PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The College of Charleston offers semester-long programs abroad at its Trujillo campus in Spain, but it is rare that these include Biology courses. For Fall 2018, we are offering a program entitled "Natural History, Environmental Sustainability and Policy: An Immersive Experience in Trujillo Spain". Students are immersed in Spanish language and culture through living with experienced host families. The town of Trujillo, under consideration for UNESCO World Heritage status, is embedded within a fantastic diversity of geological settings and Mediterranean ecosystems, easily visited on day trips. The area surrounding Trujillo is one of the best birding locations on the planet. Multi-day field trips will allow students to compare/contrast coastal ecology of the Mediterranean and North Atlantic and take a closer look at sustainability-related topics such as threatened species protection, ecotourism, aquaculture, clean energy and local food production. There will also be opportunities to travel thru Spain or other European destinations on your own. This semester-long program integrates Biology and Environmental Studies classes in a hands-on, field-oriented curriculum with enthusiastic faculty. Courses will be taught in English by two CofC faculty (Dr. Erik Sotka, Professor of Biology; Carolyn Sotka, Adjunct Professor of Biology). A ‘Conversational Spanish’ course will be taught by a professor from the Universidad de Caceres. We designed the program to allow student advancement toward graduation for Biology majors, Environmental Studies minors or both. The program may also be of interest to any major in the School of Sciences and Mathematics.

COURSE OFFERINGS (STUDENTS MUST ENROLL IN AT LEAST 12 HOURS)
Upper-division Biology majors:
- BIOL 406 Conservation Biology (3 credits)
- BIOL 453 Natural History of Spain (4 credits)
- POLI 319/ENVT 352: Environmental Sustainability and Policy: An International Comparison of Best Practices, Opportunities and Challenges (3)
- SPAN 328 Conversational Spanish (3)

Lower-division Biology majors and All non-majors:
- BIOL 250 Conservation Biology (3 credits)
- BIOL 250 Natural History of Spain (4 credits)
- POLI 319/ENVT 352: Environmental Sustainability and Policy: An International Comparison of Best Practices, Opportunities and Challenges (3)
- SPAN 328 Conversational Spanish (3)

PROGRAM DATES
September 10-December 15, 2018
*dates subject to change*

PROGRAM FEE
$6,726
*Fee is estimated and does not include tuition

APPLICATION DEADLINE
April 1, 2018

SPAIN
PROGRAM FEE

The program fee is $6,726*  

*this fee is estimated and does not include tuition

INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FEE

• Housing and meals with families
• Hotel accommodations and 2 meals a day during program excursions
• All ground transportation during program excursions
• International Medical Insurance
• International Student ID Card
• Entrance fees to natural and historical sites and museums while on excursions
• Non-refundable application fee of $50

NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FEE

• Round-trip transportation from Charleston to Trujillo, Spain
• Passport fees and student visa fee of $160
• Tuition: Students will pay their normal CofC tuition.
  All financial aid and scholarships that students normally receive will apply.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships of up to $2000 each are available to support CofC degree-seeking students to study abroad; eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need and academic merit. Applications can be found on the CIE website: https://international.cofc.edu under Scholarships.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dr. Erik Sotka (Professor of Biology) has been teaching and pursuing research in field-based ecology, evolution, and conservation biology for 20 years. He has been a faculty member at CofC since January 2005, and during that time initiated two CofC study abroad courses based in the field during the summer (British Virgin Isles & Bahamas). Also, Erik lived in Sevilla, Spain for a year during college and looks forward to returning. Visit the Sotka Lab Web site at http://blogs.cofc.edu/sotkae/ to learn more.

Carolyn Sotka has a masters degree in ocean policy and has helped start ocean conservation programs at prestigious aquariums, universities, and non-profits all over the United States. She is author of the book “The Death and Life of Monterey Bay: A Story of Revival” and has written features, travel articles, federal reports, and content for videos and podcasts about critical ocean issues. Carolyn is a CofC adjunct faculty member and teaches science communication. Visit her CofC page at http://marinebiology.cofc.edu/about-the-program/faculty-listing/sotka-carolyn.php to learn more.

TO APPLY

To apply visit international.cofc.edu and follow the instructions on applying online. For more information contact Sabrina Prioleau, Study Abroad Program Assistant, Center for International Education, prioleaus@cofc.edu, 843-953-0441 or Stephanie Leahy, Assistant Director of Study Abroad, Center for International Education, leahys@cofc.edu, 843-953-7823.

The application deadline is April 1, 2018. Please note that a non-refundable $50 application fee, will be charged to the student’s MyCharleston account once the application has been submitted to, and approved by, the CIE. This fee is included in the program fee of $6,726.