COSTA RICA

SEMESTER AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

Office of International Education
Miami Dade College
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College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS)

The College Consortium for International Studies, a consortium of approximately 140 U.S. colleges and universities offers academic programs in nearly 30 countries around the world that extend into virtually all regions of the globe—Europe, North Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Australia and New Zealand. By participating in CCIS study abroad programs, students have the opportunity to earn U.S. college credits while living and studying abroad, an experience that will forever shape them as global citizens in the classroom, at home, and in the workplace.

Miami Dade College

Miami Dade College is the largest higher education institution in the US, enrolling nearly 160,000 students each year. As a CCIS sponsoring member institution, the College sends students from MDC and other colleges and universities throughout the US to Costa Rica and France on semester- and summer-long programs. The College also offers MDC faculty-led study abroad programs in a variety of disciplines.

Admission Criteria

The Costa Rica study abroad program is open to all college-level students. Program requirements and application procedure are as follows:

2.5 GPA on a scale of 4.0
2-page CCIS application
(http://ccisabroad.org/ccisapp.pdf)
2 letters of recommendation or reference forms (included in the application)
Official university/college transcripts
Personal statement/essay (min. 1 page)
$30 application fee

Students who belong to a CCIS member institution will submit the entire application packet to their respective CCIS representatives/study abroad advisors.

Non-MDC students who DO NOT belong to a CCIS member institution must send all application material directly to:

Eva Fernandez
Study Abroad Assistant
Office of International Education
300 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Room 1450
Miami, FL 33132
Phone (305) 237-3580 - Fax (305) 237-7439
efernan1@mdc.edu

All Miami Dade College students must submit their application materials directly to:

Magnolia Hernández
Program Manager
Office of International Education
300 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Room 1450
Miami, FL 33132
Phone (305) 237-3008 - Fax (305) 237-7439
mherna14@mdc.edu

Students intending to take courses at the 300/3000 level are advised to apply and enroll in the Costa Rica—CCIS programs through our co-sponsors at Truman State University.

Financial Aid

All students must apply for financial aid through their home institutions. Students are advised to meet with their financial aid counselors and study abroad advisors as early as possible so that they can learn about different funding options that may be available for study abroad. The Office of International Education at Miami Dade College can provide details on program fees to the Financial Aid office, per the student’s request.

Miami Dade College students must meet with financial aid advisors at their respective campuses to discuss financial aid options.

Scholarships and Grants

Last updated 7/30/2007
There is a wealth of information on resources available for students who are interested in participating in study abroad programs. Students are advised to speak to their study abroad advisors and scholarship specialists in the Financial Aid office to find out about upcoming competitions. Faculty and academic advisors can also provide great leads on grants and scholarships in your particular field that can be used towards a study abroad program. The sooner you begin to plan, the better. With some research and enough planning, you will definitely find options to successfully fund your study abroad experience.

**CENTRO LINGUISTICO CONVERSA**

CONVERSA is one of Costa Rica’s first and most prestigious Spanish language schools. Founded in 1975, CONVERSA has been dedicated to teaching Spanish as a foreign language for over thirty years.

There are two CONVERSA locations from which students can choose—San Jose and Santa Ana.

The San Jose location is the newer of the two, located on Calle 38, just off the busy Paseo Colón. It is only a block away from the Centro Colon building, a complex that boasts two movie theaters, a large Quality Hotel, an Internet Café, several restaurants and a post office. Just two blocks away is the Sabana Park, a fifty-acre recreational area with sports facilities. Tennis, jogging and picnic areas are available. The overall theme of the San Jose building is Spanish Colonial—arched windows and doorways, ornamental iron gratings, natural wood finishes.

The Santa Ana campus is located on a hilltop about ten miles west of San José. It has a dining hall, a lounge, twenty-five classrooms (twenty indoors and five outdoors), two lodges, a fifty-foot long swimming pool, a volleyball court, a basketball court, a tennis backboard, ping-pong tables, a bathhouse (solar heated showers), two meeting rooms (T.V. and VCR), and lots of hammocks. The views from the campus are spectacular. Tropical fruits are available in abundance and the air is fresh and pure. CONVERSA has highly experienced professors who have graduated from universities in Costa Rica and who have extensive training in education and in teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language at all levels.

