

BSU-Spring Break: Costa Rica: Restorative Justice and the Community (CRJU)



Information Sheet

Housing Options

Hotel/hostel

Program Type

BSU Short-term



Eligibility

- Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.
- Completed CRJU 201 and CRJU 229.
- In good academic and judicial standing and no registration blocks.
- If you are interested in this program but do not meet the eligibility requirements, reach out to the program director to discuss your interest in the program.

About the Program

This immersive study abroad course explores the concept of community within the context of justice policies and programs in Costa Rica, with a particular focus on the historical and ongoing marginalization of Indigenous populations. Through lectures, field visits, and engagement with Indigenous leaders, legal advocates, and justice practitioners, students will analyze how restorative justice can serve as a framework for recognition, reconciliation, and the cultural and political legibility of historically excluded communities.

This course is a collaboration between Bowie State University and the University of Maryland and is part of our process of truth and reconciliation. It is held in honor and remembrance of Lt. Richard Collins, a graduating BSU senior and commissioned officer in the US Army, who was murdered by a UMD student in 2017 on the UMD campus.

Contacts

Dr. Shannell Thomas, Department Chair, Criminal Justice, Bowie State University, scthomas@bowiestate.edu.

Dr. Amy Morgan, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, School of Public Health, Family Health, aamorgan@umd.edu.

Dates / Deadlines:

Term	Year	App Deadline	Decision Date	Start Date	End Date
Spring Break	2026	09/30/2025	10/08/2025	03/13/2026	03/22/2026

Academics

After you commit to the program, you must register in the following three (3) credit BSU course for the Spring 2026 semester:

- CRJU 332 Restorative Justice and The Community

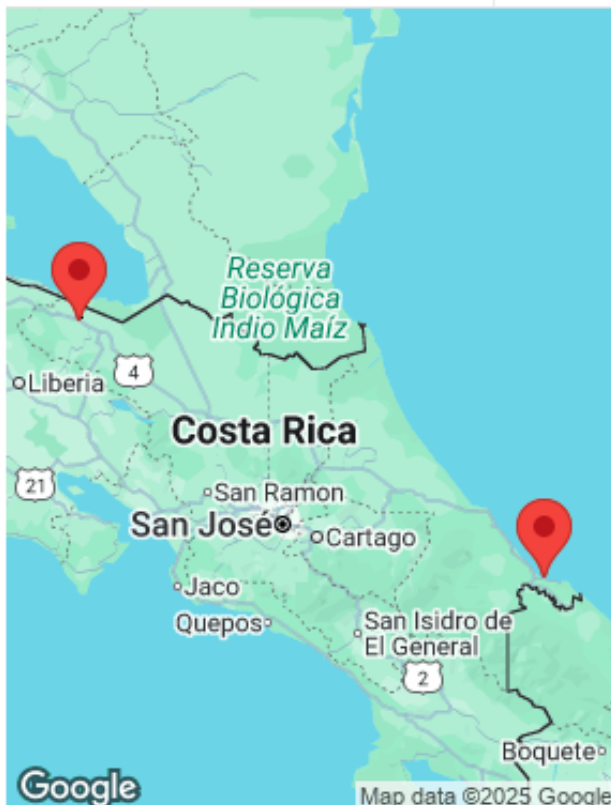
The credit you earn during this program will count as **resident credit** (can fulfill degree requirements, grade earned will follow the BSU grading scale and factor into your GPA, and will appear on your unofficial and official BSU transcript).

Activities

As a part of this program, you will engage in the following activities:

- Time in San Jose and the coastal region of Puerto Viejo and Limón.
- Afro-Costa Rican Cooking Class and Afro-Costa Rican Dance Class.
- Exploration of sites of social justice history and current movements for human and social rights, and health equity.
- Learning from spaces of joy and resilience in Costa Rican and Afro-Costa Rican communities, including cultural practices that sustain family and community well being.

Living Abroad



Housing

Students will stay in hotels in San Jose, Costa Rica, and Puerto Viejo, Limón, Costa Rica.

