

Relevant Information 2022

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

1. Admissions Fee

International students from partner universities do not pay academic tuition and can enroll in up to 5 academic courses per academic period. We charge a one-time administrative admissions fee of \$550 that covers the admissions process, academic and administrative support during their stay, as well as the payment of the “tech fee” that covers virtual platforms and use of online services. Our global education office finances its operation at cost through these fees.

2. Housing

ULACIT’s central campus does not offer traditional student residence (on-campus dorms). Exchange students are expected to live with a local host family (Homestay Program) or with Selina Hostels our third-party lodging and workspace provider in either communal dorms or standard rooms.

2.1. Host Family Homestay:

Room & Board	Price
<p>Our homestay program with host families includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All meals included (breakfast, lunch and dinner). ✓ Wi-Fi internet access ✓ Private room. ✓ Shared or private bathroom. ✓ Use of the kitchen and laundry room. ✓ Access keys to the house. ✓ Linens once a week throughout your stay. ✓ Laundry once a week. 	 <p>Price per week: \$190</p> <p>(Minimum 4 week stay)</p> <p>Price for academic period (16 week stay): \$3.040</p>

ULACIT works with host families in San Jose, who have welcomed international students into their homes for years. Each home has been carefully selected by ULACIT program administrators to ensure comfort and safety for international students and includes meals and other homestay services. All Host Families are located at the most 20 minutes away from campus. Any student interested in staying longer than the 16-weeks the program includes just needs to specify it at the moment of the application (or no later than 1 month after arrival). **Additional week: \$190**

2.2.Selina Hostel:

ULACIT also offers housing options through its partnership with [Selina Hostel](#), a student and international hostel ecosystem that allows travelers to stay, work, eat and live authentic experiences around the world, including 10 hostel sites throughout Costa Rica. Selina offers ULACIT guests' great accommodations in San José as well as the main tourist destinations in Costa Rica. Selina's San José Hostel is located 900 mts from ULACIT's campus an 11-minute walk.

You will be able to find Selina Hostels in in San José, Jaco, Tamarindo, Monteverde, Puerto Viejo or La Fortuna.

All Selina Hostel locations offer free WI-FI, workspaces and other commodities such as laundry, common areas, restaurant service and many other amenities.

ULACIT International Students will be able to make reservations and move within the Selina Hostel ecosystem environment, with the possibility of taking on-line classes while traveling during weekends or whole weeks to Costa Rica's beautiful beaches and tourist destinations where Selina operates their other hostel locations. This possibility is dependent on room availability.

To request a reservation at any [Selina Hostel](#) and obtain the benefits and discounts reserved for ULACITs international students please write directly to mariavalverde.ext@selina.com with copy to studyabroad@ulacit.ac.cr.

For reservations and access to benefits please use the Reservation Code "ULACIT", and request information on availability on any of their locations. Benefits and discounts at Selina Hostaels only apply to previous reservations using the code ULACIT, they do not apply to those who might show up at the hotel reception without prior reservation. Benefits for ULACIT students at Selina Hostel include:

- ✓ Breakfast included
- ✓ 10% Discount on Food and Beverages
- ✓ 10% Discount in our CoWork areas
- ✓ 10% Discount in EXPLORE (Tours offered in each location)
- ✓ 10% Discount in Retail

3. Spanish Immersion Program

Enroll in our Spanish Immersion Program consisting of three consecutive 5-week courses covering the complete 15-week academic quarterly period. Take a course independently for one 5-week period or enroll in the complete 15-week Spanish Immersion Season.

Each language course covers 45 contact hours corresponding to 3 US credits or 6 ECTS, through 3 hour lessons every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The Spanish Immersion Program covers different levels of language proficiency. According to their proficiency level, students will be recommended enrollment in any of our entry level courses: Spanish Introductory, Low Beginner Spanish or High Beginner Spanish. One on one Spanish Tutoring also available, please enquire.

Develop Spanish language proficiency in a short span of time through a culturally relevant learning immersion experience, the content of each individual course will also get you acquainted with three perspectives of Costa Rica's national identity:

- ✓ Course 1 - Introductory Spanish – Community and Culture
- ✓ Course 2 - Low Beginner Spanish - Biodiversity and Sustainability
- ✓ Course 3 – High Beginner Spanish – History, Democracy and Politics

Price individual 5-week Spanish Immersion Course: \$650

(3 US credits or 6 ECTS, 45 hours)

Price 15-week Spanish Immersion Season (3 courses): \$1,850

(9 US credits or 18 ECTS, 135 hours)

Learn or better your Spanish language competencies through a top-quality language course which includes immersive cultural experiences.

For more information on our Spanish Immersion Program and if you wish to enroll, please write to: studyabroad@ulacit.ac.cr

4. Visa and Migration

Incoming exchange international students have different legally viable options to resolve their migratory status in Costa Rica for their short-term stay.

