

# STUDY ABROAD IN BELIZE

A CCBC FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM  
WITH GENEROUS FUNDING FROM THE HONORS COLLEGE & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

**SPRING BREAK: APRIL 14-19, 2025**

CLICK HERE TO  
APPLY BY JAN. 30  
Apply early for best consideration!

## CULTURE, COMMUNITY & CONNECTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA



Belize is an ideal site to study culture and community, with its diverse population of peoples descended from Africans, Mayans, and Europeans; extraordinary natural resources and abundance; and ease of communication in English. Through hands-on experiences, we will engage with local communities and explore sites of cultural and historical significance. We will also have the opportunity to delve into Belize's community health system by shadowing a volunteer health care coordinator and gaining real-world insight into public health services in this part of Central America.

### PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

*The estimated program cost of \$680 includes:*

- Round-trip airfare
- Five nights in Belize
- Daily breakfasts, one group lunch & three group dinners
- Excursions per the enclosed itinerary
- Ground transportation in Belize
- Full-time local study abroad director in Belize
- All academic programming, customized by CCBC faculty
- Emergency medical & travel insurance







## ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should be at least age 18 and be ready to complete an interview with one of the program's faculty leaders.

Student applicants should also be in good academic and disciplinary standing at CCBC.

Students in any major may apply.

## PARTICIPANT SELECTION

**Seats are limited. Apply early for best consideration. Online applications are due by January 30 or as long as seats are available.**

Interviews with applicants and notification of admissions decisions will be conducted on a rolling basis.

## ACADEMICS

As pre-departure preparation, all participants will take part in a several-hour CCBC continuing education course that is an included component of the program. This course will cover topics that help participants to make the most of their time abroad.

Student participants will also complete certain assignments with the program leaders to qualify for a study abroad credential on their CCBC transcript.





# MEET YOUR PROGRAM LEADERS



**DR. AZAR  
ETESAMYPOUR-KING**

Dr. Azar Etesamypour-King is a psychology professor at CCBC. She holds a Ph.D. in psychology and completed a postdoctoral program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Her studies and career have taken her to Iran, the US, and France, where she developed a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and its impact on worldviews. She is an experienced study abroad faculty leader, most recently taking students on programs to Iceland, Spain, and Morocco. Dr. Etesamypour-King also frequently leads student programs to sites of international interest within the US, especially New York City.



**DR. DANIELLE  
JAMES**

Dr. Danielle James is chair of the Department of Social Sciences and a professor of anthropology, sociology, and global studies at CCBC. She earned a Ph.D. in anthropology, specializing in modern human biological variation and its connections to language and historical population migration. Dr. James is committed to studying cultural diversity, exploring both the shared traits and distinct characteristics of human populations. Passionate about global education, Dr. James is leading her second study abroad program, having previously guided students to historical and cultural sites in Spain and Morocco.





## PAYMENTS

The full cost of this program is approximately \$680, due as follows:

- **~\$400 by February 12, 2025**
- **~\$280 by March 7, 2025**

Admitted students will receive detailed payment information and instructions in their program acceptance letter.



## INSURANCE

This study abroad program includes a policy for emergency medical and travel insurance. It also includes cancel-for-any-reason (CFAR) insurance, which covers 75% of the participant's fees in case of withdrawal.

Participants over age 45 may pay an extra fee for the program insurance.

For more details and the full insurance policy description, contact CCBC's Global Education office.



## LODGING & MEALS

The program includes accommodations in shared rooms for five nights in Belize.

A limited number of single rooms may be available for an extra fee. Indicate on the application if you wish to be considered for a single room. Single room assignment is not guaranteed.

Daily breakfasts are provided at the accommodations.

For meals not included in the program, the Belize study abroad director from company CELA Belize/Loop Abroad will orient you to varied local options so that you may make choices based on your preferences and budget.



### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Travel documents: passport application fees and, if not a US citizen, possible visa fees
- Baggage fees on flights, if applicable
- Meals that are not part of the itinerary
- Tuition and fees for students who register for an associated course
- Personal and free time expenses



**CLICK  
HERE TO  
APPLY!**

# ITINERARY \*



*Throughout the program, CCBC leaders guide participants through an active learning process toward a deeper understanding of their experiences and findings abroad.*

## **MONDAY, APRIL 14**

Depart the US and arrive in Belize in the early afternoon. Head first to Belmopan to meet with faculty and students from the University of Belize, gaining insights into Belize's higher education system and current national issues. Afterwards, transfer to San Ignacio, the program's home base. San Ignacio is a vibrant town and a hub for both adventure and cultural exploration, known for its lively markets, rich cultural heritage, and proximity to stunning natural and archaeological sites. Here, settle to the accommodations, participate in an orientation to health and safety in Belize, and end the day with a welcome dinner of local specialties.

