



Coral Reef Biology and Ecology

Dec. 27, 2015 - Jan. 16, 2016

Winter Session Program

Roatan, Bay Islands of Honduras



- *Hands-on, experiential learning*
- *Total immersion education*
- *Living biology and ecology*
- *Tropical island environment*
- *Swim with dolphins*
- *Science and non-science majors*
- *Scuba diving*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Coral reefs are among the largest, most diverse, beautiful, and endangered ecosystems on earth. One of the world's most impressive coral reef systems is in the western Caribbean, along the coast of Central America, and one of the most accessible parts of this reef is found close to shore on the island of Roatan, the largest of the three Bay Islands, 30 miles off the coast of Honduras.

This three-week program is a hands-on, experiential educational opportunity, an alternative to the usual on-campus course, and total-immersion in the subject and environment.

Study the biology and ecology of the living reef and live organisms; learn about the organisms that form the reef and live on it; and experience an entire ecosystem firsthand – the living coral reef. Immerse yourself in the environment and culture of a tropical Caribbean island and swim with dolphins.

TOPICS INCLUDE

- Coral reef ecology
- Biology and identification of corals
- Reef fish and invertebrates
- Coral reef monitoring techniques
- Field sampling methods
- Human impacts and threats to coral reefs
- Sea turtles
- Dolphin behavior

- Marine algae
- Mangrove and sea grass ecology
- Bay Islands culture

SCUBA DIVING

This course involves scuba diving. It will be possible to learn to scuba dive during the program, or to complete the open-water dives for a scuba course taken in advance.

STUDENT COMMENTS

"It was one of the best collections of memories I will ever have.... It is truly something I will never, ever forget." --Brianna Stasiak ('14)

"I can't even put into words how much that trip has changed who I want to be and how I see the world. Thank you for that once in a lifetime experience and wonderful memories." – Alison Kraus ('14)

"Truly the best way to learn. Nobody wanted to come back and everyone wants to go back." --Michael Lew ('13)

"This program was unquestionably the best experience of my life...." --Amanda Stigliano ('13)

"It's been one of the best experiences of my life... I learned a ton...." --Greg Smith ('12)

"This trip has forever changed my life. I never thought I'd ever learn this much about marine biology...." --Elizabeth Frankini ('12)

"I'm so glad I got the chance to go diving in such beautiful places...." --Molly Pelavin ('12)

"It has been so unbelievable.... I'll never forget this trip...." --Kelly Garrison ('12)

FACILITIES

The educational program takes place at the Roatan Institute for Marine Science (RIMS), which has modern classrooms, laboratories, and an excellent staff of experts. Boats specially equipped for scuba diving are used for the field work, with experienced captains and divemasters.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students live and eat at Anthony's Key Resort (on the same grounds as RIMS). Rooms are simple but comfortable cabins with decks and hammocks, on the water or on the hillside with an ocean view. Three meals per day are included, and the food is excellent and varied, with choices at every meal (vegetarians are accommodated). Several recreational opportunities are available, including kayaking and horseback riding.

ELIGIBILITY

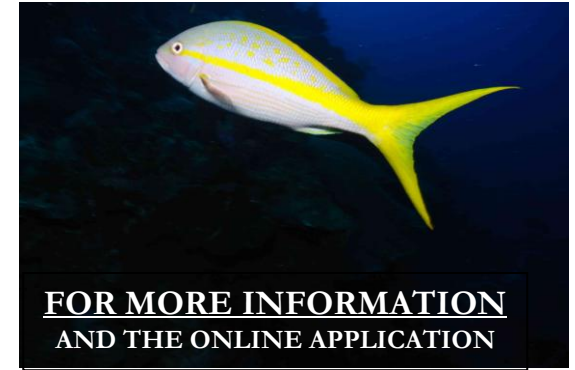
Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors with a GPA of at least 2.5; above average maturity, no disciplinary history; physically capable and healthy enough for scuba diving and boat work; must be able to swim, comfortable in the water, and willing to scuba dive in the ocean and from boats; scuba divers must be certified (or become certified during the program). Instruction is in English, which is also generally spoken in Roatan; Spanish is not required.

Counts as upper-level elective for Purchase Biology and Environmental Studies majors.

Satisfies the SUNY General Education requirement in Natural Science, and counts toward the required 30 Gen. Ed. credits.

COST

Please refer to the Honduras program website for program costs. All costs are subject to change. Space is limited to 15 students, so please submit your application as early as possible. A \$200 non-refundable deposit is due upon acceptance. It may be possible to apply existing financial aid awards; see the Financial Aid office on your campus.



APPLICATIONS

Apply now! Students are accepted as applications are completed, and the course will be closed as soon as the limited spaces are filled. Apply online as early as possible.

Course Description and Application:

[Program web page and application](#)

For Help with Application Process Contact:

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For Academic Questions Contact:

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