The teaching methodology at CONVERSA is “Constant Contact.” Students develop a wide range of personal contacts with native Spanish speakers as a result of their daily routine. The goal here is to encourage students to enjoy Spanish, not as a dry academic exercise, but as a tool for facilitating communication with others.

Students are tested on day one, right after the orientation session. The maximum number of students in a class is normally about four.

Students are exposed to a new instructor for each week of the program. The instruction is entirely in Spanish, and each week a specific grammatical sequence is presented. The instructors are skilled in blending conversation with grammar to meet the individual needs of the group members.

A portion of each day is dedicated to the correction of workbook exercises, and about one hour per day of homework is required. Students are frequently moved from one group to another during the program to maintain smooth functioning and to maximize individual progress.

Classes meet for 5 1/2 hours a day, and students normally earn 6 credits for every 4-week cycle. Students are enrolled in the “Super Intensive” courses, which consist in 55 contact hours per course. As the students successfully complete their course assignments at each level, they will have the
opportunity to subsequently move up to the following level every two weeks.

All CONVERSA cycles are 4 weeks long, which means that students can choose to enter the program at any time of the year. Exact cycle dates are listed at the end of this document.

Course Descriptions:

**Elementary Spanish I (SPN 1120):**
Spanish for beginners emphasizing broad competence in such basic skills as understanding, reading, writing, and cross-cultural perspectives. Not open to native speakers of the language. 4 credits.

**Elementary Spanish II (SPN 1121):** A continuation of SPN 1120. Not open to native speakers of the language. 4 credits.

**Basic Spanish Conversation I (SPN 1000):** A course emphasizing conversational Spanish. Extensive use is made of structural oral exercises and “on-site” use of the language. Corrective phonetics and aural comprehension. This course is a complement to SPN 1120 or SPN 1121. Not open to native speakers of the language. 3 credits.

**Basic Spanish Conversation II (SPN 1001):** A continuation of SPN 1000, emphasizing grammatical structures complementary to SPN 1121. 3 credits.

**Intermediate Spanish I (SPN 2200):** A sequential continuation of SPN 1120-1121. Emphasis on oral and written presentations, stressing more complex grammatical structures. Focuses on Costa Rican and other Hispanic cultures through a systematic approach to the development of reading, writing and conversational skills. Not open to native speakers of the language. 4 credits.

**Intermediate Spanish II (SPN 2201):** Vocabulary building and emphasis on review and practice of complex grammatical structures through oral and written exercises. Contrast of common universal idiomatic expressions with Costa Rican usage. Costa Rican themes and daily life are studied through graded readings. 3 credits.

**Intermediate Conversation & Composition I (SPN 2240):** Promotes facility in understanding, speaking and writing the language. Emphasis on situational, everyday conversation. Structured speech to provide a firm base in patterns of spoken Spanish with progression towards free conversation. 3 credits.

**Intermediate Conversation & Composition II (SPN 2241):** A continuation of 2210, with an additional emphasis on more complex situational, everyday conversation, including free conversation. Offered upon demand only. 3 credits.

**Advanced Spanish Grammar I (SPN 2300/3300):** An approach to grammatical analysis and a synopsis of fundamental usages. Emphasis on subtleties, exceptions and current idiomatic use of the language. Offered upon demand only. 4 credits.

**Advanced Spanish Conversation 1 (SPN 2400/3400):** A continuation of 2240 and 2241. Conversational course with emphasis on cultural differences and traditional roles developed through readings and discussions. Offered upon demand only. 4 credits.

Housing Options

Students participating in the CONVERSA program are matched with their ideal residence/family once they have provided CONVERSA with the completed housing questionnaire.

**Home stay/Host Family:** Upon arrival in Costa Rica, CONVERSA will provide airport pick-up and the housing coordinator will place the students with a Costa Rican family (one student per family) in a conveniently located neighborhood. The
object of this plan is to provide students with a window on the culture. Students will find that their hosts are interested in learning about the students and their culture too.

Students are responsible for their own lunches and bus transportation to and from school. Host families will provide students with a private room, breakfast, dinner, and laundry service. On weekends, students may eat meals with their family if they wish.

For students attending the San José campus, host families are only a 15-minute walk or a short bus ride away from the institute. Students attending the Santa Ana campus will have daily transportation provided for them to and from the campus.

