



**Organization for  
Tropical Studies**

## **UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER ABROAD IN COSTA RICA (TROPICAL BIOLOGY)**



**DUKE UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF  
STUDY ABROAD**

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Describe your academic background (including relevant courses taken, laboratory and field experiences, travel, or employment); your interest in ecology, scientific research, conservation and Latin American culture; your academic and career objectives and how the OTS/Duke Costa Rica summer abroad program will be beneficial to you. This statement should be typed, 1-2 pages in length and double-spaced.



APPROVAL OF PARTICIPATION (NON-DUKE STUDENTS ONLY)

TO THE STUDY ABROAD ADVISOR, DEAN FOR STUDY ABROAD, OR ACADEMIC DEAN:

Instructions: Please return the completed form to the student or send it to the address below.

1. (Student's Name) \_\_\_\_\_ has the approval of this institution that following his/her return from studying abroad through the Organization for Tropical Studies/Duke University, and upon receipt of the Duke transcript, the work will be evaluated and considered for transfer credit and/or toward the fulfillment of graduation requirements at this institution. Do you recommend this student?

{ } YES { } NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

2. To the best of your knowledge, has this student ever been on academic or disciplinary probation?

{ } YES { } NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

3. To the best of your knowledge, has this student ever been convicted of a felony?

{ } YES { } NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there anything else we need to know about this student?

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Working Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



RECOMMENDATION FORM

TO THE APPLICANT

Please fill in your name/current university below and then ask one of your science faculty members to complete this form. You should request a recommendation from a faculty member that knows you well, is from your major department and with whom you have taken at least one class within the past two years.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Currently Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

TO THE FACULTY MEMBER

This recommendation will be used for admissions purposes only. It will not be made part of the student's educational record and no reference will be made to it for educational purposes after a decision is made on the applicant's admissibility. Therefore, this recommendation is not subject to the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The student will not have legal access to this recommendation.

Because personal comments are helpful in the selection process, the Admissions Committee would appreciate a complete and honest statement about this student. Please mail or fax this form to the following address:

Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS)
Duke University
Box 90630
Durham, NC 27708-0630
Tel (919) 684-5774
Fax (919) 684-5661

If you wish to send this form and the reference electronically, please send it to: ots@duke.edu. Be sure to include the student's name in the subject line. A student's application cannot be reviewed until OTS has received both this form and a written reference. Thank you for your assistance.

On a sheet of your institution's letterhead, please write an assessment of the applicant that answers the following questions:

- 1. How do you know the applicant? For how long have you known the applicant?
2. What are some of the applicant's intellectual and academic strengths and challenges?
3. Because the candidate's ability to adapt to small and very intense group living situations is extremely important for this program, what is your assessment of the applicant's personal qualities and social skills, including positives and negatives?
4. Does the candidate have any personal problems that may interfere with his or her academic performance or relationship with other students? Has the candidate been subject to any disciplinary censure? If yes, please explain.
5. Does the candidate have strong personal and academic motivation for studying abroad? Please explain.
6. Is there anything else that we need to know about this student? Do you have any additional comments?

Table with 6 columns: Please rate the applicant regarding:, do not recommend, without enthusiasm, fairly strong, strongly, enthusiastically. Rows include Academic promise, Character and personal promise, Overall recommendation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty Appointment \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_