up to all students not holding U.S. passports to check with the appropriate consulate about the necessary visas.

Participants must provide a copy of their passport about a month before the scheduled trip abroad. Passports should not expire within six months of the end of the trip abroad.