



Academic Information

Heredia Intermediate
Heredia, Costa Rica

The Heredia Intermediate program offers a unique experience for study abroad students unlike any other. Not only do you have the option of taking three specially designed program courses, you can also directly enroll in a few undergraduate university courses at Universidad Nacional (UNA). The volunteer work component, which is integrated into the Intermediate Spanish class, provides the perfect setting for you to practice your Spanish while giving back to your Costa Rican host community.

This document will provide you with a general overview of the Heredia Intermediate program's academic requirements, along with helpful information about Universidad Nacional and the courses available to you. The course preference form at the end of this document must be completed and returned to the IFSA-Butler office.

Most importantly, remember that IFSA-Butler is available to answer any questions you may have. Please contact us at 800-858-0229 or ifsapilas@ifsa-butler.org.

Academic Program

How many classes will I take?

All students on the Heredia Intermediate program are required to enroll in Intermediate Spanish, a mandatory class open to program students only. In addition, you may select one or both of the optional program courses: Social History of Costa Rica and 20th Century Hispanic American Literature. All three courses are designed for students at the intermediate level of Spanish learning.

The remainder of your courses will be taken at UNA, and your entire course load must equal 15–16 U.S. semester credit hours per semester. The number of courses you take depends on the credit value of the courses you select. You can only choose courses from the General Studies Department and the Art School at UNA. IFSA-Butler does not permit students to take online courses for credit at the host institution.

Intermediate Spanish (6 U.S. semester credit hours)

This mandatory, intensive Spanish course is designed for students who have completed the beginning to low-intermediate levels of university Spanish. Focusing on improving Spanish comprehension, expression and interaction through class participation, written work, reading and community interaction, this course prepares students for Spanish study at the advanced level. A mandatory community service component provides field experience and language practice with local Costa Ricans. See attached syllabus.

Social History of Costa Rica (3 U.S. semester credit hours)

The fundamental social-historical issues of Costa Rican society, from pre-Colombian times to the present, are discussed and analyzed in this dynamic course, specifically focusing on the relationships between distinct cultural and social spheres. Emphasis will be given to the years 1950–2008 so students can better comprehend the recent social history of Costa Rica and how it relates to current events. Field trips are planned throughout the semester to help illustrate certain themes discussed in class. See attached syllabus.

20th Century Hispanic American Literature (3 U.S. semester credit hours)

This course concentrates on the study of fundamental narrative works by 20th century Latin American authors. Along with analyzing the peculiar and historic conditions of these texts, the course will focus on different thematic and cultural aspects presented in the literature. The course may include discussions about works by Jorge Luis Borges, Miguel Ángel Asturias, Alejo Charpentier, Juan Rulfo and Julio Cortázar. See attached syllabus.

Universidad Nacional (2 to 4 U.S. semester credit hours per course)

You may enroll in courses from the general studies department or the art school at UNA to complete your course load. Classes will be taught in Spanish by UNA professors, and all course work will be conducted in Spanish. Other international and Costa Rican students will also be in these classes, providing you with the opportunity for an integrated academic experience. General studies courses are taught at an introductory level, as are most of the art classes. Students enrolling in art courses may have to pay an additional fee per course that is not included in the program fee. See below for more information.

You must take a full university course load as determined by IFSA-Butler, which is 15-16 U.S. semester credit hours. Credit will be awarded on a Butler University transcript based on a typical U.S. full course load. Please be aware that you may be charged additional fees by your home university or host university to take or process additional credits. Taking less than a full course load may jeopardize your student status and result in personal academic repercussions and/or loss of financial aid.

Where can I find UNA course information?

Current course listings, course descriptions and syllabi can be difficult to find because UNA courses are not finalized until a few weeks before the start of the semesters. This is very typical for Latin American universities. For this reason, UNA course information must be regarded as provisional. IFSA-Butler cannot guarantee that a specific course will be offered during your semester in Costa Rica. During your orientation in Heredia, you will be given a finalized course list from which to choose courses for the semester. In the meantime, you may find provisional course information for the General Studies and Art departments on our Web site (www.ifsa-butler.org). See below for detailed instructions.

Finding Courses on the Web

- Start at the IFSA-Butler Web site: www.ifsa-butler.org
- Click on "Programs" and select "Costa Rica" from the list
- On the left side of the screen, click on "Heredia Intermediate"
- Click on "Online Course Catalog"
- You will be directed to the *Sistema de Oferta Académica en Línea*, UNA's on-line course listings for the entire university. On this page, you will see a list of *facultades o centros*, all of the academic departments at UNA. Remember that you can only select courses from the General Studies (*Centro de Estudios Generales*) and Art (*Centro de Investigación, Docencia y Extensión Artística*) department.

