ABOUT ULACIT

FACT SHEET: Study Abroad 2026

The Latin American University of Science and Technology –ULACIT–, based in San José, Costa Rica, is an innovative, enterprising, and fully bilingual university leading higher education in the Central American region since 1987. ULACIT prepares its students to lead in science, technology, business, and other fields of human endeavor, with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to serve the world in the 21st century.

Ranked as the best private university in Costa Rica and at the Central American level according to QS International University Rankings all its teaching strategies are project-based, with no traditional exams. Learning is founded on inquiry, research, group projects, problem-solving and service-learning experiences, under the Teaching for Understanding (TfU) framework, developed by Harvard University's Project Zero

ULACIT works annually with three quarterly academic periods (Spring, Summer, and Fall), with two-week vacations between them. By enrolling in ULACIT, international students can cover more credits within a year and have access to top quality higher education programs benchmarked to comply with international standards. Each course covers 45 contact hours per academic period, representing 3US credits or 6 ECTS credits per course. By taking a up to five courses per academic period students can cover up to 45 US credits or 90 ECTS per year.

ULACIT offers 24 technical diplomas, 42 undergraduate programs, 16 graduate programs and 2 doctorate degrees through its Schools of Business Administration, Economics, Accounting, Business Intelligence, Advertising and Marketing, Industrial Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Computer Science Engineering, Cybersecurity, Dentistry, Psychology, Law and International Relations.

ULACIT attracts international students from all around the globe. Students coming from both partner universities and from non-partner universities are eligible for admittance. Exchange students coming from a partner university can take a maximum number of 5 courses as part of the tuition-waiver agreement from any of our academic programs. Any additional course has to be paid by the student. International students coming from non-partner universities can enroll on fee-paying courses if they meet the admission requirements of the respective academic program.

Admissions information and enrollment process details can be found at the end of this document under ***Admissions Process***. All interested students must fulfill the admissions steps described.

Our offering of courses taught in the English language is ample: 68 courses taught regularly 100% in the English language at our San José campus in the fields of Liberal Arts, Business Management, Economics, Accounting, Marketing, International Trade, Finance, Political Science, International Relations and Latin American Studies.

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OUR GLOBAL EDUCATION SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Undergraduate course enrollment for Spring, Summer, and Fall Academic Period. Our International Relations and Business Management undergraduate programs are taught 100% in the English language.
- ✓ Spanish Language Immersion Program offered through-out the year during every academic period.
- ✓ Host Family Program (meals, Wi-Fi, laundry, room, and board included)
- ✓ Year-round Faculty Led and Customized Study Abroad Experiences.
- ✓ Customized Short-Term Summer or Winter Programs for student groups in International Business and Leadership or Sustainable Development and Latin American Studies.
- ✓ Customized academic programs for researchers and student groups at La Marta Wildlife Refuge.
- ✓ Gap-year Program, stay with a host family, tour and travel throughout Costa Rica and take Spanish Courses and Introductory Undergraduate Business or Latin-American

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION	
University name:	Latin American University of Science and Technology (ULACIT)
Location:	San José, Costa Rica
Vice-Provost for Global Affairs	Luis Felipe Dobles Junqueira: ldobles@ulacit.ac.cr
Student Exchange Program Coordinator	María Fernanda Lim-Apo: mlim@ulacit.ac.cr
Website	https://global.ulacit.ac.cr/
E-mail:	studyabroad@ulacit.ac.cr

Undergraduate Courses for International Exchange Students 2026

We offer international students wishing to study in Costa Rica the opportunity to enroll in ULACITs undergraduate degree courses in English or Spanish. Students coming from both partner universities and from non-partner universities are eligible for admittance.

Students can enroll in up to five undergraduate courses per academic period. Each academic course covers 45 contact hours per season, representing 3US credits or 6 ECTS credits per course per period. At the end of the program, students will receive an accredited transcript of grades.

ULACIT works annually with three quarterly academic periods, Spring, Summer, and Fall, with two-week vacations between them. By enrolling in ULACIT, students can cover more credits within a year.

ULACIT offers undergraduate courses through its schools of business economics, accounting, business administration, business intelligence, advertising and marketing, industrial engineering, chemical engineering, biomedical engineering, electronics engineering, computer science engineering, cybersecurity, dentistry, psychology, law and international relations.

