

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
COSTA RICA SUMMER PROGRAM



PROGRAM
HANDBOOK/NEWSLETTER
Summer 2017

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Introduction

Welcome to our Costa Rica International Human Rights Law Summer Program!

If you are receiving this message, it means that you have registered for a wonderful learning experience in beautiful Costa Rica. If you have not yet done so, please read through all the program information contained on our Costa Rica program [website](#). This handbook is intended to provide you with the additional information you will need as you travel to and study in Costa Rica. As always, please let us know if we can answer any other questions for you.

The Country of Costa Rica

Costa Rica is unique among Latin American countries. It has no standing army. Following the Civil War of 1948, it adopted a constitution prohibiting maintenance of a national army. It does, however, have the equivalent of a National Guard. From that time, Costa Rica has concentrated its efforts on the education of its citizens. Costa Rica has one of the highest rates of literacy in Latin America. Indeed, former president, Oscar Arias, received the Nobel Prize for peace in 1987 for his efforts in bringing peace to the countries of Central America.

These facts, along with a stable, democratic government and fully evolved legal system, have made Costa Rica a thriving commercial and popular tourist and student destination. Excellent language schools cater to those who would like to learn or improve their Spanish. Costa Rica has lovely beaches and outstanding rain forests. Costa Rica is about the size of West Virginia. Over 11% of Costa Rica's land is protected in parks. In addition, the weather, though tropical and sometimes quite rainy in the afternoons (especially during the time of our program), is very agreeable in the Central Highlands where San José and our program are located. Rainfall averages about 12 inches per month, with the rainiest season falling between May and October.

San José is a city of approximately 350,000 people and occupies approximately 18 square miles. Located in the central highlands, San José is backed by Mt. Irazú, a volcano over 11,260 feet high. Mt. Irazu last erupted in 1963 shortly after President Kennedy's visit to Costa Rica. Due to the benign weather, small farms dot the sides of the volcano almost to its peak.

The national currency is the *colón*. At present the exchange rate is approximately 565 *colones* to the dollar. You may verify the current exchange rate [here](#).

Partly because of its location, and partly because of its stable political history, Costa Rica has become the hub of human rights activity in Latin America. San José is the home of the [Inter-American Court of Human Rights](#), the pinnacle of the Inter-American system for the protection and promotion of human rights in the region. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has adjudicatory jurisdiction over disputes involving charges that a state party has violated the human rights guaranteed by the American Convention on Human Rights and other regional human rights instruments. It also has advisory jurisdiction to interpret the American Convention and other

human rights instruments at the request of Organization of American States member states or various OAS organs.

Within a five-minute walk are numerous related institutions, including the [Inter-American Institute of Human Rights](#), the [Center for Justice and International Law](#), the [University of Costa Rica](#) (which has over 30,000 full-time students), and others. The office of the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) is also in San José, and the [University for Peace](#) (founded by a United Nations resolution and specializing in international dispute resolution) lies just outside the nearby town of Ciudad Colon.

Instructors

[Professor Francisco Rivera](#) is a human rights attorney from Puerto Rico who specializes in the Inter-American Human Rights System. Prior to joining Santa Clara University School of Law as founding director of the law school's International Human Rights Clinic and as co-director of its Costa Rica and Geneva Summer Programs on Human Rights, Francisco was a senior staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the Organization of American States seated in Costa Rica, where he was also director of that court's internship program. In the late 1990s, he also served as Executive Director of the Amnesty International Section in Puerto Rico. He has been a consultant for a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as for the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR). Francisco has worked on several cases and thematic hearings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights involving a range of issues throughout the region, including the right to nationality in the Dominican Republic, the right to water in Costa Rica and the U.S., and the death penalty, human trafficking, and special education in Puerto Rico. Francisco has also submitted numerous *amici curiae* briefs before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as well as stakeholder and shadow reports before the United Nations. His publications and research include issues such as indigenous land rights, human trafficking, inclusive education, corporate and individual responsibility for human rights violations before both domestic and international fora, violence against women, and civil society participation through *amicus curiae* briefs before international courts. He chairs a civil society committee looking to draft a new United Nations treaty on violence against women. He has taught courses on Public International Law, International Courts, and International Human Rights Law, and writes regularly for [Corte IDH Blog](#) on recent developments before the Inter-American Human Rights System.

