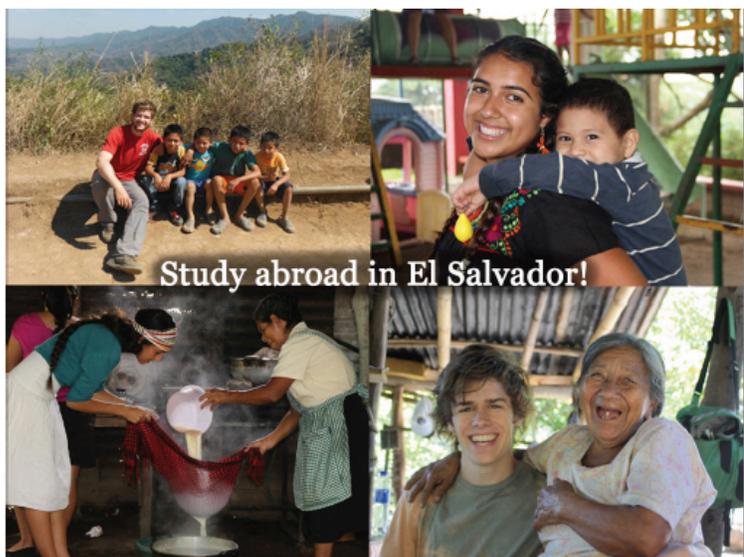


College of the Holy Cross Study Abroad Program La Casa de la Solidaridad, El Salvador

University of Central America (Universidad Centroamericana)



Study abroad in El Salvador!

Casa de la Solidaridad

Transform your Life Through Global Learning

"No matter what you read in books, see in pictures, hear on the news, or listen to other people say about poverty, something changes about the way you understand the world when you come to love a person who also happens to be poor."

-Colin Smith · Casa Alum Spring 2007

Study abroad in El Salvador
www.scu.edu/casa

Program Overview

La Casa de la Solidaridad is a special academic and Community Based Learning project run cooperatively between the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), the University of Central America (UCA) in El Salvador, and Santa Clara University. The program draws inspiration from the political assassinations of six Jesuits priests and professors, their housekeeper and her daughter on November 16, 1989 during a civil war that ended in 1992. It seeks to support the general struggle for solidarity and social justice among all Salvadorians. El Salvador's political history, coupled with its current political stability, makes it a wonderful site for students who wish to combine a study abroad program with an interest in social justice in the developing world.

Academic Curriculum

The curriculum is designed for most undergraduate majors and fits the standard liberal arts curriculum. Your classes will be taught by professors at the UCA. The learning style is integrated and interdisciplinary and examines the social, political, and economic reality of the people of El Salvador. The academic curriculum incorporates traditional classroom activities, participative research, and interaction with the local community. All students are required to enroll in the appropriate section of Spanish, the Field Placement / Praxis course and other courses from those offered. Please see the CASA website for up-to-date class information and syllabi. In the past the following have been offered: Economic Development, El Salvador's Civil War, Latin American Theology, Philosophy & Solidarity, Politics of El Salvador, Salvadoran Literature, Sociology of Public or Communication in El Salvador.

Please note: Usually a full course load in the Casa program is equal to a full course load at Holy Cross. Interested students must consult with Office of Study Abroad to determine if this semester program will fit their major and general requirements.

Community Based Learning

The Casa program seeks to fully integrate academics with Community Based Learning. Students are given field placements in local Salvadoran communities based on academic background, personal interests, and professional goals. Students will work for two full days each week with that community for the entire semester. Through this learning environment students become more aware of, and sensitive to, the realities of those who are struggling to end social injustices while working to promote human dignity. Ideally, students will become part of the Salvadoran society not as a volunteer, but as a learner.

Housing

Students are placed in one of three houses in a learning community. Together, the students, as members of this community, agree upon norms at the beginning of the semester, such as shared activities, simple living, use of Spanish, etc. Living with them will be a Community Facilitator (CF) and two UCA scholarship students, who give students the opportunity to develop relationships with local Salvadorans, practice Spanish skills, and serve as a link between Casa students and the other scholarship students studying at the UCA. Most importantly, this living arrangement offers students another means to learn more about the Salvadoran reality.

Costs

You will be billed Holy Cross tuition, room and board charges, which also includes the cost of support and administration at the site and through the University of Santa Clara.

Independent Cultural Immersion Project (ICIP)

Students in this program do not complete an ICIP, but can enter their reflection project developed for the program for the ICIP prize.

Financial Aid

For Holy Cross sponsored programs, financial aid is available to students who qualify with the exception of Alumni Memorial Scholarships, which do not travel abroad. Generally, the total financial burden on the family for a student to study abroad should not be significantly more than for a student remaining at Holy Cross. A financial aid package may be different from what a student receives at Holy Cross.

For more information please visit the:

New Casa video: <http://bit.ly/CasadelaSolidaridad>

Casa website: www.scu.edu/casa

Casa Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/casa.solidaridad>

Joe's video featured on ISN: <http://bit.ly/casaISN>

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