**Other options:** While almost all students choose to live with a host family, on occasion a student will request lodging that is more independent. In San José, students may have the option to stay in a hotel, at an additional cost to them. In Santa Ana, there are two additional lodging options that provide a more tranquil, relaxed atmosphere with a bit more privacy, while still allowing the student ample contact with Spanish and with Costa Rican culture—La Casita and La Casona. Students who are interested in attending CONVERSA with their families and children normally opt for this type of lodging.

**Extracurricular Activities**

Both the San Jose and the Santa Ana programs provide students with an array of extracurricular activities and optional field trips, such as white-water rafting, excursions to the Arenal volcano and Tabacon Springs. In addition to the country’s biological reserves, the city of San Jose offers its visitors museums, fine restaurants, bustling markets and a wonderful National Theater. Short, two-hour field trips are planned by CONVERSA faculty on the first and third Thursday of every month as well.

**UNIVERSIDAD VERITAS**

Universidad Veritas, founded in 1991, is a private Art, Design and Architecture University, located in San Jose, Costa Rica. The university enrolls approximately 1100 students year-round, specializing in Advertising, Architecture, Digital Animation, Film and Television, Interior Design, and Photography.

The campus is located only minutes away from downtown and the city’s museums and restaurants.

Faculty from Universidad Veritas hold advanced US or Costa Rican degrees, and a great number of years of teaching in their respective fields.

All elective courses carry three semester credit hours, and students are normally required to enroll in 15-18 credits per term. All full-time students take at least two or three Spanish language courses and one or two electives in English. These are offered in a variety of disciplines, depending on the student’s academic interests.

Students participating in the summer programs typically take one elective in English and one Spanish language course for a total of 6 credits during the 5-week period.

Course listings for any given term are provided to the student upon acceptance. However, the following courses are typically offered year-round, so this listing can serve as a starting point for course selections. Universidad Veritas reserves the right to cancel any course for which there is insufficient enrollment.

Spanish language courses are taught in 4-week modules, during the mornings. English courses are taught in the afternoons.
Course Descriptions:

SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSES

Elementary Spanish I (SPN 101): Spanish for beginners emphasizing broad competence in such basic skills as understanding, reading, writing, and cross-cultural perspectives. Not open to native speakers of the language.

Elementary Spanish II (SPN 102): A continuation of SPN 101. Not open to native speakers of the language.

Intermediate Spanish I (SPN 201): A sequential continuation of SPN 101-102. Emphasis on oral and written presentations, stressing more complex grammatical structures. Focuses on Costa Rican and other Hispanic cultures through a systematic approach to the development of reading, writing and conversational skills. Not open to native speakers of the language.

Intermediate Spanish II (SPN 202): Vocabulary building and emphasis on review and practice of complex grammatical structures through oral and written exercises. Contrast of common universal idiomatic expressions with Costa Rican usage. Costa Rican themes and daily life are studied through graded readings.

Intermediate Conversation (SPN 210): Promotes facility in understanding, speaking and writing the language. Emphasis on situational, everyday conversation. Structured speech to provide a firm base in patterns of spoken Spanish with progression towards free conversation. This course is a complement to SPN 202.

Advanced Spanish Grammar I (SPN 301): Intended for students who already possess strong Spanish language skills. Grammatical analysis, expansion of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions through readings, and student compositions, at a complex level. This course includes attendance for two complementary class hours weekly in literature, ecology, and history courses as a thematic basis for compositions. Offered according to demand.

Advanced Spanish Grammar II (SPN 302): A continuation of SPN 301, stylistics, syntax and vocabulary, intended to improve oral and written expression. Levels of diction, study of idiomatic language and the varieties of Spanish spoken in different Spanish-speaking nations. Includes attendance for two complementary class hours weekly in literature, ecology, and history courses. Offered according to demand.

Advanced Conversation I (SPN 310): For advanced students wishing to attain greater proficiency in the spoken language. Strongly recommended for majors. Conversation based on themes. Offered according to demand.

Oral Expression Techniques (SPN 340): For advanced level students who wish to learn and practice oral techniques used in conversation in order to increase fluency. A practical and theoretical methodology will be developed by both the professor and the students.

Spanish for International Business (SPN 304): Development of basic technical vocabulary, commercial correspondence and memos in Spanish in preparation for careers in international business. Offered according to demand.

Introduction to Cultural Heritage of Latin America (SPN 320): This course studies relevant topics and issues in the development of cultural heritage in Latin American with emphasis on Costa Rica.