[Professor Claudia Josi](#) is an Adjunct Professor at Santa Clara where she teaches International Humanitarian Law and Transitional Justice. She has also served as Director of Santa Clara's Geneva Summer Program on International Public and International Human Rights Law since 2012. She is a Swiss-Peruvian lawyer specialized in international human rights law, humanitarian law and transitional justice issues and has extensive experience working with civil society, government and international institutions engaged in post-conflict management in Latin America, Europe and North Africa. Before joining SCU, she worked on behalf of Peruvian victims who seek reparations and justice for the crimes committed by the state during the armed conflict. In Bolivia, Peru and

Venezuela, she assisted in the creation of good governance protocols aimed at developing more responsive and participatory public administrations. From 2008 to 2010 she was an attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica. Most recently, she worked in Tunisia and Algeria as consultant to local human rights groups and victims organizations within the context of the “Arab Spring”. She is a guest professor on human rights, humanitarian law and transitional justice at the Inter American University, in Puerto Rico, and the World Peace Academy, in Switzerland. Since 2008 she has served as the director of the working group on transitional justice of the Latin-American Society for International Law (LASIL).

Guest speakers also include staff attorneys from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the regional director of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and staff attorneys from the Center for Justice and International Law.

Academic Program - Dates

May 22—June 09 (Human Rights course) (4 units)

Location of Classes

During the first two weeks, classes will meet at the [Inter-American Institute of Human Rights](#). You should plan to arrive in Costa Rica on Saturday, May 20th, so that you have time on Sunday to become acclimated and find the location of the Institute. The third week’s classes are held at the Inter-American Court and at CEJIL (detailed program to follow).

Please be aware that most buildings in San Jose do not have addresses – at least not in the conventional sense. The Institute is located [here](#) at 222 8th Ave, but locals will know the address as “Barrio Los Yoses, one block (or 100 meters) south of Ave. Central (also called Paseo Ruben Dario) and about 3-4 blocks (or 300 meters) west of the Inter-American Court”.

Human Rights Law Course

The syllabus and other information about the course are posted on our online portal (that you used to apply for the program).

The Costa Rican Language Academy – Classes and Support

Spanish language classes are offered at the Costa Rican Language Academy, located [here](#), which is a 5-10 minute walk from the Institute. If you are taking a taxi to CRLA the “address” is: Barrio Dent, from Autos Hyundai (*antiguo* Subaru), 300 meters north and 50 meters west on Calle Ronda.

If you are near the San Pedro Mall, CRLA's address is: From the Mall San Pedro's north entrance 175 meters west. The Academy also offers extracurricular courses in dance, cooking, and Spanish conversation. Ms. Cristina Soto, director of the academy, will be your Spanish speaking local director who can assist with a variety of matters relating to your stay in Costa Rica. For more information about CRLA, see [here](#).

The Academy places students in classes according to their level of proficiency in Spanish, from beginner to fluent. Students who are fluent are given special instruction in legal Spanish.

In addition, CRLA personnel are a wonderful resource for services such as information and reservations for weekend trips and for excursions to cultural and legal institutions.

CRLA also provides computers and internet for student use during regular business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Externships

Students who have elected to do an externship in Costa Rica, Mexico, Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic will begin the externship following the Human Rights Law course. During the Human Rights Law course, externs are required to also attend classes in Spanish offered by CRLA.

Externships impose certain academic and professional responsibilities on the extern. Under ABA guidelines, students must submit guided reflections to the Santa Clara Law Program Director on the student's field placement experience. In addition, the director will schedule a meeting with the extern supervisor and the extern to discuss the expectations of both and to ensure that the externship meets the content and experiential goals of the program. These meetings and the reflective pieces are mandatory to earn credit for the externship. The externship supervisor must also evaluate the student's performance in the externship, verify that the requisite number of hours were worked, and submit his or her evaluation to the Director. Santa Clara Law requires a minimum of 50 hours of supervised legal work per unit of credit for each externship.

The expectation of an extern is full-time work for the period of the externship (e.g., 40 hours or more a week of supervised legal work), but different arrangement can be made with your supervisor. Generally, externs work five days per week, but some supervisors may require weekend work. While 50 hours per unit is the minimum required to earn credit, students committing to an externship must fulfill the entire externship commitment to earn any credit. This will often mean much more than the minimum number of hours per credit. To have a meaningful experience, and to be of value to the externship organization, applicants should be ready to commit to working in the externship for the remainder of the summer. End dates may vary. The externship supervisor and the extern may agree as a private matter to a longer period if they so desire.

The field supervisor at the externship placement assigns, directs, supervises, and evaluates the extern's daily work and establishes the days, hours, and conditions of work. The extern is expected to honor the direction and supervision of the supervisor.