For spring, summer and fall semesters international students can choose a mix of undergraduate courses taught 100% in the English language in the following subjects:

- ⇒ Peace Studies
- ⇒ Sustainable Development Studies
- ⇒ Latin American Studies
- ⇒ Liberal Arts and Humanities
- ⇒ Business Administration and Economics
- ⇒ International Relations and Political Science

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 per academic period 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.

Undergraduate Course Enrollment Dates and Deadlines for 2026	
Spring Academic Period (1st Quarterly Period 2026)	
Late Nomination & Application Deadline:	December 05th, 2025
Total Payment Deadline:	December 12th, 2025
New Student Orientation:	January 09th, 2026
Class Start & End Dates:	January 12th to April 25th, 2026
Summer Academic Period (2nd Quarterly Period 2026)	
Late Nomination &Application Deadline:	April 27th, 2026
Total Payment Deadline:	May 04th, 2026
New Student Orientation:	May 08th, 2026
Class Start & End Dates:	May 11th to August 22nd, 2026
Fall Academic Period (3rd Quarterly Period 2026)	
Late Nomination & Application Deadline:	August 24th, 2026
Total Payment Deadline:	August 31st, 2026
New Student Orientation:	September 4th, 2026
Class Start & End Dates:	September 7th to December 19th, 2026

Late nomination admittance and payments considered and processed upon request on a case-by-case basis

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Spanish Immersion Program

Enroll in our Spanish Immersion Program consisting of 45 contact hour course covering the complete academic quarterly period.

The Spanish Immersion Program covers different levels of language proficiency. Develop basic Spanish language proficiency in a short span of time through a culturally relevant learning immersion experience:

- **SPAN-101 Basic 1 Spanish**
- **SPAN-102 Basic 2 Spanish**
- **SPAN-201 Intermediate 1 Spanish**
- **SPAN-202 Intermediate 2 Spanish**
- **SPAN-301 Advanced 1 Spanish**
- **SPAN-302 Advanced 2 Spanish**

The content of each individual language course will also get you acquainted with three perspectives of Costa Rica's national identity: Community and Culture, Biodiversity, History, Democracy and Politics.

Each language course covers 45 contact hours corresponding to 3 US credits or 8 ECTS, through 3 hourly lessons per week. Each course will also cover aspects relevant to the student's intercultural experience in Costa Rica, learning about the country's community and culture, sustainability model and biodiversity, it´s history and democratic and political life.

According to their proficiency level, students will be recommended enrollment in any of our entry level courses.

Price Spanish Immersion Course: $700 (3 US credits or 6 ECTS, 45 hours)

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

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

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Faculty-Led Programs

Our Global Education Office develops customized academic programs and global education experiences that cater to the specific needs of institutions, third party-providers, faculty-led initiatives, or specific student groups.

Let us take care of the logistics of planning and design details of your custom short-term study abroad experience or faculty-led program needs.

Our custom designed programs will complement any academic lessons with experiential learning through field trips and site visits of interest.

We will develop academic customized programs to expand your study abroad offerings in an ample number of subjects, from engineering, information technologies, entrepreneurship, management leadership skills, and business administration to sustainability studies, education, health sciences, law, human rights, and more.

We collaborate with your faculty team to create study abroad programs that resonate with a broad spectrum of students and academic subjects and objectives.

Whether you want to offer a course taught by your own faculty or a customized course in an area of interest, ULACIT provides the expert academic support, resources, and flexibility you need to create your own study abroad experiences in Costa Rica.

We offer additional services to ensure that your students live a unique global experience in Costa Rica. Services include trips to local institutions, site visits, guest speakers, transportation, housing, field trips throughout Costa Rica and any other additional support services required.

Our Global Education Team will work closely with you to develop programs that satisfy your specific requirements, including curriculum, complementary cocurricular activities, and comprehensive support services that best suit the needs of your institution and your students. Just share your vision with us, and we will use our expertise, knowledge, and resources to customize your program features to fit within your budget.

Housing Information

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.