For general studies courses:

- Click on *Centro de Estudios Generales*
- Click on an area of interest (*Area de Arte, Ciencias, Filosofía, or Sociales*)
- You will be directed to course listings in the Area you selected. By clicking on the course title, you will be linked to a course description.
- You can download a course description by clicking on the "*descargar folleto*" link under the course name.

For art courses:

- Click on *Centro de Investigación, Docencia y Extensión Artística (CIDEA)*
- Next, click on *Arte y Comunicación Visual*. **You can only take classes listed under this section!**
- Under *Tabla de Cursos* you will find course listings available for you to register.
- Click on a course title of interest for a course description.
- Keep in mind that more advanced art courses (*Nivel II* and above) may require you to submit a portfolio of previous work completed.
- You can download a course description by clicking on the "*descargar folleto*" link under the course name.

Please call or e-mail your program advisor if you need help finding courses on the Web.

How do I know if I am qualified to take a certain class at UNA?

IFSA-Butler students are permitted to enroll in one to three courses from UNA's general studies department and art school. While these courses are open to all UNA students, they are considered the first introductory course to a more specific topic of study. Therefore, they are general in scope and do not require extensive background knowledge in the particular subject.

Keep in mind the following points:

- All courses are conducted in Spanish by UNA faculty members. All lectures, course work, discussions and exams are also conducted in Spanish.
- *Nivel 1* corresponds to first-year courses and *Nivel 4* corresponds to fourth-year courses.
- *Primer Ciclo* is a U.S. spring semester (January to June).
- *Segundo Ciclo* is a U.S. fall semester (July to December).
- *Anual* refers to full-year courses. Because the Heredia Intermediate program only runs for one semester, you cannot enroll in these courses.
- When the word *Latina* appears alone in a course title, it means classic, not Latino ethnicity. This applies mostly to literature courses.
- Science courses may require a higher level of precision; there is little or no flexibility in the interpretation of the material. They also tend to be more demanding and may require more time due to extra labs.
- In order to enroll in an art class, you may be required to submit a portfolio. Check with your program advisor first!
- Students may have to pay a fee for each art class. This is not included in the program fee.

How will I register for classes?

Included in this packet is a course preference form that you must complete and submit to the Indianapolis office. This form is not an official registration document, as course registration will take place once you arrive in Costa Rica.

During the second week of orientation, a designated day will be set aside for course registration at UNA. This is where you will select the integrated courses from the general studies department or the art school. Our resident staff will be available to help you select and register for your courses.

Keep in mind that the order of registration is determined by your GPA. International students with the highest GPA register first. Make sure you select more UNA classes than you actually need in case there are no available spots in a particular course you would like to take.

Finally, course registration is not done online! You will have to complete and turn in paperwork in order to register for classes at UNA.

In order to prepare you for your registration appointment, you should:

- Do your research ahead of time!
- Take a copy of your course preference form (preapproved by your home university) to your registration appointment. It is your responsibility to be aware of and comply with your home institution's policy regarding the transfer of grades and credits from the host institution.
- Be flexible and patient, and keep an open mind!

Sample Registration #1

Course title	Credit hours
Intermediate Spanish	6
Social History of Costa Rica	3
20th Century Latin American Literature	3
Recursos Naturales, Cultura y Sostenibilidad	3
Total U.S. Semester Credit Hours = 15	

Sample Registration #2

Course title	Credit hours
Intermediate Spanish	6
20th Century Latin American Literature	3
Arte en el Cine	3
Introducción a las Artes del Fuego	3
Total U.S. Semester Credit Hours = 15	

I want to travel at the end of the semester. Can I turn in my final exam or final paper when I return to the U.S.?

No. You must complete your academic obligations before you leave Costa Rica. This includes final exams, final papers, presentations and any additional assignments by your professors.

When and how will I receive my grades?

All courses are graded on a number scale ranging from 1 to 10. Students must obtain a 7 or higher in order to pass a class. Grades are recorded on the Butler University transcript using an A–F scale. There is no provision for pass/fail or auditing courses. See the “Academics” and “Program Fees and Financial Aid” sections in *Preparing to Study Abroad* for more information.

You can expect to receive your Butler University transcript three to five months after the program end date.

Community Service

The Heredia Intermediate program is designed not only to help you improve your Spanish skills but also to provide a unique opportunity for you to become personally involved in your new host culture. As a part of the Intermediate Spanish course, IFSA-Butler has included a mandatory community service component.

