



# **COSTA RICA**

## **Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)**

### **Are you curious about the natural world?**



*"Coming from Native and Pacific Islander backgrounds, we all understood the impacts of being minority in the scientific field. Such an opportunity like this gave us confidence in reaching success in the field."*

We are looking for undergraduate African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific Islanders, who are curious about the natural world, and are also:

- adventurous.
- willing to invest their summer months doing original research in the tropical forests of Costa Rica.
- willing to integrate their research experience into their future careers by presenting their results.
- willing to have meaningful cultural exchanges and make scientific contacts from across the globe.
- willing to work hard, and take full advantage of this stupendous opportunity that is truly a stepping stone towards a scientific career.



#### **What is REU?**

REU is a summer opportunity for undergraduate African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific Islanders students to complete ecological research. It takes place at the OTS La Selva Research Station and OTS Las Cruces Research Station, through support of the NSF Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program (LSAMP). Summer funding allows students to complete an original research project while guided by experienced researchers.

**For program dates, deadlines and detailed information, please visit:**

**<https://tropicalstudies.org/course/reu/>**

#### **REU Highlights**

- Design and carry out original scientific research in a tropical rain forest.
- Cultural exchange within the program.
- Ideal conditions for research on forest fragmentation, restoration ecology, water quality, tropical biodiversity, and climate change.
- Daily contact with experienced scientists from a variety of biological disciplines.
- Presentation of results in the internet-broadcast REU symposium.







## Why you should apply to REU if you are African American, Hispanic American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or Native Pacific Islander

1. The REU is an opportunity to conduct **your own scientific project under the mentorship of a professional scientist**. You will gain instruction in research methods, tropical ecology, statistical analysis, and scientific writing and presenting. No previous experience necessary!
2. **Students come from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds**, including from isolated community colleges, tribal colleges, and other LSAMP institutions.
3. You will receive a **paid stipend**, and all program travel and living **expenses are covered**.
4. You can gain **international experience** and make lifetime contacts with **scientists and a new community of friends**.
5. To engage in a **rich cultural program** through interacting with students from diverse backgrounds and with a wide range of indigenous and Latin community members in Costa Rica.



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*"I liked that everything was independent and hands on. I got the opportunity to design and execute a research project, something that most undergrads would never be "trusted" to do on their own."*

### Questions?

Please contact:

[reu.program@tropicalstudies.org](mailto:reu.program@tropicalstudies.org)



Organization for  
Tropical Studies

### How to apply

<https://tropicalstudies.org/course/reu/>

Click on the Application Process button on the program page and follow the instructions to fill out the application online.

## COVID-19

Strict and obligatory COVID-19 protocols developed by OTS in accordance with international and Costa Rican guidelines will be followed as part of the on-boarding and during-program procedures; additional information will be provided to interested and confirmed participants. Students should discuss international travel guidelines or restrictions with their university before applying.

