

Information Sheet for Costa Rica Study Tour 2009

Courses: (Graduate students) GEB 6365: International Business Field Experience: 3 Credits
(Undergrad students) ECO 4955: Field Study in International Economics: 3 Credits

Course Term: Summer Semester 2009

Meeting Dates: Saturday, April 4 and April 25, from 11:30am – 1pm on the Davie Campus

Travel Dates: Friday, May 1 – Saturday, May 9, 2009

Trip and Course Directors: Dr. Rupert Rhodd and Dr. Eric P. Chiang

Pre-requisites: Sophomore standing (30 completed credits by the end of Spring semester 2009)

Cost: \$1,792 (this does not include FAU tuition costs). Cost includes airfare, hotel accommodations (double occupancy), tours, ISIC student card, daily breakfast, several lunches and 2 dinners.

Course requirements: While you will register for a Summer course, there is NO formal class.

- Two pre-trip meetings (Apr 4 and Apr 25)
- One pre-trip homework assignment
- Trip Attendance
- Post-trip paper (17 pages)

Course description: This course in international economics and business will allow students:

- to study the organizational framework related to resource allocation in Costa Rica, the role of the international economy through trade, finance, and multinational corporations, and cultural differences in business practices in Costa Rica.
- to gain a better understanding of how exchange rate markets operate, how business practices differ in developing countries, and the importance of international capital and labor flows, trade and comparative advantage to economic development.
- to learn via lectures from educators and practitioners, tours of multinational corporations and local firms, and visits to cultural sights and attractions.

Tentative Trip Itinerary:

Friday, May 1: Departure from Fort Lauderdale to San Jose; transfer to Volcan Lodge; Dinner

Saturday, May 2: Morning hike to Volcano Arenal; agricultural tour; visit to hot springs

Sunday, May 3: Transfer to San Jose; check-in to Crowne Plaza; City Tour

Monday, May 4: Company Visits

Tuesday, May 5: Company Visits and Tour of Café Britt Coffee Plantation

Wednesday, May 6: Visit to US Embassy and CINDE

Thursday, May 7: Company Visits and Farewell Social/Dinner

Friday, Mar 8: Free Day to explore (options include eco-tourism, adventure sports, shopping, golf)

Saturday, Mar 9: Departure to Fort Lauderdale

How to Apply: To sign up for this tour, submit the completed application packet along with a non-refundable deposit of \$200.00 (payable to Florida Atlantic University) to either course director or to the main Economics office in KH 137. Applications and deposits will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis for qualified students. The balance of \$1,592 is due Feb 27, 2009 (FAU reserves the right to adjust prices if needed). You must have a valid passport by the travel date. Applications can be downloaded at: www.ericchiang.org, under the teaching link.

For more information, contact: Dr. Rhodd: 954.236.1296 (rhodd@fau.edu) or
Dr. Chiang: 561.297.2947 (chiang@fau.edu)