After an informational workshop, you will select from a variety of community organizations in the Heredia/San José area that you will work with during the semester. You will be required to commit at least two hours per week with organizations such as:

- Inbioparque (Instituto de Biodiversidad) – Environmental conservation and protection
- Programa Bandera Azul – Community and beach beautification projects
- Nursing homes for the elderly
- Orphanages
- Tutoring school-aged children

You will receive a complete list of opportunities and organizations once you arrive in Costa Rica.



Course Preference Form

Heredia Intermediate
Heredia, Costa Rica

Name: _____

Home Institution: _____

Major: _____

Semester Abroad (circle one): I Ciclo (U.S. Spring semester) II Ciclo (U.S. Fall Semester)

Please complete this form and return it to IFSA-Butler. All students are required to enroll in a full course load of 15–16 U.S. semester credit hours. You must choose at least one integrated course at Universidad Nacional (UNA); therefore, please select between at least five UNA courses for this form. See "Finding Courses on the Web" in the academic information.

UNA courses from the General Studies Department and the Art School are the only UNA courses available to Heredia Intermediate students. Keep in mind that all courses are provisional; you will not enroll in any courses until you arrive in Costa Rica. You will receive a finalized course list at that time.

All students must enroll in Intermediate Spanish, which includes the required community service component. You may choose one or two additional program classes. **Keep in mind that you are responsible for obtaining course preapproval from your home institution and for knowing how credit and grades will be transferred back to your home institution.**

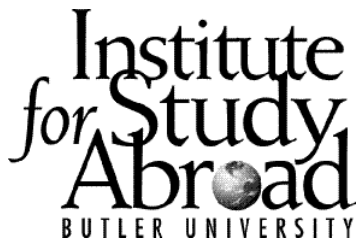
IFSA-Butler Program Courses

Course Title	Credits
1. <u>Intermediate Spanish (mandatory for all students)</u>	<u>6</u>
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

Universidad Nacional Courses

Course Title	UNA Department	Credits
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Family Placement Form

Programs in Latin America

Keep this page. Fill out the attached program family preference questionnaire, make a copy of it for your records, and return it to us within 10 days.

Study abroad is much more than academics. Learning takes place not only during class, but 24 hours a day. One of the best out-of-class experiences is the homestay. It is a vital, required component of our program. Additionally, living with a host family is the factor most cited as helping improve students' Spanish.

We've found that students who are happy with their housing are generally happy in their adopted country. To make the most of living with a host family, you must be flexible.

- 1. Redefine family.** Most students on our program imagine the perfect host family as one with two parents, some college-aged kids and a dog; however, we have very few families in our program that conform to that image. Generally, such families have very little time or space to commit to international students and are too busy to really interact with the international student.

On the other hand, few students enter our program excited about the prospect of living with a widow or single mother, but sometimes these less traditional families provide the best experiences. Older widows or couples have already raised their children and are familiar with the expectations of a young, newly-independent adult. Many truly enjoy the company of the student. Because we "recycle" host families that receive favorable ratings from students, we have a large number of this type of family.

- 2. Taste all the food given to you.** The foods you eat abroad will be very different from those to which you are accustomed. Even if you are certain that you will not like a new food, try it anyway out of politeness.

A special note to vegetarians: vegetarians are poorly understood in Latin America, and they are often undernourished. Before departing the United States, you should decide how strict you are going to be. You should be as flexible as you feel comfortable, and be careful to stay healthy by including enough vitamins, calcium and proteins in your diet.

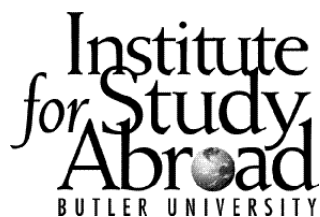
- 3. Smoking is still considered socially acceptable** in many parts of Latin America, and so the likelihood of being placed in a home where people smoke is quite high. For this reason, we cannot guarantee that you will be placed in a non-smoking household, if that is what you prefer.
- 4. Be prepared to give up some independence.** U.S. students have more disposable income and independence than young adults in other countries and societies in the world. Students in Latin America usually live at home with their parents throughout their college years, and they maintain the parent/child relationship until later in life.

Your host parents will treat you just as they are accustomed to treating others of your age group. Some students compare living with a host family to returning to high school; you will be in classes during the day and return each night to a family that is concerned about your well-being. What U.S. students may consider controlling behavior by the host family is usually a legitimate concern for their safety. Most host families relax their rules after a few weeks of getting to know the student.