Externs are expected to be professionally dressed. Supervisors will inform externs of the standards. Externs should bring (or be prepared to purchase) suitable attire if necessary.

Final credit for an externship is conditioned upon the student working the minimum number of hours of documented supervised legal work, securing satisfactory evaluations of the quality of the legal work by field supervisors, attending all required externship integration seminars, and maintaining acceptable reflective journals. It is the student's responsibility to insure that he or she has completed the required 50 hours of work for each academic credit.

Unsatisfactory performance by an extern, as determined by the field supervisor, sponsor, or program director can result in termination of the externship with no or reduced credit and no refund of tuition.

Field supervisors assign letter grade evaluations to externs (A - F). The grade of "C" or higher is considered satisfactory for which credit can be awarded. The letter grade of the field supervisor cannot be reflected on the transcript of a Santa Clara Law student. However, Santa Clara Law will provide a letter grade on the Santa Clara transcript of all non-Santa Clara Law students based upon the evaluation of the field supervisor.

A student undertaking an externship is making a professional commitment. Thus, failure without reasonable cause, to fulfill externship obligations is an academic, and sometimes an ethical, violation. Program credit, without tuition refund, may be denied to those who leave an externship, for any reason, before completion of that commitment, or who fail to fulfill their externship responsibilities as determined by the field supervisor and program director.

Note: No refund of tuition can be made if the student fails to complete the necessary field work for any reason, including the student's illness, injury, or other impediments. Only if the student is prohibited from meeting the requirements by actions of Santa Clara Law or the field placement supervisor will a partial tuition refund request be considered.

Externs are enrolled in a Santa Clara University educational program for which they receive academic credit for their work. Externs are not employed by Santa Clara University or by the sponsoring institution. American Bar Association accrediting requirements and Santa Clara Law regulations provide that externs cannot receive compensation for their activity. Moreover, receipt of compensation by an extern may violate employment and immigration laws of the host country and could result in civil or criminal sanctions.

Note:

- Law schools have different requirements with respect to granting or transferring academic credit for externships. *The student is solely responsible for ascertaining and satisfying all the requirements for the credit, including externship credit being granted, transferred, or honored at the student's home institution.* Each student should ascertain the home school's requirements prior to applying for the program.

Housing during the externship: Externships are often performed at field locations, which may be

a distance from the earlier classroom component of the program. Accordingly, housing is not arranged or provided for externs. However, field placement supervisors and Santa Clara Law personnel usually can provide assistance in securing convenient accommodations during the externship.

Safety

Costa Rica has enjoyed a reputation as one of the safest countries in Latin America. Nevertheless, San José is a large city with all the problems that flow from that fact. Tourists, as in many places, may be particular targets for theft.

In general, students should practice good safety caution, observing the following guidelines:

- Do not wear expensive jewelry or carry expensive items that are readily visible. This includes iphones or other smartphones, ipads or computers. Try not to talk on the phone while walking around or make sure you're watching your surroundings.
- Do not carry large amounts of money.
- When withdrawing money from an ATM, be alert and cautious.
- Do not travel alone; be sure to walk in groups of at least two.
- Even in a group, do not walk about at night; take taxis instead. Use only registered taxis that are called by the hotel, restaurant, or host.
- Do not carry your passport. Leave it in a hotel safe or in a locker at CRLA. Instead, carry a photocopy of the passport.
- Make copies of other important and difficult to replace documents, such as your driver's license, credit cards, prescriptions for medication, airline tickets and itineraries.
- When traveling, take as little luggage as possible and watch your bags at all times. If bags are put in the overhead rack, be sure they are visible at all times. Bags should not be left unattended and should be put on one's lap if intending to sleep. Students should not give their bags to anybody (even people who offer to help.)
- Always keep an eye on any valuable items (bag, luggage, camera, etc.).
- Carry your wallet or purse in a secure place.
- It is a good idea to split up money and credit cards and carry them in different places.
- Keep alert. Be aware of who is around and what they are doing. Thieves often work in teams. One or two will distract you while a third takes off with your purse, camera or wallet.
- Carry your student card with CRLA's number and a card with the director's number on it in case of emergencies.
- Be wary of strangers and do not accept help from people you don't know. Be especially wary of overly-friendly members of the opposite sex.
- Costa Rica is near the equator, so the sun sets early.
- Bring a flashlight as there are few streetlights at night.