Host City

Puerto Viejo de Talamanca, often called Puerto Viejo, is a laid-back, vibrant coastal town on Costa Rica's southern Caribbean coast, known for its unique Afro-Caribbean culture, abundant rainforest wildlife, and beautiful beaches. The town offers a "Go Slow" atmosphere, famous for world-class surfing at Salsa Brava, delicious Creole and international cuisine, powerful histories, and a lively cultural engagement. Visitors can explore nature as well as a multicultural, free-spirited vibe found nowhere else in the country.

Cost of Attendance Breakdown

SPRING BREAK 2026

Application Fee	\$0
Program Fee	\$4,718
Tuition	\$3,298
Housing	\$870
International Health Insurance (estimate)	\$50
Flight <i>This program includes your roundtrip flight from the DMV area to Costa Rica. The flight will be booked on your behalf by the Program Director.</i>	\$500
Out-of-Pocket Expenses (estimate)	\$475
Personal/Incidental Expenses (estimate)	\$150
Meals (estimate)	\$100
Passport	\$165
Expedited Passport Processing	\$60
Visa & Resident Permit Fee	\$0
Roundtrip Airfare from MD/DC to Host Country (estimate) <i>All program participants will be booked on a group flight from the DMV area to Costa Rica.</i>	\$0
Course materials (estimate)	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE	\$5,193

Studying abroad *is possible* - and we're here to help you plan your finances.

Key Resources

- **Financial Aid** - Use your existing aid abroad
- **Scholarships** - Find extra funding
- **Refunds & Withdrawals** - Know your financial commitment

Pell Grant Recipient? Don't Miss This!

If you receive a Pell Grant, you're **strongly encouraged** to apply for the [**Gilman International Scholarship**](#)—this program qualifies!

- **Award:** Up to \$5,000 for study abroad + \$\$ for critical languages/STEM
- **Application opens:** Mid-August
- **Covers programs between:** Dec 1, 2025 – Oct 31, 2026
- **Deadline:** Friday, Oct 3, 2025 at 11:59 PM PT

Application

Program Application and Supporting Documents

Study Abroad Program Application

The study abroad program application form is mandatory and must be completed, signed, and turned into the Study Abroad Coordinator. It must be approved by the Study Abroad Coordinator in order to be considered complete.

Conduct Form

The Student Conduct Form must be completed by the Student and the Study Abroad Coordinator.

Financial Aid Acknowledgement Form

Students must make an appointment with Ms. Tracee Rhodes in the Office of Financial Aid for assistance in completing this form.

Study Abroad Acknowledgement Form

For your application to be considered complete you must carefully read and initial the acknowledgement form.

Copy of Passport

In order to participate in a study abroad program, you must have a passport that will be valid through at least 6 months after the end of your program date (i.e. if your program ends June 2023, your passport must be valid through December 2023). A passport is an official document issued by a government, which certifies the holder's identity and allows them to travel to foreign countries.

What should I do if I do not have a valid passport? Start the passport application/renewal process immediately. Passport processing times may be significantly delayed, so apply as soon as possible. We recommend using expedited processing to ensure you have your passport information far in advance of your departure (you may need it for visas and program registrations). If you aren't sure if you need to renew your passport, check the expiration date and make sure it is valid for 6 months after the end date of your study abroad program. Remember, adult passports are valid for 10 years. If you are considering going abroad, we suggest applying for or renewing your passport as soon as possible. For information on how to apply for or renew your passport visit the [U.S. Department of State website](https://travel.state.gov).

What if I am an international student or will be traveling on a non-US passport? International students must also verify your U.S. student visa status in order to travel out of the U.S. and return to the U.S. when your program is complete. If you are on an F1 visa and you have questions, you MUST check in with the Office of International Education & Student Services.

Submit a copy of your passport information page to the Study Abroad Coordinator. Copy must be hand delivered to Office of International Education & Student Services. **DO NOT EMAIL.** If you need assistance making a copy, visit the Office of International Education & Student Services located in the Thurgood Marshall Library Room 1120. If you are in the process of applying for a passport, you must submit your name as it will appear on the passport.

Completed Application and Supporting Documents should be emailed to:
studyabroad@bowiestate.edu

Study Abroad Program Application

Student Information				
BSU ID	First Name	MI	Last Name	Preferred Pronouns
Date of Birth	Cell Phone	BSU Email Address		Country of Citizenship
Do you have a passport?		Name as it appears on passport		Passport Expiration Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
What is your ethnicity?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian/P.I.	<input type="checkbox"/> Native/1 st Nation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Reported		

Emergency Contact Information		
First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Relationship (i.e. Mother, Father, etc.)