Our Home Stay Program allows our international students to experience authentic Costa Rican culture, while staying in a safe family environment, benefit from the host families support during their stay, establish unique lasting friendships and practice Spanish with native language speakers.

Host families provide independence and a safe environment for our international guest students.

Each home has been carefully vetted to ensure comfort, independence, and safety for our international students. Our homestay program provides:

- ✓ A safe and welcoming host family environment.
- ✓ All meals included (breakfast, lunch and dinner).
- ✓ Wi-Fi internet Access
- ✓ Private room and independence
- ✓ Use of the kitchen and laundry room.
- ✓ Access keys to the house.
- ✓ Access to all common areas
- ✓ Linens once a week throughout your stay.
- ✓ Laundry once a week.

All Host Families are located at the most 30 minutes away from campus and downtown San José. Students can choose how long to stay with a host family, stay per month or pay for the complete academic period.

Price per month: $980
Price for academic period (16-week stay): $3.920

Our Home Stay Program assures you access to homely comforts and a safe environment in San José, each home has been carefully chosen to guarantee a welcoming and safe stay.

If you want more information simply reply to this email and let us know. We will provide you with information on the families and their homes.

To obtain a homestay application form or to inquire about housing at ULACIT, please contact: studyabroad@ulacit.ac.cr

Health insurance information

All international students coming to ULACIT are required to purchase an international student health insurance plan with coverage in Costa Rica (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. We recommend that insurance coverage include the following:

General Medical Coverage: Medical care for illness or accident, both outpatient and inpatient visits, access to specialists, prescription drugs, and diagnostic tests.

Emergency Coverage: Medical care in cases of emergency, including emergency room visits and urgent treatment, ambulance transfer if necessary.

Hospitalization coverage: In case of serious illness or accident, the insurance should cover hospitalization, surgical interventions, and post-operative care.

Repatriation: Coverage in case of death, including repatriation of the body to the country of origin.

Visa and Migration

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. Please carry a digital or physical copy of your admissions letter in case it is requested by a migration officer.

Incoming international students have different legally viable options to resolve their migratory status in Costa Rica for their short-term stay (*one or two academic periods*).

Once in Costa Rica we will aide and advice 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 180-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. USA and European Union residents are commonly awarded a 180-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.

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 180 days or if the tourist visa is awarded for less time, 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 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.

Living Expenses

To maintain standard of living for a single person, students should plan for a budget in a range from $1,500 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 $60 to $400 per night, one day trips from $80 to $180. Weekend trips usually include a 3 night stay plus $6 to $10 per meal. Our Global Education Office may arrange hotel reservations, complete weekend, or week tours.

Admissions Process for International Exchange or Short-Term Fee-Paying Students

Our admissions process has two stages which students will complete in 4 steps:
Stage 1 Nomination: Steps 1 and 2.
Stage 2 Admissions: Steps 3 and 4.

Step 1: Please complete your Personal Information and Academic Information. Make sure to check the Fact Sheet document and be aware of the academic period start and end dates, nomination deadlines and services provided. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

Step 2: Once all the personal and academic information requested through the International Exchange Nomination Form is completed and sent, students will receive a message from our academic advisor informing them of their nomination process within 10 business days. If admitted students will be sent an official acceptance letter and asked to complete the Exchange Admissions Form to fulfil the exchange admissions process. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

Final admittance will only be provided after all the documentation and payments have been finalized. Important notes:

- Universities or groups interested in sending students for an academic exchange semester or in a customized study abroad program can contact the Global Education Office at the following addresses: studyabroad@ulacit.ac.cr copying ldobles@ulacit.ac.cr
- Independent students must be at least 18 years old to apply. Younger students are only accepted with a group or sponsor school.
- Students must ask their international office or school/faculty to generate a complete official transcript as part of the documentation they must hand in. Unofficial copies of transcripts will not be accepted.

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Tuition & Fees	Price
International Admissions Fee: ***per academic period**	**$550**
Spanish Immersion Courses: ***3 US credits or 6 ECTS, 45 hours**	**$700**
Host Family Program all Semester (16-week stay) **(includes all meals, laundry, accommodations):** ***$980 Price per month**	**$3.920**

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For more information or in case of any questions please contact us at:
studyabroad@ulacit.ac.cr