## **TUESDAY, APRIL 15**

Today begins with a session with Dr. Filiberto Penados of Galen University in Belize: an overview of Belize's history, culture, and society. Then meet a local medicine healer for a guided tour of a medicinal garden to learn about traditional Belizean healing practices. After a "learning lunch" with San Antonio Women's Group, visit the group's ceramics workshop before ending the day with a workshop on Belize's health care system. Enjoy dinner at local favorite Erva's Restaurant, which specializes in using fresh, natural, local ingredients.

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16**

Begin the day exploring community health work with local expert and activist Aide Sanchez and visit Succotz Village. There, you'll participate in home visits with local health workers, gaining firsthand experience in how community volunteers support the health system. After lunch at Benny's Kitchen, another popular restaurant with locally-sourced ingredients, explore the Xunantunich Maya Archaeological Site. Xunantunich is an ancient site known for its impressive El Castillo pyramid, which provides insights into the rich history, society, and civic life of the Mayan people. The evening is free for dinner on your own.

## **THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

Today, visit the Arenal Community, a small rural village located on the border of Belize and Guatemala and known for its close-knit community and rich cultural heritage, including traditional Mayan practices. Explore the village via a guided tour and meet a village midwife to learn about her role in local health care. After enjoying lunch with a local family, participate in a traditional Mayan chocolate-making workshop followed by a tasting, and discover the importance of chocolate within Mayan society. Dinner will be on your own, offering more time to explore.

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 18**

Start the day with a guided walk through San Ignacio and its lively market. Later, meet with students from Belize's Galen University to discuss differences between student life in Belize and in the US, deepening your understanding of Belizean culture through meaningful exchange with peers. Lunch will be on campus, giving you more time to connect with local students. In the afternoon, explore the natural wonders of the Rio On Pools and Rio Frio Cave, where granite rocks and ledges form scenic waterfalls, fresh-water pools, and a stalactite-filled giant cave standing 65 feet tall. In the evening, enjoy a local musical performance and farewell dinner at the Benque House of Culture, which focuses on Belize's Mestizo (Spanish-Mayan) community – a perfect conclusion to your time in Belize.

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

Check out of the hotel, transfer to the airport, and board an afternoon flight back to the US.

*\* Daily excursions are subject to change, and the order of activities may be switched or substituted as needed based on availability.*



# STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGMENT: BELIZE

**SUBMIT SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGMENT PAGE AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS TO  
CCBC'S GLOBAL EDUCATION OFFICE STAFF:**

Rebekah de Wit ([rdewit@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:rdewit@ccbcmd.edu)) or Alison Netzer ([anetzer2@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:anetzer2@ccbcmd.edu))

**Apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/CRjXJQZL9Q>**

## ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD

At the time of application,

- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing at your college.
- Be at least age 18.
- Be ready to complete an interview with a program faculty leader.

## STUDY ABROAD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### AMOUNT

~\$400

~\$280

### PAYMENT DUE

February 12, 2025

March 7, 2025

## PAYMENTS

- Before the required deadlines, participants must pay for the program in full. Participants who do not make payments on time may be dropped from the program and be unable to re-enroll.
- Program payments are nonrefundable.
- Payments must be made in accordance with the instructions in participants' program acceptance letter.
- Participants are responsible for budgeting and for ensuring that they will have access to sufficient funds to cover their needs for the duration of the study abroad program.



## REFUND AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

- All study abroad program payments are nonrefundable, except as covered by the included insurance policy. CCBC withdrawal, drop, add, and refund dates deadlines do not apply to study abroad.
- If CCBC has already paid or encumbered funds on a participant's behalf at the time of a withdrawal, the participant is obligated to pay the amount encumbered or paid by CCBC unless and until the third party reimburses CCBC or releases CCBC from the financial obligation.
- This CCBC study abroad program includes cancellation coverage under certain circumstances. Participants are responsible for requesting and reviewing program insurance coverage to ascertain whether it meets their needs and may purchase additional insurance coverage independently if they wish to. A participant who wishes to cancel participation in study abroad for any reason after the published payment deadline may pursue a claim with the program insurance policy. Refunds are not guaranteed.
- Students who receive extra financial aid for study abroad must notify Financial Aid of their withdrawal and may be required to repay some or all of their aid award depending on date of withdrawal.

## ACADEMICS

- Study abroad programs are academic in nature and students must expect to invest time and effort in this program.
- Participants in this study abroad program will be enrolled in a CCBC continuing education course. Some participants may also register for an associated credit-bearing course. Participants will also complete other assignments per the faculty leaders' written directive.
- Attendance at all scheduled program activities is required, both at CCBC and abroad. Participants are expected to be punctual at all scheduled activities. Lateness and absences may result in suspension or expulsion from the program.
- Participants will participate in required orientations and online coursework for the program during the spring semester, and students will also participate one post-travel meeting (dates to be announced).
- Student participants must satisfactorily complete assigned academic work to receive the study abroad transcript credential and (if applicable) final course grade.