Please carry a digital or physical copy of your admissions letter in case it is requested by a migration officer. Once in Costa Rica we will aid and advise you on different options to renew your migratory status in accordance with the applicable migratory policies at the moment.

Students are advised to enter and remain in Costa Rica with an up to 90-day provisional tourist visa. Your country of origin determines the number of days available to stay in Costa Rica as a tourist before the need of renewing the tourist visa. All USA and European Union residents are usually awarded a 90-day tourist visa.

For this migratory status no previous process is required, the tourist visa is automatically issued by Migration Authorities for any international traveler entering the country by land or air.

Visitors to Costa Rica must have a valid passport as well as proof of their intent to exit the country before their visa or entry stamp expires. All non-resident travelers must possess a return ticket or a ticket as proof of when they intend to exit the country, commonly referred to as an outbound exit or onward ticket.

So, either a dated or open-ended return ticket for an international flight or bus transfer service are needed when entering Costa Rica. The immigration officer will ask for it upon your arrival.

The departure plans from Costa Rica must be shown to Migration Authorities at the airport with a return ticket, but that the ticket can be open ended, so incoming exchange students need a return ticket but not necessarily with a set return date.

Once in Costa Rica to maintain their legal migratory status after 90 days students can either exit any land border (a quick weekend trip to Panama o Nicaragua) to renew their tourist visa or request a student visa through ULACITs migration lawyer with a cost of \$200 which will automatically suspend the expiration of their 90-day tourist visa until Migratory Authorities process their student visa request which takes over 6 months in average. This is a common practice for short term exchange students and would be sufficient to maintain their legal migratory status while the short-term exchange student completes there 115-day academic period stay.

The process is carried out with the student already in Costa Rica, it is not required to go to a consulate. The requirements to process a student visa extension for a short-term stay are:

1. Two passport size photographs, 5cm x 5cm, on a white background.
2. Complete photocopy of your current passport. your passport and visa must be valid.
3. ULACIT acceptance letter as an Exchange student.
4. A payment of \$250 to the migration lawyer who will take care of the initial request process and accompany the process. This payment already includes tax stamps and the fee charged by the General Directorate of Migration to process the visa extension request. These payments are to be made once the student is in Costa Rica.

Students who wish to stay as for longer than 10 months should prepare the following documents and have them before arriving, this process is also carried out with the student in Costa Rica:

1. Birth certificate duly legalized or apostilled where the name of the parents is recorded. all documents must be in Spanish, if not, they must be officially translated in Costa Rica. If you cannot obtain your birth certificate with the apostille, you can present it without apostille momentarily.
2. Certification of criminal records from your country of origin or where you have resided for the last three years duly legalized or apostilled. All documents must be in Spanish, if not, they must be officially translated.
3. A bank statement from them or their parents from the last 12 months to prove their solvency and the existence of income to support their stay in Costa Rica. The bank statement should be notarized by a Certified Public Accountant.

5. Health Insurance Information

All international students coming to ULACIT are required to purchase an international student health insurance plan with coverage in Costa Rica for (no student will be accepted without it). Students must present a copy of their international health insurance ID card or written verification of coverage to be admitted and send a copy of this form for our records.

International Health Insurance Coverage must meet three essential requirements: cover medical expenses generated by the COVID-19 disease, hospital admission fees for the required duration and a minimum coverage of 14 days for accommodation expenses in case of delivery of a medical isolation order. If you choose this modality, you must have a certificate in English or Spanish from the international insurer that indicates the following:

- i. Validity of the insurance when visiting Costa Rica.
- ii. Coverage of medical costs in the event of a Covid-19 pandemic in Costa Rica of at least \$ 50,000.
- iii. \$2,000 minimum coverage for lodging costs due to pandemic illness.

6. Living Expenses

To maintain standard of living for a single person, students should plan for a budget in a range from \$1,200 to \$2,000 a month which would include housing, meals, and utilities. An additional budget for tour and travel should be planned, hotel rooms to range from \$40 to \$400 per night, one day trips from \$50 to \$180. Weekend trips usually include a 3 night stay plus \$6 to \$10 per meal.

7. Tour & Travel

ULACIT also offers a broad array of tourism and leisure experiences through its partnership with Terranova, who develops tourist services for ULACITs guests including access to one day, weekend or weekly tours to Costa Rica's main tourist destinations and natural sites along with hotel accommodations, transportation, vehicle rental, guided visits, and other leisure activities.

ULACIT arranges hotel reservations, complete weekend, or week tours with Terranova Travel Design our exclusive third-party tours and travel provider, Costa Rica's best quality tourism agency. You will find special rates and travel packages for ULACIT study abroad students.

8. Additional budget planning required for:

- International medical insurance (no student will be accepted without it).
- Airplane tickets.
- Day to day public or private transportation.
- Tour & Travel within Costa Rica.
- Daily expenses.
- Additional cultural or academic tours, services, or experiences.