Rhetoric and Advanced Composition (SPN 410): A study of complex and difficult syntax and points of grammar. Special attention is given to composition and explanation of text in research.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

ENV 3005: Environmental Impact and Social Development 3 credits

ENV 3044: Introduction to Tropical Ecology 3 credits
ENV 3044L: LABORATORY 1 credit
This is an introductory course to tropical ecology. Students will learn about the interactions between earth and land and how this interactions or processes affect our life and the stability of the planet. Within this context students will gain insight about basic ecological concepts, natural environments, organisms and their interactions and about human impacts on the environment. Emphasis will be given to the study of the most relevant tropical ecosystems such as: tropical rain forest, cloud forests, coral reefs and mangroves.

ENV 3190 Introduction to Tropical Marine Biology 3 credits
ENV 3190L: LABORATORY 1 credit
An introduction to the biology and ecology of tropical marine ecosystems. Studies the balance between ecosystems and human stress and demands on the constant changing marine environment. Students must enroll in both the lecture course and the laboratory. All field trips are mandatory.

ENV 4040: Environmental Awareness And Sustainable Development 3 credits
ENV 4040L: LABORATORY 1 credit
This course provides an introduction to the actual world problems in natural resources management and conservation, and its effects on sustainable development efforts in tropical countries. Current issues that condition the possibility for development such as poverty, global warming, deforestation and potable water will be analyzed. It presents a multidisciplinary approach to environmental issues that pertain to the concept of sustainable development and its applicability.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ARCH 3112: History of Latin American Architecture and Art 3 credits
This course offers a chronological overview of main invents and influences that contributed to the making of past and present architecture in Latin America analyzing the artistic manifestations.

ARCH 3113: Theory of Latin American Cities 3 credits
This course offers a panoramic overview of the development of cities in Latin America. Students will learn about similarities and differences among Latin American countries and their cities learning to develop certain analysis skills of urban form and human behavior in the city environment.

ARCH 3200: Tropical Architecture 3 credits
The objective of this course is to learn about climatic design in the tropics and develop the skills to analyze a particular geographical situation. Students will become familiarized with restricted resource usage; the knowledge of land and climate and the rural tradition where domestic construction is passed on from one generation to another.

DA 1020: Introduction to drawing 3 credits
Offers the student the knowledge of the basic concepts and techniques of drawing by hand. Introduces and exercises procedures and criteria for the representation of three-dimensional space: perspective, score, negative and positive space, organizational lines, tonal values, etc. This course focuses on the learning and
application of expressive drawing and free
drawing which allows the student the
possibility to develop abilities of
reproducing an image, and at the same time,
their skill and intuition before the creative
process.

Dnce-2500 Introduction To Latin
American Tropical Dance 3 credits
Explores the technique, rhythm and
movement style of Latin American Tropical
Dance. History, anthropology, folklore and
songs are part of this experiential course.

Hum 3500- Central American Art and
Culture 3 credits. This course is an
introduction to Central American Art and
culture through its diverse manifestations
and cultural identities. It offers a socio-
historical review of artistic production and
the cultural development of the continent.

Hum 3513- Arts And Humanities: Costa
Rica Colloquium 3 credits. A general
survey of the complex heritage and social
evolution of Costa Rica, examined through a
comprehensive and multidisciplinary view
focusing on the historical development and
present day dynamics of economy, society,
policy, natural resources and culture. Special
attention will be given to topics such as
cultural background, identity formation,
social development and education the roots
of present day crises, problems of peace and
democracy, some artistic and literary trends,
and the emergence and role of old and new
ideological movements. Emphases will be
placed upon different topics during the
course, according to students' backgrounds
and expectations.

Eth-3100 Selected Topics In Afro-
American Studies 3 Credits. Intensive
examination of a particular topic, theme,
issue, or problem concerning the Black
presence in Costa Rica and Central America.
Sample offerings could include Central
America and ethnic politics, history and
Culture, Blacks in Central American
governments, Contemporary Black
literature, History of the Black experience in
Costa Rica.

Phil 3100 Comparative Classical
Philosophy 3 credits. An overview of the
history, religion and selected concepts in
major eastern and western classical
philosophical movements and systems.
Emphasis on certain topics such as mind-
body, knowledge of self and others,
predestination and free will, cause and
effect, comparative religions and other
fundamental ideas in classical knowledge
and ethics.

