For Accepted Students

Congratulations! We are looking forward to your participation in this unique and engaging program. We have compiled some important information for you; please review this carefully with your family and don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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I. Before You Arrive

Next Steps - Required Items

You will soon receive a personalized email outlining a checklist of items that need to be completed in order for you to attend the program. Included in the checklist are student account activations, electronic billing and payment access, travel itinerary request, forms completion via DocuSign and an online tutorial that reviews Brown’s values and policies. As you work through the steps, it is recommended that students and parents write down all usernames and passwords.

Forms are submitted electronically through DocuSign, an electronic signature provider where you can digitally fill out and sign our required forms and waivers. Forms include sections for both students and parents to complete.

You can expect to complete the following forms:

- Pre-College Off-Campus Programs Student Acceptance and Release and Waiver Form
- Medical Authorization Form
- Physician’s Immunization and Medical Report – Requires a medical provider’s signature
- Off Campus Dietary Form
- Travel Itinerary
- University of Georgia waiver

If applicable:
- Disability, Medical, and Dietary Services Request Form
  Students with significant food allergies or intolerance should complete a Disability, Medical and Dietary Services Request. Along with this form, students may need to submit documentation of their area of disability and needs. Please reference the SEAS guidelines for documenting a disability and contact them if you have any questions or concerns:
  SEAS-SPS@brown.edu or 401-863-9588. More information can also be found on the SEAS Website under School of Professional Studies (SPS) Programs.

You can also expect to receive emails with instructions for how to activate your Brown account, pay your balance online, and complete an online tutorial that reviews Brown’s values and policies.
Online Program Orientation

A required online program orientation for you and a parent is scheduled for **Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 5:00pm EDT**. We will review important program information and give you an opportunity to ask questions. To participate in this orientation, you will need access to a computer (no webcam necessary).

**Register for the Orientation here:**
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6151891084640420354

Travel Dates and Times

**Program Dates: Sunday, July 1 - Saturday, July 7, 2018**

**Arrival – July 1, 2018** at San Jose (SJO) before 3:00pm CEST (Central Standard Time). Staff will be present after 9:00am.*

**Departure - July 7, 2018** from San Jose (SJO) **after 12pm CEST** (Central Standard Time). Staff must depart airport by 6:30pm*

*If you are experiencing difficulty identifying flights within the arrival or departure time frames, please contact a program advisor at 401–863–7900 or precollege@brown.edu **before making a reservation.** Once you have confirmed your flights, please submit the travel itinerary form. This form will be sent to you in your checklist email.

Unaccompanied Minors

Airline, bus, and train company policies and services regarding unaccompanied minors vary. If you plan to use this service provided by your transportation carrier, please contact us in advance so we can discuss its feasibility. There may be instances when we are unable to fulfill the required protocols.

Airport Pick-Up and Drop-Off

**Arrival:** Students are met at the San Jose International Airport by Brown University staff wearing “BROWN” t-shirts. After students collect their luggage at their respective baggage claim areas and make their way through Customs, proceed to the International Arrivals area to meet program staff.

**Departure:** At the end of the program, staff will accompany students to their respective departure terminal to assist with check-ins and moving through security checkpoints. However, once students are through security, they are responsible for communicating with parents and managing their flight home.
Flight delays
Staff closely monitor all arrival flights and will be available at the airport in the event of unexpected travel delays. If you experience a delay while traveling to Italy, please call or text Brown’s On-Site Director with your new arrival time.

Communication with Families
Program Staff will communicate with families during the program via email during key points, such as arrival and departure as well as arrival to overnight visits. Email communication will primarily be intended to inform families that students have arrived safely at destinations.

Families will also receive access to the program blog which will include student posts about program highlights and student learning.

Pre-program assignments
In preparation for the program, please read the following article on how changing climates affect the cloud forest ecosystem:

- Secrets in the Clouds

Packing List
Please be very conservative in packing and bring only essentials. There is limited luggage capacity in our bus and where we are staying. Also, most airlines charge extra for luggage weighing over 50 lbs.

Tip #1: Remember that there is limited space in the cabins: bring only what you need. Soft-sided bags are best for fitting in small spaces. Students tend to over pack and a few versatile items are usually sufficient.

Tip #2: Weather can vary. Please check the weather in Monteverde (zipcode: 60109) prior to packing. Depending on where you live, it may seem strange packing a fleece for Costa Rica but nights can be cool in the mountains.

Tip #3: Rain gear is important. We will be spending time outdoors rain or shine.

