

Community College of Philadelphia

**Community College of Philadelphia
Study Abroad in Belize, Central America
Summer I, 2008**

Trip Information, Payment Instructions and Financial Aid Information

Earn academic credit for Environmental Conservation (Earth Science 111) and Physical Geography (Geography 101) in a field setting.

Program Dates

The program includes (15) days in Belize, Central America from May 28 through June 11, 2008. **These dates may be subject to slight change based on flight availability and other scheduling needs.** Some orientation and instructional sessions will be held at Community College of Philadelphia's Main Campus prior to departure. The schedule for the predeparture sessions will be announced once the list of participants is complete.

Instructor

The principal instructor is Margaret Stephens, associate professor of Earth Science and Geography at the College. Other College and/or Belize faculty or staff will accompany the group.

Courses and Credit

Earth Science 111 (Environmental Conservation), Three credits

Introduction to the many serious environmental problems facing the world today, the extent and causes of these problems and the kinds of solutions being proposed. Topics include ecological systems, population, land management, hunger and food production, energy supplies, waste management and environmental pollution. The course is organized around the theme of our relationship to the environment.

Geography 101 (Physical Geography), Three credits

An introduction to the basic concepts of physical geography that will involve the examination of the physical systems and processes that create many types of landforms and shape the earth's environment. In addition to introducing students to the concepts relevant to the physical world patterns, such as those relating to the make up of the earth, weathering and mass movement, ocean currents and wind interaction, glaciation and periglaciation, this course also helps them understand the creation of the physical world as a systematic rather than a random formation.

If you have already taken one or both of these courses, please consult with Chris DiCapua, Study Abroad coordinator, to discuss alternative options for obtaining academic credit.

Instruction in Belize will include traditional classroom lecture and discussion as well as considerable outdoor field work in humid, tropical conditions. **Participants should be in good physical condition** and be willing and able to engage in moderate hiking, field trips and other outdoor activities, which may include moderate hiking, canoeing, swimming and snorkeling. Instructions and equipment for such activities will be provided by as necessary.

Costs and Payment Deadlines

Estimated cost per student is \$3,550. The listed costs are approximate, based on a minimum number of participants. Air fares and prices for other components are subject to fluctuation.

Financial aid and scholarship assistance may be available to defray some of the program costs, and costs may be reduced depending on any package rates obtained and the number of participants.

There are four components to these costs, as detailed below:

1. Community College of Philadelphia tuition. (\$882 for tuition and fees, six credits times \$115 per credit for tuition, \$4 per credit for general fee, \$28 per credit technology fee.) You must register and pay on your own for designated sections of Earth Science 111 (CRN 21162) and Geography 101 (CRN 21163) for Summer I, 2008. Students may register for fewer than two courses; however, since the components of each course are integrated throughout the 15 days, all program participants are required to take part in all program activities.

2. Tickets/Airfare and Travel Insurance. Roundtrip airfare from Philadelphia to Belize City and back to Philadelphia is currently priced between \$580 and \$720. If the College arranges a group booking, we will do our best to obtain the most economical fare possible. Payment deadlines for airfares scheduled by the College will be announced. Participants are required to obtain and provide proof of travel/medical and evacuation/repatriation insurance to cover the duration of the trip. Specific details on the insurance requirements will be provided to participants accepted to the program.

3. Belize In-Country Program Costs. \$1,948 for 15 days, May 28 through June 11, 2008. The in-country program cost of \$1,948 includes all accommodations, three meals per day, all ground and water transportation including pickup and drop off at the international airport, all excursions, entrance fees and guides, specialized gear, tools and materials for activities and community projects.

4. Additional costs (variable, depending on personal needs and preferences) include a required Belize departure tax (\$36.50 in 2007), predeparture medical costs for vaccinations; antimalarial and other personal medications; books and supplies; personal spending money for incidentals such as souvenirs, snacks, drinks, toiletries, personal medications and other personal effects; optional excursions; and independent pre- or postcourse travel.

Payment Deadlines

You must submit payment to Ms. Jackie Harvey in B2-21 (Liberal Studies Division Office) by check or money order made payable to Community College of Philadelphia. The first payment must be submitted with your completed application.

The first payment of \$500 is due when you submit your application (refundable if cancelled before March 28, 2008).

The second payment of \$500 is due by March 28, 2008.

The balance of \$948 is due by the final payment deadline of April 4, 2008.

Cancellations after March 28, 2008, and before April 4, 2008, will incur a \$150 penalty.

There will be no refunds for cancellations after the final payment deadline. Therefore, you must obtain trip cancellation insurance and check airfare refund policies before the final payment deadline of April 4.

Travel Arrangements

Students may make travel arrangements and purchase tickets on their own. If there are enough participants interested, the College may reserve a block of tickets for students who wish to travel in a group, and there may be an optional extension involving group travel to other sites. These particulars will be decided when we have a definite list of participants. Participants may also arrange their own independent travel before or after the course.

In any case, students are responsible for obtaining all documents necessary, meeting all conditions of travel and all payment deadlines. **You should plan for a flight arrival time before 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, and a departure time after 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11.**

Living and Transport

Participants will be housed in dormitory-style bunkhouses or platform tent accommodations at our base at the [Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary](#) and field research station located approximately 30 miles from the Belize International Airport. We will spend several days and nights at other field sites in the mountains and on offshore islands. Accommodations at all sites are basic but safe, secure and clean. You should expect and be prepared for hot and humid tropical conditions. We will use school buses or vans for land travel, canoes for river transport and boats for sea travel to offshore locations.

Passport Information and Entry Requirements for Belize

Your passport must be valid three months beyond intended stay. If not, you will need to obtain a new one or renewal. Passport applications are available at most post offices. Do not delay—allow several weeks to make sure you have your passport in advance of departure.

You must present tickets and documents for return or onward travel. No visa is required for stays up to 30 days, and extensions may be obtained at the Immigration offices in Belize.

Health and Vaccination Information

Yellow Fever Vaccination: International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is required upon arrival if traveling from an infected area.

For all health requirements and recommendations, travelers should check with a local Department of Health clinic or U.S Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) located in Atlanta, GA.

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information

You may be able to obtain financial aid for study abroad to help pay for portions of this trip. Contact Angel Rosa in the College's Financial Aid office for specifics. You may make a personal appointment with Mr. Rosa by e-mailing him at arosa@ccp.edu or calling him at 215-751-8272.

The College offers two study abroad scholarships in the amount of \$500 each.

For More Information

Please contact Mr. Chris DiCapua, Study Abroad coordinator, office B2-22F, at 215-751-8640 or cdicapua@ccp.edu. You may also contact associate professor Margaret Stephens, office W3-12, at 215-751-8869 or mstephens@ccp.edu.