PHOT-1161 Basic Photography – 3 credits
The course offers basic knowledge in the
field of photography. Through practical
exercises aiming to apply the information
provided through lectures, students will have
a complete knowledge of the basic
photographic processes, from exposure to
printing.

PHOT- 2100 Ecological Photography – 3
credits. This course offers a general
knowledge in the reaches and the stages of
digital photography. By applying these
principles in photographing wildlife,
students will develop skills to create clearer
images on a given subject. Students will
undertake the task of observing and
photographing flora and fauna in its natural
environment. The course also studies how to
manipulate and arrange images digitally in
order to create an effective visual
presentation. Taken with (1 credit) PHOT-
2100Laboratroy.

PHOT- 2600 Digital Photography – 3
credits. The course offers a general
knowledge in the reaches and the stages of
digital photography. Through practice
exercises aiming to apply the information
provided through lectures, students will be
able to consciously create and manipulate
digital photographic images.
BUSINESS, ECONOMICS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

COMM 3200: Intercultural Communication – 3 credits. An overview of the field of Intercultural Communication. The course examines theoretical aspects of culture and world view, intercultural contact, entry and reentry processes. Addresses issues of diversity and commonalities amongst human beings, implications and applications according to each situation and professional context. Students will develop skills for intercultural competence.

GEB 3350- Introduction To International Business - 3 credits. An overview of cultural environment of international business and the institutions which affect business today. International economic, political and trade issues are analyzed in the context of socioeconomic goals and policies of the nations involved. The Latin American perspective with regard to the U.S., Asia and Europe is examined: NAFTA, Mercosur, the EC and other common market areas and agreements.

GEB 3500- Ecotourism: The Costa Rica Case 3 credits. This course will provide students with an introduction to Costa Rican ecotourism. It will offer the chance to analyze this dynamic process from different socio-economic perspectives. It will discuss the economic importance of ecotourism for the Costa Rican national economy, the stimulation of grassroots, community ecotourism projects, and the role of ecotourism in securing environmental protection. The advances and limitations of ecotourism will be explored. Students will be encouraged to develop their own conclusions about how ecotourism can help to secure economic, environmental and participatory alternatives in order to advance the Costa Rican sustainable development process. Taken with (1 credit) GEB - 3500Laboratory.

ECON 3403- Introduction To International Economics & Latin America 3 credits. Examines Latin American policies that affect the international economy, with attention to trade barriers, economic nationalism and regionalism, international political economy, exchange market intervention and international transmission of economic perturbations.

MGMT 3021- Logistics Management 3 credits. An overview of logistics management areas within the domestic and international contexts. Examines logistics objectives such as warehousing, inventory control, transportation, import-export logistics, etc. Emphasis is given on the importance of legal aspects in certain logistics areas.

MGMT 3030- Critical Leadership Skills 3 credits. Provides the opportunity to learn about and practice the skills required for managerial excellence. These skills include leadership, negotiation, conducting performance appraisals, delegation, effective communication, interviewing and making hiring decisions and effective human resource management. Students will learn to develop self-awareness of strengths and weaknesses gaining familiarity with theory-based skills.

HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HIS 3290 Costa Rican Economic Development: from Coffee and bananas to ecotourism and microchips– 3 credits. This course introduces the outstanding socio-economic and political features that have shaped and defined the history and development path of Costa Rica. It covers some of the major economic, political and social issues that have emerged since Pre-Columbian times to the present day. Students will have the opportunity to explore 3 main areas: 1) the historical dynamics that have propelled contemporary Costa Rica into its present economic
situation 2) the global and regional dynamics that have influenced the socio-economic development path of Costa Rica, and 3) the allocation and characteristics of Costa Rica’s main commodity markets and economic resources.

POL 2500 Human Rights in Latin America - 3 credits. This course will provide students with an introduction to the issues surrounding the development and abuse of human rights in Latin America. Students will explore the most recent advances in this field along with the most pertinent problems pertaining to the adoption and implementation. A particular emphasis will be given to the case of Costa Rica, giving the students an opportunity to explore the development of human rights in the following areas: women’s rights, children’s rights, HIV/AIDS, the CAFTA agreement and labor rights, indigenous groups and human rights, disability and age issues, and the prison environment. Specific attention will be given to the testimonies of human rights abuses and the development of the Costa Rican legal framework in relation to these aforementioned areas. By analyzing these cases and the issues involved, students will gain an understanding of how human rights are being implemented through Costa Rica laws, policy framework and its institutional commitment to human rights.

