Programa de Lengua Española, Cultura Costarricense y Estudios del Neotrópico
PLECCEN
Apartado: 1433-4050 Alajuela, Costa Rica (506) 442-7637
América Central

El Programa de Lengua Española, Cultura Costarricense y Estudios del Neotrópico offers the following to the Department of Modern Languages at Stephen F. Austin State University:

Study Abroad Program from July 7, 2005 – August 7, 2005

Program Fee: $2400 per student*

Fee includes the following:

- Transportation to and from airport
- Home stay with a Costa Rican family
- Two meals per day
- Laundry
- Classroom space
- Field trips within Costa Rica
- Museum and National Park Fees
- Cultural Events
- Guest Speakers (politicians, historians, biologists, writers, musicians and artists)
- One week’s stay at a study center at the Pacific Coast

*This contract is based on a minimum of twenty students and a maximum of twenty-five.

Stephen F. Austin State University agrees to release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue the Programa de Lengua Española, Cultura Costarricense y Estudios del Neotrópico, the Director, staff, host families or other employees from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by a participating student, whether caused by the negligence of the Programa de Lengua Española, Cultura Costarricense y Estudios del Neotrópico or otherwise, while participating in an activity, on the premises where the activity is being conducted or in transportation to and from said premises, or while participating in activities outside of the program.

Lic. Eduardo Estevanovich  Fecha  Presidente de la Universidad  Fecha
Director del Programa de Española, Cultura Costarricense  Fecha  Estatal de Stephen F. Austin  Fecha
y Estudios del Neotrópico
Students participating in the SFASU study abroad program will be placed in host families, members of the host family bank of PLECCEN. All families have been carefully screened by PLECCEN. They are families that have previously hosted students from other countries and remain in the host family bank on the basis of high recommendations by previous students.

All travel within Costa Rica organized by PLECCEN will take place on public transportation, with bus companies that are fully insured according to Costa Rican laws.

As part of the program there are organized orientation sessions based on the following needs: 1. So that the students will be able to adapt as easily as possible to Costa Rican culture, 2. and for the safety of the student.

The first day of classes will begin with a special orientation session, and such orientations will continue periodically throughout the program.

When there are excursions to areas of cultural interest, specific orientation sessions will be given about the expected behavior of the students in order to avoid dangerous sessions or misunderstandings.

In the orientation sessions the following subjects will be addressed:

1. Family Stays
   a. Acceptable behavior
   b. Who to speak with in case a problem arises with the host family

2. The Street (The City)
   a. Hours to be out, places to go, places to avoid
   b. How to deal with a difficult situation away from the house
   c. Caution crossing streets
   d. The importance of always going out in groups

3. Buses and Taxis
   a. How to use
   b. Protecting belongings when using public transportation
   c. Types of buses and taxis that are acceptable when traveling outside of program activities.
   d. It will be explained that when travel is a program activity, that students will travel on public bus companies, assigned specifically for our program, and fully insured.

4. Visits to National Parks and other sites of interest
   a. Precaution of staying with the group on the trails.
   b. Clothing that students should wear.
   c. The danger of trying to pet animals

5. Illness
   a. Who to call in case of illness or an accident.
   b. Laws in Costa Rica about the use of drugs, alcohol, etc.

6. Money
   a. Types of money
   b. Where to change dollars
7. Foods
   a. Types of foods in Costa Rica
   b. Safe places to eat (when one is away from the host family)

Each of the points listed above will be fully explained during the orientation and students will have the opportunity to ask any question they might have. The orientation session will be presented in both Spanish and English to insure that all students fully understand all information presented. In addition, the students will receive all information discussed in a written form. The orientations will continue throughout the program.