For those of you doing home stays, we believe that host families are honest, but other people may visit the home—relatives, children, maids, gardeners, repairmen, etc. It is best to leave cash or other valuables locked in the largest suitcase in the home. Use the same precautions that you

would use in a hotel room. Do not leave money or valuables under the pillow, in a drawer, or lying about in the bedroom.

For current State Department travel warnings, visit [here](#).

Computers, Telephones, Mail

Computers for internet access are available at CRLA. Printing, however, is not available. For these services you may have to go to an internet café (there are several nearby) or to Office Depot.

Students must be discreet about their personal computers when walking in the street and secure it in their room as they would in a U.S. hotel. It is recommended that students back up their data before going to Costa Rica and occasionally email class notes to themselves, just in case.

Students may purchase prepaid phones at local stores or buy telephone cards that work from every regular phone at CRLA's front desk. For homestays, students may ask their "mama ticas" if they may use the house phone, using their telephone cards. Students can also rent a phone in Costa Rica, although rates may be substantially higher than wireless rates in the U.S. Many students use internet access to communicate with family and friends during their stay in Costa Rica. For example, students often use Whatsapp to make calls when connected to a wi-fi signal. There is wi-fi in the classroom. Students can also buy a prepaid SIM card at a local store in San Jose and use it in their own unlocked phones.

Students may also purchase stamps at CRLA's front desk, and may leave stamped mail there for posting. Students may also pick up mail at the desk, but mail is so slow that anything sent from the states is likely to arrive after the end of the program.

Students should check with their wireless phone service provider before leaving the U.S. about whether the wireless phone will work in Costa Rica. They may have to make special arrangements or pay extra fees to the wireless carrier for service in Costa Rica. Ask your wireless provider about international plans to confirm that they include calls, texts and wireless internet access FROM Costa Rica to the U.S., not just from the U.S. to international destinations. The Costa Rican telephone company charges substantial roaming fees. Check with the wireless company about their fees and the roaming fees. It may be necessary to take out the SIM card to avoid roaming charges from a U.S.-based mobile phone.

Money

Students should bring enough money with them for the entire program or make other arrangements (e.g., ATM access). There are several ATMs at the mall (a shopping mall near CRLA). We recommend going to the ATM in pairs and being aware of the surroundings when withdrawing money. In addition to the local currency (colones), most stores and restaurants also accept U.S. dollars.

Credit cards can be a convenient back up (VISA, MasterCard, American Express). These are accepted in most places, thus reducing the need for cash. Students should make sure that someone at the address to which the monthly statements are sent will be paying the bills or arrange to pay credit card bills via the internet. There is usually a competitive exchange rate using credit cards. This usually off-sets any fee the card company may impose for the conversion. Have the number for reporting theft of the credit card in a handy place in case it is stolen. Remember that toll-free “800” telephone numbers will not work in Costa Rica, so call the credit card company to obtain a number to call from abroad.

There is an exchange window at the airport, so it is not necessary to bring colones. It is recommended to exchange only a small amount of dollars to colones at the airport, as the exchange rate is not as favorable as elsewhere. We recommend the use of ATMs to withdraw colones from your bank account.

Although you may request CRLA to pick you up at the airport, you could also choose to take a taxi instead. The taxi will accept U.S. dollars. There are official taxis at the airport. In the past, the rate from the airport to downtown was approximately \$22-\$26.

Medical care and facilities for the disabled

Students are responsible for their own health care insurance. While we provide emergency insurance that covers emergency trips to the hospital (and other travel related costs), students must independently ensure that they are sufficiently insured by their own health policies while they are traveling, including repatriation if necessary. If you have a medical emergency while in Costa Rica, you should [contact ACE](#) (Santa Clara's travel health assistance services) at [1-855-327-1414](#) (Toll-Free), or [1-630-694-9764](#) (Direct Dial). ACE can assist you in getting the services you need. Santa Clara University's policy number is ADDN0484905AR.

Students should check with their physician for possible inoculations they may want to consider. San José is relatively free from mosquitoes and the water is reputed safe to drink. If, however, they intend to travel or trek in the jungle and rainforest sections of Costa Rica, they should discuss this with their health care provider. Costa Rica does not, however, require proof of inoculation as a condition of entering the country, if you are coming from the U.S. and have not travelled abroad recently. Please be take all precautions to avoid mosquito bites, in light of the recent Zika and Chikungunya virus concerns. Bring mosquito repellants!!!

