

# Costa Rica

## International Human Rights Law

**Class: May 26 - June 21 (4 units)**

**Internships: June 24 – August 2  
(3-4 units)**



## About the Program

Santa Clara's program in Costa Rica provides the student with a number of options. The student may do course work only, taking a four unit course in International Human Rights Law. Students with Spanish language skills may undertake an internship field placement for up to four units. Students seeking an internship placement must complete the International Human Rights Law class.

A unique aspect and opportunity of the Costa Rican program is Spanish language instruction and cultural immersion. Students are enrolled, at no additional cost, in a Spanish language class on the level of each student's fluency (beginner to fluent). Coupled with this instruction are optional cultural activities to acquaint students with the dance, food and culture of the region. Additionally, students may elect a home living experience where they would reside for all or part of the summer with a Costa Rican family. Finally, students with Spanish language skills may undertake an internship field placement in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru, Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic.

This program is designed for students with an interest in international human rights. With its emphasis on language, living and culture, it is also very appropriate for the generalist who anticipates representing Spanish-speaking clients.

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Home of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, San Jose in Costa Rica offers an ideal location for courses in human rights law. We offer Spanish language instruction and a cultural immersion program at no additional charge.

## Academic Component

### International Human Rights Law

Taking advantage of the numerous human rights organizations centered in San José, Costa Rica, students will undertake intensive coursework in international human rights law. The four-week international human rights course provides a broad, general overview of the international human rights system. The beginning of the course will introduce students to public international law, the origins and scope of the international human rights movement, global enforcement mechanisms and institutions, primarily the United Nations human rights system, covering both treaty-based and Charter-based human rights institutions. Students will examine both the law and politics of international human rights. One week of the course will focus on the Inter-American human rights system.



### Testimonial

"Very interesting subject and incredibly well-taught! Having class at the court was such an amazing experience - ideal location to take International Human Rights ..." Nicolet Kirkland, UC Hastings (2009)



## Optional Spanish Language Classes

In addition, small classes designed to introduce students to the Spanish language or to improve Spanish language skills, at whatever level a student may want to participate, are available at no extra charge at the Costa Rica Language Academy (CRLA):

<http://www.spanishandmore.com> The Academy is an easy 5-10 minute walk from the Institute and from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Academy also offers extracurricular courses in dance, cooking, and Spanish conversation. Ms. Cristina Soto, Director of the Academy, can assist you with housing, logistics, travel and other matters relating to your stay in Costa Rica.

## Internship Component

*Exciting internships in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Peru, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic available at:*

- The Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees
- International organizations & non-profits working in international human rights or international refugee law
- Private law firms

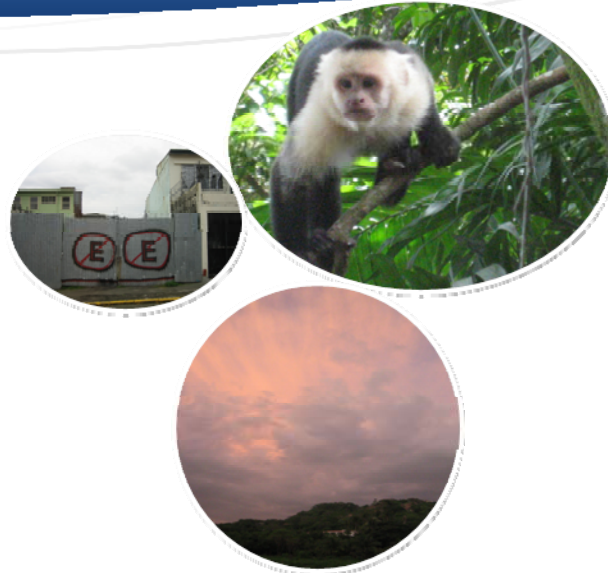
Santa Clara Law's internship placements in Costa Rica and other Latin American countries provide students with an exceptional opportunity to expand their skills and experience in an international context. A brief description of the Latin American intern placements follows.

