



Costa Rica 2026: Global Engineering Experience

Program Details:

This Global Engineering Experience in Costa Rica focuses on hands-on construction, and experiential learning, blending community engagement. Students will apply skills to real-world challenges while collaborating on projects rooted in sustainable development practices. Through this work, students will gain practical knowledge of construction techniques, engage in hands-on building experience in a rural, real-world Costa Rican community. Fieldwork will be complemented by exposure to the region's exceptional biodiversity and cultural heritage, providing a deeper understanding of how engineering can empower rural communities to achieve resilience, sustainability, and economic opportunity. The full itinerary will be finalized and released prior to the trip.

Dates: February 14-21, 2026

Location: Costa Rica

Language: English

Program type: Group Study

Application status: Open

Application deadline: October 09, 2025

Participants: This is a cross-departmental trip open to all disciplines within engineering. Students are required to complete the Global Engineering Experience application form. They are responsible for securing Visas and all supporting travel documentation if required for their destination. They must participate in all pre-departure education, meetings, and preparation activities.

Eligibility: Students who have a minimum GPA of 2.0, have not previously participated in the Global Experience program and in the 2nd year & above of their Engineering major are welcome to apply. Students must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months past the date of the return, have updated vaccination records and be eligible to travel to the destination country. *Please note, passport must be valid at the time of application.*

Cost: Students eligible for this program will be required to pay out of pocket up to \$2,000. This includes round-trip airfare, field trips, local transportation, emergency medical insurance, and accommodations. Some meals will be provided (program dependent), but students should budget for food and snack purchases.

Funding: Due to the significant existing financial contribution from SSE, students will not be eligible to receive Schulich Student Activities Funding (SSAF) or UCalgary International Funding for these experiences.



Pre-departure: The Engineering Student Centre and Chaperone(s) will host a mandatory pre-departure session for students. The topics covered will include student rules of conduct, customs/norms of the destination countries, attendance expectations, and a full overview of the agenda. Students will also be expected to complete an online study abroad module.

Student conduct: Students will be bound by university non-academic misconduct policies and will be required to sign the SSE Rules of Engagement for Group travel document. If misconduct occurs, the faculty chaperones, in consultation with the Dean's Office, reserve the right to send the student(s) home. Students will be required to sign risk and student conduct waivers at the pre-departure session.

Additional student expenses: Managed directly by program participants:

- Meals (breakfast will be provided)
- Additional baggage fees (if required)
- Passport & Photos (If required)
- Immunizations: based on recommendations from travel clinic, cost varies depending on individual circumstances and destination countries
- Travel insurance (medical and emergency will be included)