For more information about health conditions in Costa Rica, visit:

- The Center for Disease Control’s web site for [Central America](#).
- The State Department’s Travel Information for Costa Rica ([here](#) and [here](#)).
- The State Department’s [Medical Information for Americans Traveling Abroad](#)

Should students become ill in Costa Rica, please let the on-site director know as soon as possible.

We recommend the following institutions in San José for medical care:

- CIMA San José. This clinic is only a few blocks from CRLA and the Court. They speak English and claim a relationship with Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Their telephone number is 2208-1800, and their fax is 2208-1899. The directions are:
 - In Spanish: Boulevard de Los Yoses, 100 metros oeste de la Rotonda de Law Hispanidad o 50 m. este del Bar Rio.
 - In English: Boulevard Los Yoses, 100 meters West from the “La Hispanidad” round point, or 50 meters East from the “Rio” bar.
- Hospital Clínica Bíblica:
Calle central y primera, Avenidas 14 16
Apartado 1307-1000 San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 2522-1000 Fax: (506) 221-0645
Email: info@clinicabiblica.com
<http://www.edenia.com/medical/biblica.htm>

Prescriptions--Take sufficient amounts of your required prescription drugs with you. Get copies of your prescription(s) using the generic name of the drug, so that you can obtain the prescriptions in Costa Rica, if necessary.

There are also pharmacies at the Mall San Pedro, near the Court.

Glasses/Contacts--Take an extra pair; lost or broken glasses or contacts can be difficult to replace. Take a supply of cleaning solutions for contact lenses. You can find this solution in San José, but it is much more expensive than in the US.

Medical Alert-- In case of specific allergies which are debilitating or life-threatening, or if you have a medical condition that is not immediately apparent or easily identifiable (such as diabetes, allergies to drugs, epilepsy), wear a medic alert bracelet obtained from [Medic Alert Foundation](#). Also, notify the Director and your friends in the program.

A smallpox vaccination is no longer required for reentering the United States. Yellow fever and cholera vaccinations are required if you visit an infected area. Normally, this would not include Costa Rica, but may include other travel destinations. On the basis of your particular travel plans, check this requirement with your local health office or the nearest Public Health Service facility.

Disabilities— Regrettably, San José, and other parts of Costa Rica, are not user-friendly for some disabilities, particularly for those who may be wheelchair-bound. Unramped street corners and staircases abound, and there are few elevators. Many shops and restaurants are still difficult to enter. Students for whom this would present any problem should contact the Director to discuss accommodations. Please note that many of the accommodations commonly made available in the

United States may be very difficult to obtain in Costa Rica. Here is a [website](#) that students can use to help plan if they have disabilities.

Please contact the SCU Director directly to discuss any accommodation requests.

Passports and Visa Requirements

Individuals must have a current United States passport to enter both Costa Rica and the United States. The passport should be valid for at least another six months from the date of entry. If it is not, students should renew it prior to departure. Students can obtain passports from any passport agency office, located in most large cities. This will involve the completion of application forms, supplying two passport photos, and the payment of a fee. **Applying for the passport should not be postponed to the last minute, since it usually takes at least two or three weeks to process the application, especially in the spring.** (In an emergency, the passport office has in the past been willing to undertake "rush" service for an extra fee.) If students already have a passport, they must check its expiration date to ensure it will be valid during their stay in Costa Rica.

For U.S. citizens staying for 90 days or fewer, acquiring a visa prior to departure is not required to visit Costa Rica. The passport is merely stamped at the airport, and it is valid for 90 days from the date of entry. Students may be asked to show their return ticket. The current rules, as published by our State Department, can be found [here](#) and [here](#), and include:

- For entry into Costa Rica, U.S. citizens must present valid passports that will not expire for at least thirty days after arrival, and a roundtrip/outbound ticket. Some U.S. airlines may not permit passengers to board flights to Costa Rica without such a ticket. Passports should be in good condition; Costa Rican immigration will deny entry if the passport is damaged in any way.
- Costa Rican authorities generally permit U.S. citizens to stay up to ninety days; to stay beyond the period granted, travelers must submit an application for an extension to the Office of Temporary Permits in the Costa Rican Department of Immigration. Students arriving early and staying for an externship, must be sure not to overstay the 90 days without making appropriate arrangements. Tourist visas are usually not extended except under special circumstances, and extension requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Tourists who stay over ninety days may experience a delay at the airport when departing. Persons who overstayed previously may be denied entry to Costa Rica.