Required items
- Passport
- Round-trip ticket
- Government-issued photo ID
- Copies of important documents – passport, credit cards, etc. (Leave a set of copies at home. Bring another set with you and store them separately from the originals)
- Any prescribed medications in their original bottle and a copy of the prescription
Toothbrush and toiletries (travel size toiletries are recommended)
- Long sleeve shirt (1-2 pieces) to wear in cooler weather or as sunburn protection
- T-shirts (4-5 pieces)
- Fast drying shorts (1-2 pairs)
- 2-3 pairs cotton or cotton-polyester pants (jeans are not recommended as they dry out very slowly)
- Sleepwear
- Rain jacket or coat (lightweight and able to fit into a daypack)
- Waterproof hiking boots (if purchased new, break them in for a couple of days before the program)
- Several pairs of quality boot socks (i.e. Smart Wool)
- Sunglasses
- Hat – preferably with a wide brim for good sun protection, especially if you burn easily
- Sunblock – water-resistant, 30+ SPF
- Daypack (used to carry field equipment and rain jacket during hikes)
- Field notebooks – Rite in the Rain Universal Field Nt. 374
- Pens, pencils
- Canteen or water bottle
- Portable flashlight with extra batteries

**Recommended items**
- Flipflops/sandals for shower
- Camera and spare batteries
- Phone charger
- Skin/rash guard (strongly recommended if you are fair)
- Insect Repellent
- Calamine or anti-itch cream
- Binoculars (7x35 or 8x42, preferably water resistant)
- Blank journal
- Small and large Ziploc bags to keep items dry, and to store wet or dirty items in daypack and in suitcase or duffle bag
- Spending money (see below)

**Laundry**
Laundry service is available at $10.00 per load (wash & dry). Laundry dropped off before 8:00am will be available for pickup by 3:00pm.
Spending Money
Accommodations and meals are covered in the program fee as well as entry fees to various sites. You will only need money while you are traveling to and from Costa Rica. We will have one or two occasions to purchase souvenirs, if you so choose.

What not to bring
While rooms are secure, there is no need to bring laptops, iPads, e-readers, or other valuable electronics. Students are prohibited from bringing illegal drugs, alcohol, and weapons of any sort, including pocket or Swiss army knives.

II. During the Program

Communication

As a general rule, we try to stay tuned in to each other and to our natural surroundings throughout the program so we ask that use of mobile devices (for phone calls, texting, social media, etc) be limited to free time in the evening. Letting go of the frequent connection to our phones helps us form a community and adjust to a new environment more quickly.

To contact us in an emergency, parents may call the On-site Director at (401) 323-1885. Please note: this number will not be active until a few days before the program starts.

Accommodations and Meals

Students will be staying in bungalow housing at the University of Georgia Costa Rica campus. Students room with 2-4 peers, separated by gender, and will sleep on mattresses in bunk beds. Located in the heart of the main campus, each bungalow has a private bath, desks and chairs, and a security safe. Please note: UGA Costa Rica keeps a “no food, no drinks, no wet items in the rooms” policy to cut down on odors, insects and damage.

Students can expect three healthy meals each day, freshly prepared using local ingredients, and served buffet-style in the main campus cafeteria. We will work with UGA Costa Rica to make accommodations for dietary restrictions and food allergies if we are notified in advance.
Health and Wellness

Dietary Restrictions and Medical Conditions
We will work with the staff to make accommodations for dietary restrictions and food allergies if we are notified in advance. Students must communicate significant food allergies that require meal accommodations (e.g. gluten, shellfish, soy, eggs, milk) on the Off-Campus Dietary Form. Please also indicate dietary preferences, including vegetarians and vegans, to allow us to plan accordingly.

Prescription Medications
Students’ prescription medications will be collected by the On-Site Director or their designee on the first day of the program. Students must be responsible for requesting and taking prescribed dosage. Students with life-saving asthma and anaphylaxis medications (eg. Epi-Pens and inhalers) must keep them on their person at all times. All students who are taking prescription medications should bring prescribed medication in the original container, and a copy of their prescription and give it to the On-site Director. Having a copy of the original prescription will enable us to replace medication if needed.

Personal Health and Medical Emergencies
The Costa Rica program is a physically taxing program involving significant exertion in the outdoors. For your safety and comfort during the program, we expect participants to fully disclose any and all pre-existing medical conditions in required medical forms.

Program staff maintains a list of medical facilities to provide students with the medical care required. In the event of a medical emergency, students will be transported to Hospital Monsenor Sanabria in Puntarenas.

Adequate sleep
Our days are busy, requiring the students’ energy and attention throughout the day. Although students must be in their rooms by curfew, we respect the students’ ability to choose when to go to sleep. We expect all students to get adequate rest and to respect their roommate’s need for sleep.
Insurance
Each student participating in an international Pre-College program is automatically enrolled in insurance coverage for accident and sickness, and emergency assistance services during the length of the program. Prior to departure, students will be emailed information on coverage and benefits.

Safety and Supervision
Evening supervision will be provided by program staff staying at UGA. Staff is available for support and assistance 24 hours a day.

Quiet hours on campus are from 9:00pm to 6:00am. Curfew is at 10:00pm, at which point students are expected to be in their rooms and keeping noise to a minimum.

Fellow Students
There will be approximately 20 students from all over the United States and the world in the program. Usually there are slightly more girls than boys ranging from grades 10-12.

III. Policies

Code of Conduct
Please review the Brown Pre-College Code of Conduct.

Financial
The payment deadline for the program is Friday, May 25. Students must be paid in full PRIOR to the start of the program. Please review our financial policies, including payment and refund information.

Evaluation
Students will receive a Course Performance Report, written by program staff and will also be asked to complete a course evaluation. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a Certificate of Completion. All completion materials including the evaluation will be sent 6 weeks after the program concludes. The certificate will be sent via US Mail but other items will be sent electronically to the student email we have on file.