## CONDUCT

- While studying abroad, participants are expected to abide by all applicable laws and by CCBC rules and policies, including the CCBC Student Code of Conduct.
- If during free time a student participant wishes to go somewhere alone, s/he is to tell someone, preferably a faculty leader, where s/he is going and when s/he plans to return. Students are advised not to go out alone.
- The faculty leaders have the right and responsibility to suspend from the program any participant if the leaders deem such action to be in the best interest of the group. In such instances, no refund or credit will be awarded to the member so suspended. Breaches of local law will be reported to law enforcement agencies.
- All facilities reserved for the group are to be used solely by members of the group.
- Participants are financially responsible for any damages to accommodations or facilities used on the program.
- If in case of an emergency students borrow funds from a faculty leader for any reason, said funds must be repaid no later than one week following the conclusion of the program.



## PASSPORT

- All participants must have a valid US passport.
- If a participant does not have a US passport or if the passport expires before October 20, 2025, the participant must apply for a new passport now.

## TRAVEL

- Participants will (1) ensure that their current passport will be valid for at least six months after the travel dates OR (2) apply for a passport or passport renewal sufficiently in advance of departure (US citizens: see [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)). Because of current delays in passport processing, participants are advised to handle any needed passport activities immediately.
- Participants are responsible for obtaining their required travel documents in a timely way and for keeping them secure. If a travel document is lost, the participant is responsible for any costs associated with resulting flight or program changes.
- Participants will travel on the designated group flight.
- Participants will provide the Global Education office and/or program vendor(s) with a copy of their passport in a timely way after admission and will also submit required paperwork as directed.
- If not a US citizen or permanent resident, participants must research and comply with their destination's and any transit country's entry requirements for citizens of their home country. CCBC students with an F-1 visa should also discuss with CCBC's International Student Services office their plan to participate in study abroad.

## HEALTH

- Participants should consult with a healthcare provider who specializes in travel medicine at least several months before departure regarding potential health-related needs for Belize. Prior to the appointment, participants should carefully read the Center for Disease Control's websites for travelers to Belize. It is the participant's responsibility to fulfill any required medical-related processes on time before traveling abroad.
- Participants should prepare for significant walking and should bring comfortable shoes for walking on uneven terrain as well as a sturdy umbrella and malaria precautions. Consult with a travel medicine specialist for further recommendations.
- Participants may be required to complete health-related and other paperwork prior to departure.
- Participants who require special accommodations should make their needs known to the Global Education Office in a timely way. Otherwise, it may delay their participation in study abroad until reasonable accommodations/adjustments can be determined. Laws abroad regarding access for those with disabilities may differ from laws in the US and there is no guarantee that all individual needs and circumstances can be met.
- If a participant becomes ill or injured, s/he should notify the program leader(s) immediately.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By my signature, I acknowledge that I have carefully read and I understand the policies and procedures found in this document governing participation in study abroad, and I agree to abide by them. I certify that the information I provided in this application and in any accompanying materials is complete and correct.

My college, its director(s) and its instructor(s) accept no responsibility in whole or in part for any delays, delayed departure or arrival; loss, damage, or injury to any person or property; or mechanical defect or failure of any nature, howsoever caused; or for any substitution of hotels. Program costs are quoted based on information current at the time of printing and are subject to changes therein at or before the time of final payment. No revision of the printed program or its included features is anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes that may become necessary with or without notice and with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual. The right is reserved to reject applications and to dismiss any person as a member of the program at any time.

I further agree that the college may withdraw me from the program and send me home at any time during the program at my expense if the college determines that my continued participation in the program will adversely affect my health, safety or welfare, or the health, safety, welfare or enjoyment of the program by others. I agree further that a decision to withdraw me from the program is final and that I am not entitled to any refund.

I understand that programs or components of programs must sometimes be cancelled for reasons outside the college's control. In these situations, the college will determine what refunds, if any, are due to participants.

In the event of an emergency situation where I am unable to express my own medical care decisions, I hereby authorize faculty, staff, designated agents, and/or an attending physician to seek emergency treatment on my behalf if, in their opinion, emergency treatment is necessary to safeguard my health. I acknowledge and agree that nothing in this release shall be understood as creating any obligation or duty on the part of the college to obtain medical care on my behalf. I agree to pay for any charges for emergency medical treatment that are not covered by my personal health insurance, and release the college and its agents from any liability or actions.

I acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in this study abroad program. I acknowledge that I am aware that there are risks associated with travel, and that my participation in study abroad may expose me to risks of bodily or other personal injury or damage to property. The college and its study abroad office take reasonable steps to provide information and guidance, but I understand that the college cannot guarantee my safety and I assume full responsibility for all risks associated with my participation in study abroad. I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the college and its study abroad office, and college's officers, agents, employees, and representatives from and against any claim which I, the participant, my parents or guardian or any other person may have for any losses, damages or injuries arising out of or in connection with my participation in study abroad.

**PARTICIPANT NAME (printed)**

**PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE**

**DATE**