POL 3100 Costa Rican Tradition: Peace and Democracy - 3 credits. The general objective of this course is to discuss the social, economic and political issues of the process of construction of peace and democracy in Costa Rican and Central America (1948-2005).

POL 3550 Selected Topics in International Politics - 3 credits. This course examines a particular topic, theme, issue, or problem concerning the International Relations and world politics.

POL 3450 International Relations in Latin America - 3 credits. This course will analyze the beginning of International Relations in Latin America and the most important historical facts that marked politics in the region in the current era. The focus of this course is on the historic background of the region before independence and post independence that helped to consolidate the American hegemony and the insertion of foreign investment, the North American imperialism and the Latin-American resistance. The course also will study international relations of the region during the Cold War, the military dictators, the polarization of Cuba, the Latin-American reverse, the economic integration, and the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism, and will analyze the return of popular governments in the Regions such Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, Ebo Morales in Bolivia and Lula Da Silva in Brazil.

POL3740 Economic Integration in Latin American - 3 credits. The course will analyze the aspects of economic integration, globalization and conditions for a successful integration between economies and the effects of free trade in the region as well as the effects of protectionism. There will be a special treatment on foreign investments and joint ventures in the Latin America. The course will focus on Latin American region and its Commercial blocs including part of this project: Caricom in the Caribbean Islands, Mercomun in Centro America, Mercosur in South America, NAFTA in North America and US commercial initiative of The Free Trade Area of Americas (FTAA) and CAFTA as part of this Project.

TAUGHT ONLY IN SPANISH

SPN 3020- Lecturas Selectas De La Literatura Latinoamericana 3 credits. Estudio de autores, corrientes literarias o particularidades de género en la literatura Latinoamericana. Se investigan obras literarias prominentes, autores y particularidades de género para introducir al estudiante a proyectos literarios de gran...
impacto cultural en Latinoamérica. Prereq. SPN 301 or placement exam

**SPN 3050 Fonética y Fonología** 3 credits  
En este curso se aprenden métodos y herramientas de la lingüística descriptiva aplicada a la fonética y articulación.

**SPN 4110- Escritoras Contemporaneas Costarricenses** 3 credits  
Estudio de un número representativo de obras y temas de escritoras costarricenses del siglo XX... Prereq. SPN 301 or placement exam

**SPN 4390- El Cine Y La Literatura Latinoamericana** 3 credits  
Estudio de la producción cinematográfica en relación con la literatura en Latino América. Prereq. SPN 301 or placement exam

**SPN 4430- Temas Especiales En La Literatura Latinoamericana** 3 credits  
Estudio de algún tema importante de la literatura latinoamericana. El profesor podrá escoger el tema o enfocarse en estudios sobre la producción dentro de un género o autor específico. Prereq. SPN 301 or placement exam

**SPN 4330- Temas Especiales En La Literatura Peninsular** 3 credits.  
Estudio de algún tema importante de la literatura Española. El profesor podrá escoger el tema o enfocarse en estudios sobre la producción dentro de un género o autor específico. Prereq. SPN 301 or placement exam

**SPN 4161- El Movimiento Realista En La Narrativa Latinoamericana** 3 credits  
Lectura selecta de las obras y autores más representativas del movimiento Realista en Latinoamerica de este movimiento literario filosofico. Prereq. SPN301 or placement exam.

**Volunteer Program**

Universidad Veritas also coordinates volunteer programs for students who are interested in the national park and reserve system. “Volunteers and Projects for the support of Conservation Areas” is a program that gives support to the National System of Preservation Areas of Costa Rica. This program allows interested students the possibility to learn more about the support or our National Parks, Wildlife Shelters, Forest Reserves, etc”.

If a student would like to participate in specific areas such as species monitoring, turtle nesting, botanical projects, etc, he/she should indicate it on the application and personal statement.

**Extracurricular Activities**

In addition to the vast outdoors activities and visits to beaches, mountains, and volcanoes, students in the Veritas program will have the opportunity to participate in weekend excursions, weekly tropical dance lessons, sports, Latin American cooking lessons, museum and artisan market visits, volunteer work with underprivileged children in the afternoons, and youth groups.