At the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, externs assist staff attorneys in researching and preparing cases for the Court's review and decision. The internship provides students with the invaluable opportunity of interacting with the Court's distinguished jurists on matters of regional and international importance.

Students may also work assisting advocates before the Court through an internship at a renowned NGO that seeks redress before the Court for violations of clients' human rights. Here, students provide direct services to clients through factual and legal research and assisting attorneys in preparation of their cases.

Students interested in international refugee law may extern with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), where they assist legal officers with consideration and resolution of significant issues concerning refugees and with efforts to resettle individual refugees.

Students may also concentrate on providing direct services to refugee applicants through an internship at a non-profit local partner of the UNHCR that



represents applicants for refugee status before the Costa Rican government.

These internship language requirements vary by organization. If you are interested in completing an internship, please indicate your fluency level on your application and a short evaluation will be taken after you've applied.

Internships can earn up to four units of credit, depending on the number of hours committed to the field placement work. (A minimum of 50 hours of supervised legal fieldwork for each unit).

See Internship section of [Policies](#) for details regarding obligations and expectations.





## About Costa Rica

Costa Rica is unique among Latin American countries. It has no standing army. Following the Civil War of 1948-49, the country abolished the army and concentrated its efforts on the education of its citizens. Accordingly, Costa Rica has one of the highest rates of literacy in Latin America.

With its stable, democratic government, fully evolved legal system, and relative prosperity, Costa Rica has become a thriving commercial center, as well as a popular destination for tourists and students. San Jose, the capital city, has also become the hub of human rights activity in Latin America. Located in the city is the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, where our classes are taught. Other international institutions with headquarters or major offices in San Jose include the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the Center for Justice and International Law, and the University for Peace, located in the nearby Ciudad Colon. Excellent language schools, including the Costa Rica Language Academy that hosts our program, attract students from around the globe.

Costa Rica's lovely beaches, volcanoes, and rain forests have made it one of the prime eco-tourism destinations in the hemisphere. The country is about the size of the state of West Virginia. Over 11% of its land is protected parkland. One may swim in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans on the same day and visit tropical rain forests in between. Our classes allow three-day weekends so participants may enjoy the natural splendor of this beautiful country.

San Jose occupies about 18 square miles in the Central Highlands. It has a population of about 350,000 people. The city is backed by Mt. Irazu, a volcano of 11,260 feet. Due to the benign weather, small farms dot the sides of the volcano almost to its peak.

The weather, though tropical and sometimes rainy in the afternoons, is very agreeable in the Central Highlands where San Jose is located. It becomes much hotter and more humid in the coastal areas.

## Websites you should review before going to Costa Rica:

[The Universal Currency Converter™](#)

[US Dept of State: Passport Services](#)

[US Embassies/Consulates](#)

[Tips for Traveling Abroad](#)

[Travel Safety Information](#)

[Consular Information Sheet– Costa Rica](#)

[Consular Information Sheet– Nicaragua](#)

[Consular Information Sheet - El Salvador](#)

[Consular Information Sheet - Dominican Republic](#)

[Consular Information Sheet - Peru](#)

[General Information about Traveling with Disabilities](#)

[Information about Traveling with Disabilities:](#)

- [In Costa Rica](#)
- [In Nicaragua](#)
- [In the Dominican Republic](#)
- [In Peru](#)
- [In El Salvador](#)

## Transportation



The Costa Rica Language Academy will pick students up from the airport and take them directly to their home stay *if the student has arranged for a home stay*. (Prior arrangement needed). Upon departure they will transport students to the airport. Students who did not make housing arrangements with the Costa Rica Language Academy will have to make their own arrangements for transportation to and from the airport. Taxis are relatively inexpensive and highly recommended, particularly at night. Renting an automobile for the stay is not recommended. The Court and Institute classes and the Costa Rica Language Academy are within easy walking distance from each other. Home stay students may need to take public buses.