The most authoritative and up-to-date information on Costa Rican entry and exit requirements may be obtained from the Consular Section of the Embassy of Costa Rica at 2114 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC 20008, telephone (202) 234-2945/46, fax (202) 265-4795, e-mail consulate@costarica-embassy.org, [web site](#) or from the Costa Rican consulates in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, San Juan (Puerto Rico), San Francisco, and Tampa. This is the Costa Rican immigration agency [web site](#). It is advisable to contact the Embassy of Costa Rica in Washington or one of Costa Rica's consulates in the United States for specific information regarding customs requirements before shipping any items.

For entry/exit requirements, safety, travel tips and other important information about Costa Rica,

students should read the Consular Information Sheet on the U.S. Department of State [website](#).

NOTE: AIRPORT TAX UPON DEPARTURE. Travelers must pay an airport tax at the airport prior to leaving. Last year, this fee has been \$26 or the equivalent in colones. Have enough cash or a credit card at the airport to pay this, and allow a little extra time to go through the line at the airport tax counter.

Weekend travel and extracurricular activities

Weekend tours may be arranged at the front desk of CRLA. Likewise you may ask for maps, schedules, bus tickets and other tourist information at the front desk. They are very well informed and very helpful.

For more information about traveling in Costa Rica students can visit the State Department's web site containing [tips for travel](#) in Central and South America.

A couple of students in past years have been injured in "zip-line" accidents. While a very popular activity, we caution you to use extreme caution when riding a zip-line.

Program requirements concerning student conduct

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to be present at the beginning of the program, including on-site orientations. Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is required. Roll may be taken. Students are expected to participate in site visits to institutions that are part of the educational program. Students must remain in residence for the entire program and complete examinations and other required work as scheduled. Excessive absences will subject students to removal from the program, without refund. As a general rule, failure to attend more than 20% of scheduled classes or other academic activity, including site visits, is considered excessive. Directors may have additional expectations, which are outlined at the beginning of the program.

Conduct and Behavior

Academic and Personal Honesty: Participants must observe the highest standards of academic and personal honesty. Dishonesty, plagiarism, or other unprofessional behavior may result in dismissal from the program without credit and without refund. Failure to fulfill externship commitments is considered an academic, and sometimes an ethical, violation.

Local Law: Conduct acceptable, or at least not illegal, in the United States may be serious offenses in some cultures, possibly resulting in civil or criminal penalties. Participants are expected to comply with the letter and spirit of these laws, rules, and customs. Adapting to different cultures is a critical aspect of the foreign educational experience.

Students are responsible for obeying all of the laws of the country. Penalties are often much tougher than in the U.S. We cannot intervene if a student is arrested or prosecuted for violation of local laws, including laws on drug use and disturbances of the peace.

Do not count on the American Consulate or Embassy to assist you except in a superficial advisory capacity. The address of the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica is:

Apartado 920-1200 Pavas
San José, Costa Rica
(506) 220-3939

Participation and Professionalism: Programs all involve site visits to courts and political institutions. Participants are expected to participate in these visits and conduct themselves at all times in a dignified and professional manner.

Dress and Attire: Dress for classes is informal, much like a similar class in the United States. However, participants should bring business attire for special occasions. Students who are doing externships should check with their employers to learn about appropriate dress for their externships.

Student Housing

Housing is the responsibility of the student. Many students opt to book their housing through online housing rental websites like AirBnB and Home Away. We recommend that you connect with other students through our program Facebook page and consider booking something together.

Another option is for students to stay with families who live within a 10-30 minute bus ride from the Institute, Court and CRLA. After the students register with Santa Clara, they fill out the CRLA registration form and may make arrangements for a homestay directly with CRLA at: www.spanishandmore.com Students pay CRLA directly for the homestay. In the past, homestays were generally about USD 20/day, including breakfast and dinner and laundry.

To a limited extent, the homestay may be tailored to the student (e.g., if the student speaks little or no Spanish, families who can communicate in English may be made available.)

Homestays are very economical and add to the student's cultural immersion. If students select a homestay, they must stay with the family for at least the first two weeks of the program. If they intend to stay in Costa Rica longer (e.g., for an externship), they must decide during the first two weeks whether they want to continue with the homestay or move to other housing. The reason for this is that June and July are the high season for CRLA, and they must be able to make commitments to their homestay families.

Those who do not wish a homestay may consider one of a number of hostels, hotels, and apartment houses. See information below entitled "Some Possible Non-Homestay Housing Options." Rates should be verified, because they can change with the season, the length of stay, and the year.

