UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA
San José, Costa Rica

The University
Higher education in Costa Rica dates back to 1814, when the Casa de Enseñanza de Santo Tomas (Santo Tomas College) opened. Due to its high academic standards, university status was conferred upon it in 1843. However, the College unfortunately closed down in 1888 because of economic and political problems. As a result, the country had no university until August 1940 when, during the presidency of Dr. Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia, a law was passed to reestablish higher education in Costa Rica.

The university has a large, lovely campus with many buildings and facilities for students. There are sports facilities, classroom buildings, a health center and libraries all centrally located. The campus is close to an area where student pubs and restaurants can be found.

The City
The University of Costa Rica is located in San Jose, a city of 1,000,000 people. At 4,000 feet above sea level, it boasts a springtime climate all year round. Rain forests, cloud forests, unspoiled beaches, coral reefs, white water rivers and volcanoes can be reached within a couple of hours by car from San Jose.

Academic Calendar
The first semester starts in the last week of February and ends in the last week of June. The second semester starts early August and ends in the first week of December. Exchange students must arrive nearly one month before classes start to complete the long process for registration and selection of courses.

Am I eligible for this program?
There is a **minimum GPA requirement of 3.2** from the host university and a minimum of two years of college level Spanish or the equivalent. This is an academically rigorous university and only students who will be serious about course work should list this as a destination for study abroad. Competition for spots can be fierce and places are not guaranteed until UCR sends an official acceptance letter.

OU students can participate on a semester or year exchange, earning approximately 12 OU credits each semester in courses such as Spanish literature, history, and civilization, as well as a wide variety of other academic areas. All courses are taught in Spanish.
What could I study?
The academic areas available for enrollment are: Arts and Letters (Humanities), Basic Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering and Architecture, and Health. Enrollment is by merit: students with the highest GPA’s get first choice of courses. This rule also applies to incoming exchange students.

Although the University of Costa Rica offers Spanish language courses for international students, these courses are not part of the regular semester offerings by the University and are not included as part of the reciprocal exchange agreements. OU students will not be able to take courses such as Spanish conversation and composition while on this program.

What about academic credit?
Grades received on reciprocal exchange study abroad programs through the University of Oklahoma are posted by the Office of Admissions as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) on the OU permanent record. These grades are not factored into the participant’s Grade Point Average. Because each student is enrolled in 12 credits per semester while abroad, participants are expected to enroll in an equivalent number of credits at the host university. Academic systems around the world vary in what equals 12 OU credits. The decision about awarding credits is made in the Office of Admissions at OU.

Where would I live?
Students live with host families screened and chosen by the International Office of the host university.

How much does it cost?
Costs at OU: All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal exchange programs are enrolled at OU for 12 credits each semester abroad. Tuition and fees are billed through and paid directly to OU at the appropriate resident or non-resident rate. Fees are charged at the Arts and Sciences College rate, even if the student’s major is in a different college. All participants pay a $10/credit hour study abroad fee.

Housing: The cost of the home stay arrangement is $400 USD per month.

How do I apply?
Instructions for applying to any semester or academic year exchange program may be found in the “how to apply” section of our website.
For more information please contact:

ea@ou.edu