

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Established in 1989, the Brazilian Ecosystems Program enables students to engage in field studies across a variety of biomes in Brazil. Over the course of three months, students travel throughout Brazil to study ecology, field methodology, and natural resource management. From lectures on restoration ecology to meetings with rural farmers and rubber tappers, and seminars with policy specialists, this program offers a complete overview of complex issues involved in conservation and natural resource management. During the final four weeks of the program, students are placed on an internship according to their academic interests, ranging from global carbon monitoring to entomology. The program is affiliated with two Brazilian universities: The Universidade Federal do Paraná and the Universidade Federal do Mato Grosso. Director Suzanne Kolb, Ph.D. (pg. 3), leads the program and is assisted by local professors, research scientists, graduate students, and activists, who provide expertise on current environmental issues facing each region.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations include homestays based in Curitiba, small hotels and hostels while traveling, and research field stations where sleeping arrangements range from hammocks to cots.

Study, intern, and immerse yourself in biodiversity conservation throughout Brazil.

The Protection and Management of Biodiversity

Montanha Beija - Flor Reserve
Highly Endangered Atlantic Forest

Curitiba
WORDS (Language Institute) and Homestays

Foz de Iguaçu
Itaipu hydroelectric dam and
Iguaçu National Park System

Salvador
Cultural Icon of Northern Brazil

Brasilia
Cerrado Biome and Resource Policy

Santarém
Amazon Rainforest, Sustainable Development

Manaus
Amazon Rainforest Reserve Design

Pantanal
Wetland Habitat, Southwestern Brazil

HIGHLIGHTS

- Work in a field internship that fits your area of interest.
- Study resource management and biodiversity issues with Brazilian scientists and activists.
- Visit nine different sites in six different states in Brazil.
- Immerse yourself in local conservation issues in a small group.
- Enjoy hands-on, experiential learning in the Amazon, Atlantic Coastal Forest, subtropical forests, cerrado (savannah), and wetland environments.

"I LOVE this program. It perfectly reflects my own interests and I still felt that my knowledge about the subject matters grew exponentially on the program. I would recommend it to anyone with scientific curiosity." – Zephyr Mohr-Felsen, *St. Olaf College*

PREVIOUS INTERNSHIPS

- Assist with research on juvenile sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*); become practiced in the use of sonic telemetry to track sea turtle movements and identify critical foraging areas.
- Work with an ornithologist in determining the effectiveness of artificial bird perches in attracting seed-dispersing birds to sites of deforestation and habitat loss.
- Work with a team of scientists to determine the potential for global carbon sequestration in Atlantic Forest tracts; interpret vegetation and soil maps; measure several variables of plant growth.
- Join a team of field researchers working in the Iguaçu National Park to determine the effects of human activities on the puma (*Puma concolor*). Learn how to track radio-collared individuals, and collect and interpret field evidence on the presence of both the puma and its prey species.
- Work with a non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured and traumatized animals abandoned or rescued from illegal wildlife trafficking; assist veterinarians with therapeutic care and minor surgeries.

COURSES

Each course is 4 semester credits. Full course descriptions online.

No previous Portuguese experience needed.

AENVS 342 Ecology and Biodiversity of Brazil

This course focuses on the value of biodiversity, the causes and patterns of biodiversity loss, the ecological significance of anthropogenic disturbances, and methods of hypothesis testing in the field of conservation biology. Students review the theoretical principles underpinning these topics during the pre-program Orientation lectures and through assigned readings. Throughout the program, the class examines species and habitat diversity characteristic of several Brazilian biomes.

ALLC 158d, 258, 296 Portuguese Language

This intensive Portuguese language course will use instructional methodologies including conversation, tutorial instruction, and reading of popular literature. Additional exposure to the language will be achieved through listening, conversation, and interaction with homestay families.

AENVS 341 Brazilian Natural Resource Management

This course introduces the need for sustainable management of resources in terms of the value of ecosystem goods and services. Students will examine the application of sustainable management practices in agriculture, forestry, and park management. The role of environmental policy and the influence of non-governmental organizations on environmental stewardship are also examined. This topic further includes consideration of local cultural attitudes in policy development and implementation.

