

San Jose, Costa Rica

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Program: Environmental and Sustainability Studies In Costa Rica, Summer 2018

Major: Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



I have been able to learn more about my community and the communities I was introduced to in Costa Rica, particularly in Monteverde where I was able to stay with a host family. It was great to be able to learn about their lifestyles and to get their perspective on conservation. They were more considerate about what they used to be careful not to waste. Food scraps were collected and plastic was reused. They also had a greater sense of community. One boy was injured and people started to chip in help as the word spread fast. Their view of conservation was different as well. One man in particular complained that because of conservation, their town became a tourist town. He wasn't able to do the job he dreamed as all the jobs in the town revolved around tourism.

Earning the Career Development Badge:

I was able to learn about future careers with sustainability. It was amazing to see how Costa Rica has come so far with renewable energies. The social changes are important as they allowed more money to be put into sustainable initiatives, and made jobs in that field more available. I realized this needs to be done in my country as well. Sustainable jobs seem to have a thought that they aren't economically feasible, and that is true in some cases. We need policies that allow more money to go to green jobs. I want to help create "green collar" jobs.

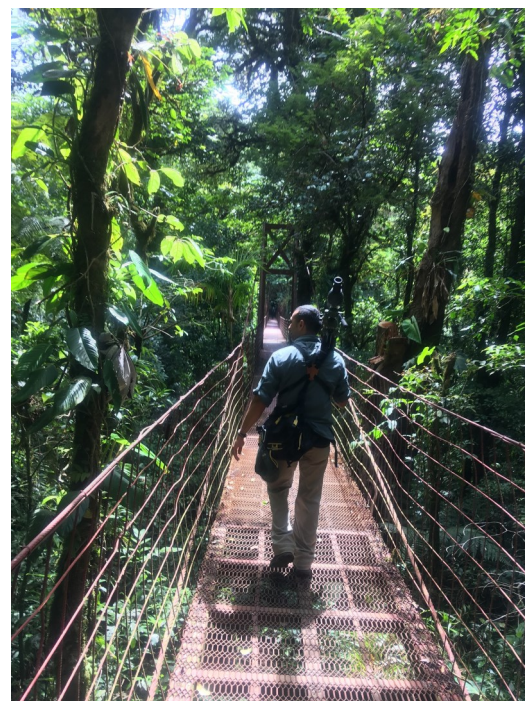
These jobs will help make sustainable initiatives economically sustainable.

Transferable Skills:



I have been using the skills I have learned by realizing that everyone has a different perspective. Changes aren't linear, but complex, and can affect so many in so many different ways. As I want to be in a career that helps bring about change, I have taken that into consideration as I search for careers. I have also been able to ask informed questions to potential employers as I have more experience from studying abroad as seeing many things in action.

The community and career badge helped me to focus on those areas and see more during my study abroad. I am now able to see more as I move ahead in my career.



“Learning abroad has helped me see real life applications of learning from the class. It has made it easier to solidify concepts and understand complexity. I gained so much through having fun.”