



## Behaviour Sciences Faculty-led Classroom Abroad

San Jose, San Carlo, & La Fortuna, Costa Rica  
February 2025

**Application deadline: Sept. 30, 2024**

### **Project description:**

Students will be immersed in three communities in Costa Rica where they will learn about local education and social service systems. While Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) is widely used across North America, it is not as commonly used within Central America. By visiting schools, special education centers and health care facilities in Costa Rica, students will gain insight into the teaching methods and types of therapy used within a broader global context. Through travel to these communities, students will also explore the differences in resources available in urban versus rural areas and the impacts that may have on the education system and services provided.

### **Program/learning highlights:**

- Attend a guest lecture: ABA and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy in Costa Rica
- Visit a public school specific for children with special needs
- Visit a private school and conversations/observations with educational psychologists
- Attend a lecture at a university with a specialty in special education
- Visit a private education centre for children with special needs
- Tour a public addiction centre to meet with psychologists and social workers
- Visit a rural special education centre
- Meet with an organization that provides support to people with autism and their families
- Visit a hospital or a long-term care facility

Students will also participate in one workshop in the fall semester prior to travel. This virtual workshop is titled “Indigenous Considerations for Decolonizing Education, Research and Clinical Work.”

### **Cultural highlights:**

- San Jose cultural and historic walking tour
- Visit to a sustainable, organic third generation coffee farm

- Indigenous-led craft workshop at a museum dedicated to Indigenous artists
  - Guided tour of a reforested area to see rain forest animals with a guide
- (Note: Cultural activities subject to change based on availability and timing.)

**Timeline:**

- Application deadline: Sept. 30 by 11:59 p.m. (see application information below)
- Applicant interviews: Oct. 7 – 11; participants will be chosen and notified by Oct. 18
- Team meeting: TBD but shortly after student selection
- Initial deposit: \$500 non-refundable deposit due upon acceptance
- Departure date: Feb. 22 (date may change slightly due to flight availability)
- Return date: March 2 (date may change slightly due to flight availability)

**Location:**

San Jose, San Carlos and La Fortuna, Costa Rica

**Partner:**

Costa Rica Global Learning Programs

**Language:**

English and Spanish (a translator will be available where required)

**Accommodation and meals:**

Accommodations will include staying at a large house with 2 to 3 people per bedroom. Costs include accommodations and most meals during the week.

**Student Support:**

DC students will be supported by DC faculty and Costa Rica Global Learning Programs staff. Faculty members from the Honours Bachelor of Behavioural Science and Behavioural Science Technician programs will accompany the successful candidates to Costa Rica. In addition, DC students will participate in local and cultural events.

**Visa and Passports:**

Canadian students are not required to apply for a tourist visa for Costa Rica. Passports must be valid for six months after the return date. You must provide a copy of your passport by November 7, 2024. Students that do not hold Canadian Passports may be required to secure a visa at their own expense. Information is available [here](#). Be aware that flights may connect through countries other than Canada and Costa Rica.

**Risks:**

It is the student's responsibility to consider the potential risks of any travel. For more information on travel risks in Costa Rica, visit the Canadian government's travel advisory page [here](#).

**Academics:**

Students will be required to submit course work related to this FLCA experience. Faculty will advise of those assignments prior to travel.

**Things to know:**

- Students must attend pre-departure training.
- Students must follow the DC Student Code of Conduct throughout the duration of the program.
- Students are responsible for all associated pre-departure medical requirements, including vaccinations.

**Program costs:**

Program cost will be discussed at the information session. An estimate of costs is as follows, but these are not final and subject to change:

- 9 nights in Costa Rica - \$3,500 CDN (approx.) per student
  - The cost includes all components of the travel, accommodations, seminars, workshops, cultural excursions, transportation, and most meals during the week.
- Extras: Some meals, shopping, souvenirs, etc. (about \$300-\$600)
- Canadian students are generously funded for this program by Global Skills Opportunity, administered by Colleges and Institutes Canada. A non-refundable payment of \$500 will be required by November 7.
- International students are eligible to apply for a bursary of up to \$2,000. All remaining costs will need to be paid by the student. International students are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$500 upon acceptance.
- **The total cost to Canadian students is \$500. The total cost to international students is dependent on flight and other costs.**

**Application Information**

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Open to current students in the Behaviour Science Technician and Honours Bachelor of Behaviour Science Program.
- Must have good academic standing & record of attendance.
- Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 (GPA will be confirmed prior to travel)

**How to apply:**

Please apply via the Faculty-led Classroom Abroad site – <https://durhamcollege.ca/info-for/international/education-abroad/opportunities/faculty-led-classrooms-abroad/flca-projects>

For more information, contact and Mary Helen Leddy [maryhelen.leddy@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:maryhelen.leddy@durhamcollege.ca) or Nehal Siam [nehal.siam@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:nehal.siam@durhamcollege.ca).