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Academic Information

Classification	Major	Minor	Cumulative GPA
<input type="checkbox"/> FR <input type="checkbox"/> SO <input type="checkbox"/> JR <input type="checkbox"/> SR <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate			
Expected Graduation Date: _____(Month/Year)			
Are you in the Honor's Program? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

Personal Statement

How does participating in this program serve your long term personal, educational, and professional goals? (100-150 words):

How does restorative justice relate to issues facing your local community? (100-150 words):

Is there anything else the selection committee should know as they consider your application for the Costa Rica: Restorative Justice and The Community program? (100 words or less):

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Verification and Signature

I certify that the information on this application is complete and correct. I understand that the submission of false information is grounds for rejection of my application.

I agree to complete all required pre-departure forms and readings, attend mandatory pre-departure programs, attend mandatory orientation programs, and complete any other mandatory programs or meetings which BSU or sponsoring organizations may conduct regarding the Program. My failure to participate in mandatory pre-departure programs may result in termination of my participation in the Program.

If I am accepted to the Program, and require an accommodation due to disability and/or religious observances in order to fully participate in the study abroad program, I agree to adhere to University procedures for requesting accommodation at least two (2) months prior to my scheduled departure to seek the assessment of and potential approval of reasonable accommodation by and through the necessary BSU parties. Decisions pertaining to such accommodation requests must be determined prior to participation in the Program. I should provide this information to the BSU Study Abroad Coordinator after formal acceptance to the Program. The disclosure of this information plays no role in the admissions process.

I am aware of my personal medical needs, and have consulted with my medical provider(s) for guidance specific to my travel plans and health needs. I am aware that I am required to have international medical and security assistance insurance regardless of any other insurance I may have, and that I will provide that information to the Study Abroad Coordinator. I agree to read and understand the coverages associated with this insurance including travel accident indemnity, travel accident and sickness, travel assistance (which includes the quarantine benefit), evacuation and repatriation, and non-insurance services. International travel insurance complements and does not replace students' regular U.S. primary health insurance coverage.

I understand that I am responsible for the cost of any additional travel and/or protection insurance.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

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CONDUCT FORM

Student:

I hereby consent the Study Abroad Coordinator to receive information from the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards regarding my student conduct status and I hereby waive my right of access to any statements said by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards Representative evaluating me and my activities.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Study Abroad Coordinator:

Please contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards to complete this form.

The student named above has applied to participate in a study abroad program at Bowie State University. All statements and comments will be kept confidential.

Does this student have any past, current, or pending disciplinary actions? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain.

Signature _____ Date: _____

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FINANCIAL AID ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Student:

Program Name: _____ Term/Year: _____

I _____ (Name/BSU ID#) , request a confirmation of my financial aid for my planned study abroad program. In doing so, I acknowledge and accept the following conditions set forth by the Office of International Education & Student Services.

____ If accepted, I understand that I will be responsible for the full cost of the study abroad program.

____ If accepted, I understand that I am responsible for submitting payment for any balance by the program deadline that is not covered by my financial aid awards.

____ I understand that if my financial aid changes or if I choose to withdraw myself from my program after the withdrawal deadline, I am responsible for any outstanding charges or fees.

Student Signature

Date

If under 18:

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Financial Aid Representative

Type of Aid	Amount

Financial Aid Representative Signature

Date

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STUDY ABROAD ACKNOWLEDMENT FORM

Student Name: _____ BSU ID#: _____

I understand that in order to participate and receive credit for my study abroad program it is my responsibility to abide by the following:

- _____ Complete all required study abroad forms by their deadlines.
- _____ Submit passport copy to the Study Abroad Coordinator (IN PERSON)
- _____ Register for the approved program course
- _____ Pay BSU tuition and fees for my program by the deadline
- _____ Know the payment due date for my program
- _____ Attend the mandatory Study Abroad Pre-Departure Orientation
- _____ If applicable, complete all requirement assessed by affiliate company

I understand that in order to complete my application and maintain my status as a study abroad participant, I must comply with the acknowledgement statements above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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