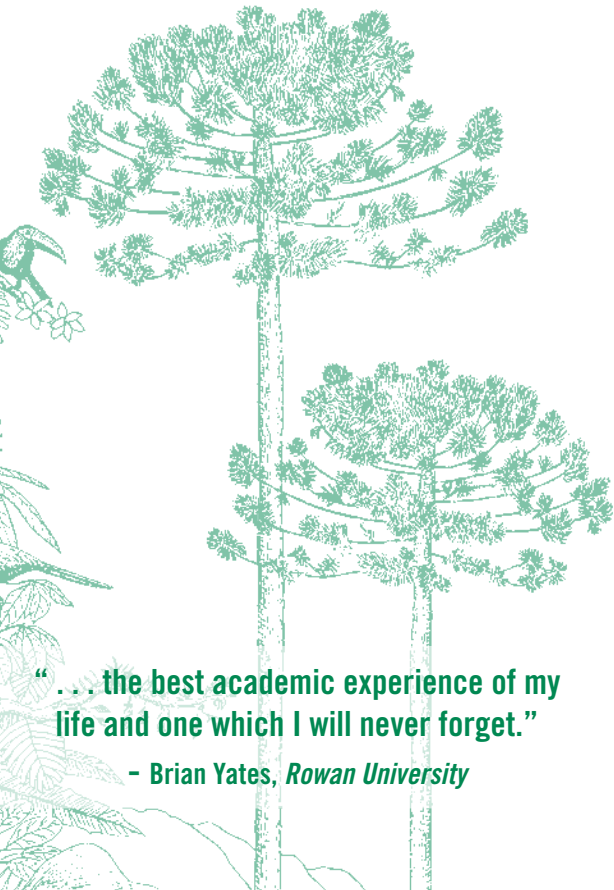
ABRZ 396 Field Research/Independent Internship

The final four weeks of the program are devoted to a science internship, working with a faculty supervisor on-site. Internships involve participating in a research team project, assisting in an educational program, or volunteering with an environmental agency project.

Experience

Engage

Explore

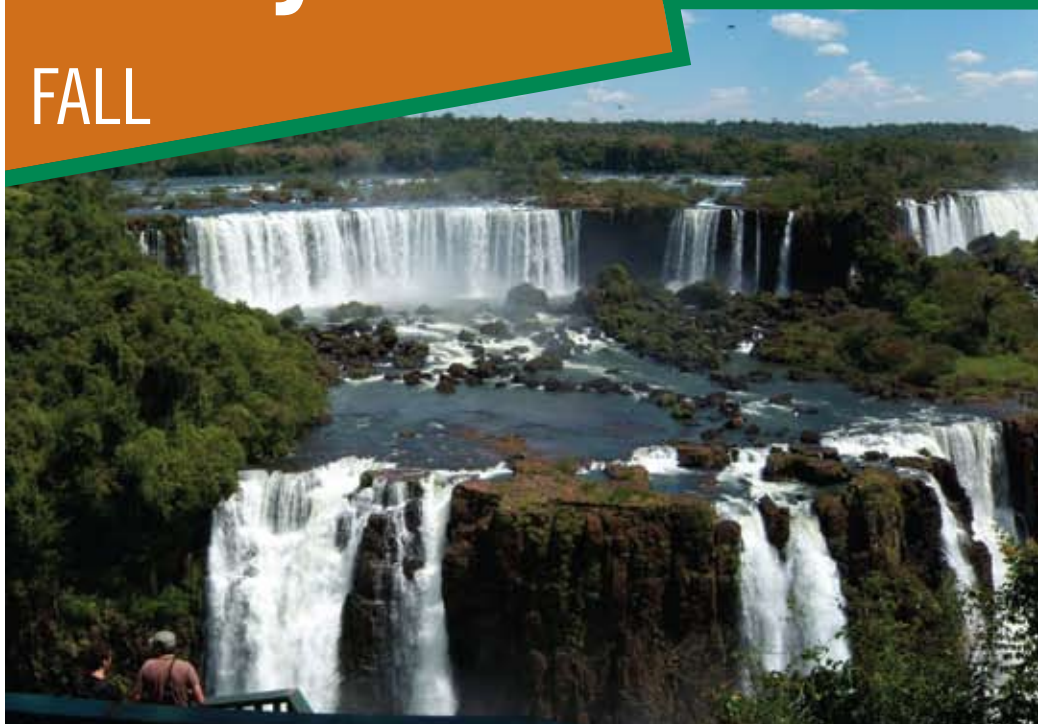


"... the best academic experience of my life and one which I will never forget."

– Brian Yates, *Rowan University*

Brazilian Ecosystems

FALL



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