Frequently Asked Questions about homestays:

- Guests are not permitted in the house without the family's permission. Absolutely no overnight guests are allowed.
- Students will be given a key so they may come and go as they please. However, they must make sure to inform the host if they will be coming home late at night, if they are going away for the weekend, or if they will not be taking either breakfast or dinner with the host.
- Meals are basic Costa Rican cuisine. It tends to be bland and not spicy. For special dietary needs, or vegetarian, it is necessary to give to the host a list of suggestions.
- Because the weather is never very cold and electricity is expensive, most families have electrical attachments in their showers instead of heated water tanks. These devices take a little getting used to and usually provide a low water flow. The less the flow, the warmer the water will be. Most homes do not have hot water in the sinks.
- Although the host will clean the room and the bathroom, it is appropriate to keep it tidy.
- As in most Latin American countries, the sewage system is very old, water pressure is low, and pipelines are narrow. Therefore it is very common to find a trashcan next to the toilet. This means: DO NOT throw tissue paper in the toilet. Use the trashcan (or ask the host about the appropriate conduct).
- Students must supply their own towels. If they do not have a towel, CRLA can lend them one.

Some Non-Homestay Housing Options

Note: Rates are not quoted here, as the information is available on the various websites.

CASA CAMBRANES LODGE

Nice 12-room hotel right next door to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. This hotel is founded and managed by a retired professor and Fulbright scholar who has written several books on the relationship between economic policies and agrarian practices, including *Café y Campesinos en Guatemala*. Includes breakfast and wireless internet access. Tel (506) 2253-8858, <http://www.casacambranes.com/>

BEKUO HOSTEL

325 m oeste Spoon Los Yoses
San José, Costa Rica
Tel: (506) 2234-1091
Email: info@hostelbekuo.com
www.hostelbekuo.com

This is a very comfortable "Hostel," not at all like the grungy dorms one might expect. It is also one block from the Institute where we have our classes. Rooms include breakfast. Internet access available. Inexpensive. A number of our students have stayed there.

COSTA RICA BACKPACKERS

Hostel, share rooms (for 4 – max. 10 max). Located on Ave. 6, Calles 21 & 23, NE corner of Supreme Court, 100 m. east. Rates per person in dormitory with locker: from \$13/night. Has swimming pool, garden. Tel (506) 2221-6191, Fax 2223-2406

www.costaricabackpackers.com

<http://www.costaricabackpackers.com/>

HOSTEL CASA YOSSES

This is a hostel with shared rooms, about 8 to the room. It is across the street from the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and about a block from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. There is a kitchen, free parking, free local calls, and free internet (including wireless) and lockers.

www.casayoses.com

Tel (506) 2234-5486 or (506) 2839-2165

HOTEL DON FADRIQUE

Nice bed & breakfast located in a residential area. Very nice gardens. About 5 blocks from the school. Three blocks from the Institute. They may give a discount for a long stay. Breakfast included. Info@hotelDonFadrique, Tel (506) 2225-8186

<http://www.hoteldonfadrique.com/>

HOTEL LE BERGERAC

Small 18 room full service hotel in quiet residential area. Rooms with private bathroom, cable TV and security boxes. Excellent but expensive French restaurant located in hotel. About 5 blocks from the school. Special rates with discount. Breakfast included.

Tel (506) 2234-7850, <http://www.bergerachotel.com/>

HOTEL AVE DEL PARAISO

Quiet Bed & Breakfast near the University of Costa Rica campus. Comfortable rooms & nice garden. Run by a family. About 10 blocks from the school. Cable TV, free internet, superior and deluxe rooms available.

Tel (506) 2225-8515 www.hotelavedelparaiso.com

<http://www.hotelavedelparaiso.com/>

HOTEL LAS ORQUIDEAS

Small hotel located on Central Avenue, 4 blocks from the academy. Simple but nice tropical atmosphere. Friendly, helpful staff. Special rates for longer stays. Tel (506) 2283-0095

<http://www.lasorquideashotel.com/>

<http://www.lasorquideashotel.com/>

HOTEL 1492 JADE Y ORO

Beautifully decorated, 10-room Bed & Breakfast located about 8 blocks away from the academy. Quiet area. Nice comfortable rooms and bathrooms. Tropical gardens and colonial style architecture. Includes typical breakfast and afternoon glass of wine. Discounts may be available for longer stays. Tel (506) 2225 3752, Fax (506) 2280-6206, www.hotel1492.com
<http://www.hotel1492.com/>