**Housing Options**

**Homestays:** Students are generally housed in the homes of Costa Rican families. Housing is an important aspect of the program and all housing arrangements are handled by the university. The homestay offers a special insight into Costa Rican culture and daily life as well as the opportunity for students to practice Spanish.

All students are provided with a private room, breakfast, evening meal and laundry service. Students are usually placed one per family in nearby neighborhoods.
CONVERSA INFORMATION SHEET

Program Dates and Deadlines:**

Conversa runs on 4-week cycles. Remaining cycles for 2007 are:

**Tenth Cycle:** Sep. 10 to Oct. 5
**Eleventh Cycle:** Oct. 8 to Nov. 2
**Twelfth Cycle:** Nov. 5 to Nov. 30
**Holiday Cycle:** Dec. 3 to Dec. 28

Cycles for 2008 are listed below:

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<td>Eleventh Cycle</td>
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<td>Twelfth Cycle</td>
<td>Nov. 3 to Nov. 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Cycle</td>
<td>Dec. 1 to Dec. 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application Deadline: Applications are due TWO months prior to the beginning of the cycle that you plan to attend.

Application Requirements:

- Two-page CCIS application (www.ccisabroad.org)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official university/college transcripts
- Statement of purpose
- $30 application fee

If you are applying through a CCIS member institution, please deliver all application material to your study abroad advisor. Otherwise, mail all materials directly to our office at Miami Dade College.

Program Costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>San Jose</th>
<th>Santa Ana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non CCIS</td>
<td>$2467</td>
<td>$3187</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCIS members</td>
<td>$2267</td>
<td>$2987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDC students</td>
<td>$2117</td>
<td>$2837</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Included: administrative fees, medical insurance, housing with host family, and most meals.
Not included: airfare, personal expenses, and tuition at home institution.

** Program fees and dates are subject to change

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION:

**CCIS SPONSORING INSTITUTION—MIAMI DADE COLLEGE**

Address: Miami Dade College
Office of International Education
300 NE 2nd Avenue, Suite 1440
Miami, FL 33132-2297
Phone: (305) 237-3580 or (305) 237-3008
Fax: (305) 237-7439

Dr. Phillip Parkerson, Director
pparkers@mdc.edu

Eva Fernandez, Study Abroad Assistant
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Magnolia Hernández, Program Manager
mherna14@mdc.edu

**CCIS HOST INSTITUTION—CONVERSA**

Mr. David Kaufman, Director
dkaufman@conversa.net

Mr. Steve Hanson, San Jose
Program Administrator
shanson@conversa.net

Mr. Steve Beaudreau, Santa Ana
Program Administrator
sbeaudreau@conversa.net

Address: Centro Lingüístico Conversa
Apdo. No 17, Centro Colón 1007
San José, Costa Rica
Phone    (506) 221-7649 or (888) 669-1664
Fax:    (506) 233-2418
UNIVERSIDAD VERITAS INFORMATION SHEET

Program Dates and Deadlines:**

**Spring 2008**
January 7th through April 4th
Application Deadline: November 1st

**Summer 2008 Programs**

5 week cycle:
July 7th through August 8th
Application Deadline: May 1st

8 week cycle:
July 7th through August 29th
Application Deadline: May 1st

**Fall 2008: TBA**

Application Requirements:

- Two-page CCIS application (www.ccisabroad.org)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official university/college transcripts
- Statement of purpose
- $30 application fee

If you are applying through a CCIS member institution, please deliver all application material to your study abroad advisor. Otherwise, mail all materials directly to our office at Miami Dade College.

**Program Costs**

SUMMER**  (5 weeks)  (8 weeks)  (4 weeks)

Non CCIS       $3494       $4729       $2377
CCIS members   $3294       $4529       $2177
MDC students   $3244       $4479       $2127

SEMESTER PROGRAMS**

FALL 2007        SPRING 2008

Non CCIS       $6146       $6146
CCIS members   $5946       $5946
MDC students   $5646       $5646

Included: administrative fees, room and most meals, medical insurance, and some weekend excursions.

Not included: airfare, personal expenses, and tuition at home institution.

** Program fees and dates are subject to change

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION:

CCIS SPONSORING INSTITUTION—MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

Address: Miami Dade College
Office of International Education
300 NE 2nd Avenue, Suite 1440
Miami, FL 33132-2297
Phone:  (305) 237-3580 or (305) 237-3008
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Phone:  (506) 283-4747
Fax:  (506) 253-5355