

Winter in Costa Rica

Dec 29, 2024 - Jan 19, 2025

San Jose, Costa Rica

One of the most bio-diverse countries on the planet, Costa Rica offers beautiful natural landscapes and rich Spanish culture for exploration. The capital city, San Jose, hosts world-class museums, parks and theaters, with a welcoming local population ready to share their country's history. This winter program is in partnership with International Volunteer HQ (IVHQ), which provides affordable volunteering programs where individuals can immerse themselves in new cultures and make a difference through travel.

Housing

While abroad, you live in small groups with a host family, enabling you to engage in cross-cultural conversations about Costa Rican and American lifestyles while practicing your language skills. Most meals will be provided through the host family.

Volunteer Projects

Alongside brief reflection papers, students earn 3 credits through a 30+ hours/week volunteer project in one of the fields below. Specific volunteer responsibilities may vary based on placement. All students will participate in cultural trips and activities each week.

- **Medical & Healthcare** - shadow doctors and nurses while preparing medical equipment and assisting with patients (*\$200 surcharge*)
- **Animal Care** - assist at animal welfare organizations or vet clinics with feeding, bathing, or training
- **Childcare** - support community centers by helping with students' homework or teaching basic hygiene skills
- **Dentistry** - shadow a dentist or hygienist and help prepare materials for treatment
- **Teaching English** - engage in a community center by tutoring or setting up education games and activities
- **Construction & Renovation** - participate in renovating community spaces, landscaping, or repainting (*\$200 surcharge*)
- **Special Needs Care** - assist in group homes or clinics for disabled children or the elderly



Application Deadline: Rolling until October 1st

Application Process

Applications open on September 3rd. The application link will be emailed to all students who have met with a study abroad advisor in the Center for International Programs and expressed interest in J-Term 2025 programs. Students who have not met with an advisor can email international@siena.edu to schedule a meeting. Students must have met with a study abroad advisor to be eligible to apply.

The application consists of short-answer questions in which students detail their program choice and why they wish to go abroad to their selected country. Students will additionally need to obtain a background check for IVHQ programs, however this is not necessary to complete before submitting an application. Students should speak with a study abroad advisor for more details.

Applications for IVHQ winter programs will be reviewed on a rolling basis. We encourage interested students to apply early to secure placement for their preferred volunteer project. We expect to issue decisions on IVHQ applications within 1-2 days after submission. Applications will close on October 1st.

Students will have until October 9th to confirm their acceptance and participation in the program. Once confirmed, students will be sent instructions to complete further paperwork.

Estimated Program Cost: \$3,050

Billing & Withdrawal

Program cost covers tuition, housing, meals, international insurance, and cultural visits as part of the course. All fees will be posted on students' accounts by the Office of Business Services. An initial \$500 deposit will be placed on accounts after acceptance into the program, due immediately. The remaining fees will be charged on November 15, 2024, due at the beginning of December.

Accepted students will have until their deposit is charged to their account to withdraw from the program with no financial penalty. Withdrawals after this time may be subject to non-recoverable deposits and fees.

Additional Expenses

In addition to the program cost above, students are responsible for the background check (approx. \$20), roundtrip airfare and all personal expenses (souvenirs, independent travel, etc). Suggested flights will be provided to all program participants in mid-October.

Students participating in medical or construction volunteer projects will be charged a supplemental \$200 due to necessary materials costs.

