

INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOUR FAQ

COSTA RICA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Destination:

Costa Rica

Faculty Lead:

Dr. Albena Pergelova
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Course code and name:

INTB-255 Doing Business Internationally -
Study Tour to Costa Rica

Course credits:

3 credits

Availability expectations:

- Pre-departure program on campus:
April 16 - 18, 2025
- Travel period: April 21 to April 29, 2025
(9 days / 8 nights).
- A student may choose to extend their stay at the destination before or after the official dates of the tour at their own expense.

Key administrative dates:

- Enrollment deadline: **January 13, 2025**
(while seats last).
- Payment of the full cost (tour and tuition fees): **no later than January 13, 2025.**
- Given the nature of the study tours, which involve bookings and pre-payments to local service providers several months before departure, all **payments are non-refundable.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. Why take part in a Business Study Tour?

Part of MacEwan's *Teaching Greatness* strategic vision is to ensure that our graduates are versatile, future-ready and culturally aware. Study tours provide our students with unique opportunities to develop their global mindset and ability to operate in unfamiliar or complex settings. While the tours differ in length, destination and cost, they all offer carefully crafted programs and affordable opportunities to experience first-hand what it means to do business internationally. Past destinations included Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates.

Besides the unique learning experiences they provide, these tours count as three-credit courses that could be taken more than once to explore different destinations. The objective has always been to diversify the destinations from one year to another so that a student could possibly enroll in at least one tour every year throughout their journey at MacEwan. While these tours are primarily designed for business students, they are open to non-business students who are interested in exploring the world.

2. What makes Costa Rica a great destination for a Study Tour?

Costa Rica is known for its breath-taking beaches, volcanos and biodiversity. More than a quarter of the country's territory is composed of conservation and natural protected lands. It is a safe and peaceful country which has a stable political environment. As a pioneer in sustainability, Costa Rica has been a global model for sustainable practices across many industries. The country produces most of its electricity from renewable resources. In the spirit of peace and sustainability, in December 1980, the United Nations General Assembly established The University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica with the mission to "provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations."

In partnership with UPEACE, the participants in this study tour will explore equity, justice and peacemaking through the lens of the UN Sustainable Development Goal #8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. We will explore the challenges and opportunities in Costa Rica's business sector, as well as the interconnectedness between for-profit and ecologically sustainable business practices. The participants will hear from a diverse group of business leaders and social entrepreneurs who have leveraged their unique geographical, political and economic contexts in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation and social change.

3. Who can participate?

- Must be in good academic standing (GPA of 2.0 or higher).
- Must have completed 24 MacEwan University or post-secondary transfer credits. Students could participate after completing just two terms of study at MacEwan.
- Students who have already taken a study tour course must have a 75% or higher in their professionalism/contribution component on previous study tours to be eligible for another tour.
- Both business and non-business students can apply regardless of their areas of study. A limited number of seats is available to non-business students on a first-come, first-served basis. All students must contact the business academic advisors to enroll.

4. I have taken a study tour course before, am I allowed to take it more than once?

A student can take the course more than once to travel to different destinations. Please confirm with a program advisor whether you are allowed to use it as a credit course toward your program of study.

5. I am a non-business MacEwan student, can I join a tour that is organized by the School of Business?

All MacEwan students, including those enrolled in non-business programs, are welcome to enroll in business study tours while seats last. Please confirm with your program advisor that this course can be used as a credit course toward your program of study.

6. What is the cost of the tour to Costa Rica?

- This is a 3-credit course, and tuition fees apply accordingly.
- The cost of the tour to Costa Rica is \$2,650.

7. Do I need to purchase an insurance?

Yes, if you are not already covered under an insurance policy. Please note that your SAMU insurance may not be sufficient. You are encouraged to double-check with the insurer and make sure you have proper health and trip cancellation coverage.

8. What is included in the price?

- Student accommodations (double or triple occupancy), in a hotel such as Studio Hotel, or equivalent.
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 2 dinners.
- Field visits to partner organizations.
- Field guide and ground transportation to programmed activities.
- UPEACE campus visits and workshops.
- UPEACE Centre for Executive Education certificate for all participants.

9. What is not included?

- Tuition fees.
- Airfare.
- Travel / health insurance.
- Visas and vaccinations (when applicable).
- Anything that is not included explicitly in the program.

10. When should I buy my flight tickets?

Like any other course, a study tour may be cancelled (with full reimbursement) by the School of Business. For instance, this may be the case if the number of students enrolled by the closing date is insufficient to go ahead with the tour. **It is recommended that you do not buy your tickets before the final decision is made when the enrollment period ends.** You will receive a confirmation email from the faculty leader of your tour in due time.

11. How do I enroll in this study tour course?

If you are ready to enroll, please contact an a business advisor (business@macewan.ca), and they will add you to the tour if you meet the requirements.

Please note that the number of seats is limited, and enrollments will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Your seat is only confirmed when you pay the fees. Late applications will be placed on a waitlist in case new seats become available.

12. What if I have a question that is not covered in this list?

For general questions about this course's program and conditions, please contact the tour's faculty leader: **Dr. Albena Pergelova** (pergelovaa@macewan.ca).

13. What does the Study Tour's schedule look like?

Below is a **tentative** schedule to give you a preliminary idea about what to expect. Please note this is **subject to changes** as we confirm details and availability with local partners and service providers.

DAY	ACTIVITY
Monday, April 21	Shuttle from International Airport in San José (time TBA) Arrive and settle into hotel
Tuesday, April 22	Breakfast Welcome to UPEACE - Classroom time at UPEACE Social Innovators Q&A Panel Group Welcome Dinner
Wednesday, April 23	Breakfast Field Visit to Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency Evening Debrief with UPEACE Guide
Thursday, April 24	Breakfast Transfer to Jacó Tarcoles Sustainable Fishing Village Evening Debrief with UPEACE Guide
Friday, April 25	Breakfast Spanish Workshop Farmer's Market in Jacó Free Afternoon in Jaco Evening Debrief with UPEACE Guide
Saturday, April 26	Breakfast Visit to MareBlu - an NGO working on the Pacific Coast to clean and restore the marine environment Evening Debrief with UPEACE Guide
Sunday, April 27	Breakfast Return to San Jose Field Visit to El Toledo Coffee Farm Tortilla Cooking Class and Lunch Classroom Time at UPEACE Evening Debrief with UPEACE Guide
Monday, April 28	Breakfast Design Thinking Workshop - students will learn and apply the principles of Design Thinking as a tool for social innovation Presentations Final Group Dinner
Tuesday, April 29	Breakfast Departure Day (or stay longer at your own discretion and expense if you wish) Shuttle to International Airport in San José