- 5. What's the single most important factor?** Host family assignments are made using the information you provide on the attached questionnaire. While we try to accommodate your preferences when placing you, we can't always take all of them into account. Please indicate what is **most** important to you so we can concentrate on your top priority when placing you with a host family.

While most host families have an altruistic interest in sharing their home, culture and country with a international student, the family receives a monthly payment for the housing service it provides. As a paying guest, you should feel comfortable in your new home. If you are unhappy after a trial period of a few weeks, discuss your housing situation with our resident director. We'll help you resolve any problems.

** Please refer to the "Living with a Host Family" section of the **Preparing to Study Abroad** booklet for more detailed information.*



Family Placement Form

Por favor, completar y entregar en 10 días a:

Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University

1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 305

Indianapolis, IN 46208-3345

317-940-9704 Fax

Nombre: _____

Programa y país: _____

Teléfono: _____ Universidad EE.UU.: _____

Sexo: Hombre Mujer Edad: _____

Argentina/Chile/ Sem. 1 (Primavera EE.UU.) Sem. 2 (Otoño EE.UU.) Verano

Costa Rica/Peru: Año Académico (Sem. 2, 1) Año (Sem. 1, 2)

Mexico: Otoño EE.UU. Primavera EE.UU. Año Académico Verano

Preguntas sobre la salud y la dieta

¿Actualmente estás bajo un programa de dieta estricto? ¿Cuán flexible es tu dieta?

¿Eres vegetariano(a)?

En caso afirmativo, ¿qué no comes?

Carne roja

Huevos

Pollo

Productos de leche

Pescado

Otro (por favor indique)

¿Eres alérgico a algún alimento?

¿Tienes alergias o condiciones médicas que requieren arreglos especiales? Por favor, explícalos. (opcional)

¿Tendrías algún inconveniente en vivir en una casa con animales domésticos?

¿Fumas productos de tabaco?

¿Tienes alergias al humo?

La familia

¿Con cuál tipo de familia prefieres vivir?

Por favor, indica tus preferencias personales de uno a cuatro.

(1=más preferido, 4=menos preferido)

_____ Familia con niños

_____ Familia con hijos de nivel universitario

_____ Familia sin hijos

_____ Mujer soltera o viuda

¿Cuál papel te gustaría hacer dentro de la familia?

Muy independiente: No te molesta si la familia está fuera de la casa la mayor parte del tiempo. Pocas actividades con la familia. Mucho tiempo y espacio para ti mismo(a).

Algo interactivo: Quieres participar en las actividades de la familia, y a la misma vez mantener tu independencia. Quieres que la familia te invite a participar en actividades tuyas, pero no sentirte obligado(a).

Muy interactivo: Deseas integrarte con la rutina diaria de la familia y ser considerado(a) como hijo o hija real. Prefieres comer la cena todas las noches con la familia.

¿Cuáles son tus afiliaciones religiosas o étnicas? (opcional)

¿Qué característica consideras más importante en una familia?

¿Qué nos falta preguntarte?

Por favor utiliza el espacio siguiente para hacer una descripción de ti mismo(a) con más detalles. Infórmanos de tus características personales (por ejemplo, conversador, muy organizado(a), tímido(a), etc.), lo que te gusta y no te gusta, deportes favoritos, pasatiempos, y otros intereses. Añade aquí cualquier otra información que consideres importante que nosotros sepamos en cuanto a tu estadía en una familia.

Solo para los estudiantes que van a la Universidad Nacional en Costa Rica:

Cuál vivienda prefieres: centro de la ciudad en los alrededores pueblos cercanos

Housing Contract

I affirm that the above information is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Institute for Study Abroad assumes no responsibility for any problems resulting from being supplied with incorrect or incomplete information on this form, and **I also understand that once a housing assignment is given, no changes can be made.**

I understand and agree that I shall pay to IFSA-Butler all fees associated with the housing to which I am assigned as outlined in the program fee information provided to me by IFSA-Butler with my program contract.

Housing assignments are for the duration of the program, and the Institute for Study Abroad provides no alternate housing. **IFSA-Butler will not refund any sums paid for housing if a student vacates his or her housing for any reason, either voluntarily or involuntarily, before the end of the semester or term.**

I understand that while housing is guaranteed, my first choice of accommodation is not.

I understand and agree that living in housing arranged by IFSA-Butler is a requirement of the program to which I have been admitted. I further understand and agree that if I refuse or fail to live in program housing, I will be subject to dismissal from the program, withdrawal of services by IFSA-Butler, and/or loss of academic credit, with no refund of fees paid.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____