HOTEL BOUTIQUE JADE

Small 20-room full service hotel located in residential area, with air conditioned rooms, cable TV, swimming pool and bar. Quiet area. Located just a block around the corner from the school. Breakfast included. Tel (506) 2224-2455, www.hotelboutiquejade.com
<http://www.hotelboutiquejade.com/>

APARTOTEL LOS YOSSES

Only one 2 bedroom apartment: 1 double bed plus 2 twin size beds. One room apartments with two beds and a small bed in living room, and two bedroom apartments. Maid service, stove and refrigerator, air conditioning, hot water, cable TV, telephone, security boxes, swimming pool and parking. The rooms are not luxurious but the pool is nice and there are many shops, restaurants, bars, etc. in the neighborhood. Some of the rooms facing the street are noisy. Located just 5 blocks from the school. Laundry service provided at extra charge. Special rates for CRLA students (will apply 15% or 10% discount). Tel (506) 2225-0033, www.apartotel.com

SCOTLAND APARTMENTS

Nice and totally furnished one bedroom apartments. Have small living-dining room, stove, refrigerator, hot water, cable TV, no air conditioning. No maid service included. Located about 8 blocks from the school. Monthly and weekly rates. Tel (506) 2223-0033.
<http://www.hotels.co.cr/scotland.html>
<http://www.hotels.co.cr/scotland.html>

TAIRONA INN

Nice and totally furnished apartments, available for 1 to 5 persons. It is, however, near the railroad tracks and some nightclubs. It can be quite noisy with multiple freight trains running nearby throughout the early morning and during the day. With private bathroom, hot water, stove and refrigerator, telephone, some with living and dining area. Laundry area available. Tel (506) 2253-7141, www.taironainn.com

Food

Breakfast and dinner, 7 days per week are at the homestay. Lunch is out. CRLA has reasonably-priced sandwiches, and there are a number of local restaurants. Food ranges from very economical (e.g., approximately \$2.50 for a lunch sandwich at CRLA's small café) to regular city prices.

Laundry, drugstores, and bookstores

For students living in a homestay, your host family will wash the clothes and bedding. Students should personally wash delicate items and personal items such as underwear in the sink. Most families do not own a dryer, so clothes must be dried in the sun. Students cannot expect the clothes to be clean and dry by the next day. Especially during the rainy season (May—October), clothes may take a few days to be completely dry.

For students living in other types of housing, there are laundries where you can drop off your clothes and return later to pick them up.

There is a good drug store across the street from the Court.

Bookstores are in the San Pedro Mall, two blocks from the Court.

Driving and transportation in Costa Rica

Some homestays and many non-homestay options are within walking distance. Some homestays may require a bus ride of between 10 and 20 minutes (longer during rush hour). Taxis are also an option. The homestay host will usually accompany the student on the first day to walk him or her through the process of getting on and off of the correct bus.

From the airport: If a student has arranged for a homestay through CRLA, the student should arrange with CRLA, via email, to be picked up at the airport and taken to the homestay. Note that this airport pick-up option is not available to students who have not arranged for a homestay through CRLA.

It is easiest and safest (especially after dark) to move around San José by taxi. Students should budget several dollars per day for taxi service. Taxis are very reasonable. Ask that the taxi driver use “la Maria,” the meter in the taxi. In the past, taxis were about 310 colones on flag drop, plus a reasonable amount per kilometer. Sometimes late at night taxis will refuse to use the “Maria.” If you cannot find one that will use the “Maria,” then clearly negotiate the price beforehand.

If you plan to drive an automobile abroad, you may want to obtain an International Driving Permit before leaving the United States. These permits are available at American Automobile Association offices. This involves filing an application together with two passport-type photos and the payment of a permit fee. Although the regular state driver’s license is acceptable, it is a good idea to obtain an International Driving Permit either to drive rental cars or own cars or motorcycles.

Driving in Costa Rica can be a daunting experience. Even in the larger cities, potholes (huecos) are everywhere. This is a consequence of the powerful rains that periodically pummel and wash away parts of the streets and highways. There is an uncomfortable number of yellow hearts painted on the highways, marking the spots of traffic fatalities.

In case of car rental, insurance should be taken out and is usually required by the rental company. Without insurance, even a small accident may, at best, bar the driver from leaving the country, and at worst land him or her in jail. Note, car rental insurance is incredibly expensive and may cost more than the actual rental fare.

We look forward to getting to know you and assist you in any way we can. Please contact us with any questions.

See you in Costa Rica!

Prof. Francisco Rivera (“Fran”)
fjrivera@scu.edu

Prof. Claudia Josi
cjosi@scu.edu