

# Drexel in Costa Rica: Healthcare in Latin America

## Winter 2021

### The Program

The International Center for Development Studies (ICDS) winter term program is a customized program offering curriculum from the College of Nursing and Health Professions, from a Latin American perspective. Students gain a global perspective of health care and related issues. ICDS partners with Hospital Clínica Bíblica, Costa Rica's premier hospital to offer this customized Drexel curriculum. Students will strengthen their Spanish language skills and learn critical medical Spanish terminology in hands-on and interactive ways. Having Spanish skills plus knowledge of Latin American health issues will better prepare any student for working with the US' large Hispanic population.



### Eligibility requirements

- Sophomore, pre-junior, juniors – must be scheduled for class during winter term
- Students must have taken Spanish 101 at Drexel University or the equivalent at another institution. Students with previous Spanish experience can take a placement exam and must place into Spanish 102 or higher.

## Academics

Students must take the following Drexel University courses:

- LANG 180: The Spanish for Health Sciences 6.0 credits (Students are placed in a Spanish class for their appropriate language level)
- HSAD 480: The Health Care System in Costa Rica 3.0 credits
- ECON 240: The Economics of Health care – 4.0 credits\*

And may select one of the following:

- HSAD 318: Vulnerable Populations – 3.0 credits
- Tropical Diseases – 3.0 credits

\*Students may opt not take ECON 240 upon consultation with their academic and study abroad advisors.

## Credits and Grading

Students earn Drexel credit and grades for this program, which are factored into Drexel GPA.

## Experiencing Costa Rica

Costa Rica's capital, San José, is a cosmopolitan city with many cultural and recreational activities. It is located in Costa Rica's Central Plateau, surrounded by beautiful mountains and volcanoes, and within driving distance to the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The urban transportation system is quite efficient, and you can take a bus to just about anywhere in the country. Upon arrival, students receive an orientation, which provides students with insights and strategies to better manage the process of integration to a new cultural context, while allowing group interaction and integration.



## Housing

Drexel students will be housed with a local host family in Costa Rica. Homestays are one of the most important parts of a student's experience, facilitating immersion in and adaptation to the new culture and language, and helping students to integrate into local society. Host family relationships in Costa Rica tend to be intimate and supportive. At the same time, they respect students' private time and personal space. In order to assure students will have a great experience with their host families, ICDS has a

Homestay Coordinator with a great deal of experience in the selection of host families and the placement of students with an appropriate host family, as well as of the follow-up on the student-family relationship to solve any problems that may arise.

### **Co-op Option**

Students who achieve high intermediate Spanish language or above are eligible to pursue a co-op in Costa Rica. ICDS will facilitate the placement of Drexel students in co-op positions relevant to their field. Students may choose to fulfill a co-op in Costa Rica for 6 months, or 3 months in Costa Rica and 3 months in the US. Doing a co-op in Costa Rica gives students international work experience, allows them to use Spanish in real life situations, and gives students deeper understanding of Latin American health care, culture, and communities. Students who study abroad during winter term of their junior year may opt to remain in Costa Rica for co-op, thereby having an extended immersion experience. Students who participate during sophomore or pre-junior year may return during junior year to complete their 3rd co-op in Costa Rica.

### **Community Work Opportunities**

A unique part of the ICDS programs is volunteering in a local facility or community organization related to your field. Students normally volunteer for 4 hours per week during the study abroad program. The volunteering continues the learning process beyond the classroom, by gaining firsthand insight, exposure and experience in working with local populations. Spanish language skills are also strengthened through the volunteering.

### **Visa**

It is necessary to have a valid passport (at least six months before expiration date) to travel to Costa Rica. **NO ENTRY VISA IS NEEDED** for American and Canadian students --as well as for those of a few other nationalities-- only a valid passport and proof of a return ticket. In the cases when student visas are needed, ICDS and the International Office of Universidad Latina de Costa Rica provide students with step by step assistance to obtain the required document.

### **Cost and Financial Aid**

Please refer to brochure for Winter 2021 for program fee.

#### **Included in the Program Fee:**

- Home stay with local Costa Rican family
- Breakfast and dinners provided by host family
- Airport pick-up upon arrival
- Orientation

- Weekend excursions and group activities

**NOT Included in Program Fee:**

- Airfare
- Visa fee (if applicable)
- Emergency medical insurance
- Class materials
- Some meals
- Spending money

\*This is a Drexel sponsored program, thus your Drexel tuition and financial aid remain the same during your term abroad. Students may also want to submit a revised budget to Drexel Center to see if additional funding may be available. Students who receive Federal Work Study should consider applying for the Study Abroad Online Journalist work study position (only available to students after acceptance). To seek additional funding, review the Scholarship & Funding Opportunities. Remember that scholarship deadlines may be much earlier than study abroad deadlines, so plan accordingly.

**Application Deadline: September 15, 2020**