# Student Budget

Costa Rica Classes & Internships	<i>Option 1 Human Rights Class Only [4 weeks]</i>	<i>Option 2 Human Rights Class + Internship [Up to 10 weeks]</i>	Price Breakdown
Tuition Class - 4 units	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$900 per unit (JD students only. Tuition may be higher for other students)
Tuition Internship - 3 to 4 units	\$0	\$3,960	\$990 per unit (JD students only. Tuition may be higher for other students)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>	<b>\$7,560</b>	

Other Program Expenses	<i>Option 1 (Estimate) - 27 days, about 4 weeks</i>	<i>Option 2 (Estimate) - 69 days, about 10 weeks</i>	Price Breakdown
Estimated Air Fare	\$910	\$910	
Lodging	\$945	\$2,415	Allow \$35 per night, per person*
Food	\$675	\$1,725	Allow \$25 per day, per person*
Books & Supplies	\$150	\$150	
Estimated Local Transportation	\$200	\$500	Allow \$50 per week, per person*
Miscellaneous**	\$800	\$2,000	Allow \$200 per week, per person*
<b>TOTAL (Estimates)</b>	<b>\$3,680</b>	<b>\$7,700</b>	

\*Subject to currency stability

\*\*Personal travel and entertainment

\*\*\*Note: For students doing an internship outside of Costa Rica, please contact Monica Davis for a customized budget.



## Financial Aid Information and Helpful Links:

### Summer Loans

The summer is a separate borrowing period from the spring and the fall. You may be eligible for financial aid to cover all or part of your summer expenses. Please provide this estimate to your home law school's financial aid officer. For more information, visit:

<http://law.scu.edu/international/summer-abroad-financial-aid.cfm>

### Financial Aid Information

### Online Application

### Application Deadlines

## Housing Information

The Costa Rican Language Academy (CRLA) can arrange for home living placements for all students. Home living can run for any length of time, even for as long as the entire summer (even though the course has ended). Students will be placed in homes depending on the level of their Spanish language fluency. (Those who are less fluent will be placed in homes where some English is spoken.) If you speak some Spanish, this immersion is an ideal opportunity to gain significant and practical fluency. To arrange for a home stay, you should email [spanish@crla.co.cr](mailto:spanish@crla.co.cr) and fill out a registration form in the website <http://www.spanishandmore.com/> indicating your home stay preference.

Home living includes daily breakfast and dinner taken with the family. The cost is very reasonable, about \$22 per day for lodging and the two meals. Home living is not required; it is merely offered as a preferred alternative. It is particularly recommended to those seeking to absorb the culture and perfect their Spanish language skills. If home living is not for you, or after a trial, students may elect from a range of convenient alternative hotels and hostels. Below is a sample of alternatives available:

Very basic and least expensive, dormitory style rooms (expect to "rough it" at \$11 per night – \$9 with youth hostel card), including breakfast:

Hostel Casa Yoses (Most of the 2011 students stayed here)

[www.casayoses.com](http://www.casayoses.com)

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

Toruma Youth Hostel

Tel: (506) 224-4085

<http://www.hicr.org>

Inexpensive: (but nice). A number of students stayed here in 2006



Bekuo Hostel (one block from classes)

Tel: (506) 234-1090

E-mail [info@hostelbekuo.com](mailto:info@hostelbekuo.com)

Midrange: (Some visitors have stayed in each of these and had very positive reports. About three blocks from classes. \$52-67 per day with 15% discount for long term stay. Breakfast included).

Hotel Don Fadrique

Tel: (506) 225-8186

Hotel Le Bergerac

Tel: (506) 234-7850

<http://www.bergerac.com>

High End (\$75-95 per night for double room)

Hotel 1492 Jade Y Oro

## Have Questions? Contact Us!

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