

be part of the solution

STUDY ABROAD WITH

INTERCULTURAL OUTREACH INITIATIVE



CARBON NEGATIVE STUDY ABROAD



Faculty-led opportunities

Service Learning

Short-term and long-term

Group or individual placement

DIRECTLY ADVANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF



welcome to ioi!



IOI is a leading nonprofit that has empowered isolated communities to grow sustainably through educational travel since 2006. We provide international education programs that support the education, conservation, and social development of our host communities in Galapagos and Cuba.

We run international volunteering and study abroad programs to support local conservation and community development projects.

Whether your time with IOI is part of a semester-long course or a short-term faculty-led trip, IOI will give your students the opportunity to develop key professional and personal skills. Our programs are custom designed to fit your curricular needs while also emphasizing cultural exchange, service learning, and language immersion.

*Through our ongoing projects,
which contribute to the UN SDGs,
your short-term programs have a long-term impact*

WWW.IOI.ORG

6 great reasons to join us



Carbon Negative

We're proud to be the 1st study abroad organization offering Carbon Negative international education opportunities.



100% customizable

Our programs can be 100% custom designed to each university's and educator's needs.



Cultural immersion and Spanish

Students live with our host families or in locally run B&B's while studying their socio-environmental surroundings. Want to add Spanish language classes too? How about service learning with local National Parks? We have you covered!



Health & Safety

With experienced and highly trained staff, the safety of our students is our top priority. We combine local knowledge with global support and protocols.



Variety of study focuses

From environmental journalism, to rural community economics, to marine or terrestrial ecology – we have a variety of continuous projects your study abroad program can anchor to.



Global Competency skills

Add the AFS Global Competency Certificate to help your students develop intercultural competence and deal with cultural adjustment.



OUR GLOBAL CONTRIBUTION



CARBON NEGATIVE APPROACH

At IOI we care deeply about the environment and the communities that rely on it. We are also very concerned about the world's climate change and all man-made emissions.

This is why we have developed our *2022 Carbon Negative Strategy* in an effort to reduce and fully mitigate all IOI's carbon emissions. We commit to mitigate ALL of our staff and office emissions, as well as those of our faculty-led study abroad programs and volunteering opportunities. This strategy is also part of our bigger commitment to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We believe in the transformative power of study abroad but we are aware that it must be linked to deep and meaningful environmental commitments.

*Global changes require bold moves,
and we want to facilitate a radical change
to the study abroad world*

want to know more?

VISIT WWW.IOI.NGO/CARBONNEGATIVESTRATEGY

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IOI is fully committed to helping achieve the SDGs. In collaboration with local, regional, and global partners, IOI's work directly advances the implementation of these goals. IOI designs all of its projects and organizational objectives to align with the SDG framework. Specifically, our work contributes substantially to the achievement of the following goals:



The implementation of the SDGs ensures a human-environmental balance and economic prosperity for today while ensuring the same benefits for all future generations. IOI aims to engage, educate, and help create global citizens who are inspired to be part of the solution and who continue to contribute towards a sustainable world.



WWW.IOI.NGO/SUSTAINABLE-DEVELOPMENT

OUR LOCATIONS

With high biodiversity and complex social dynamics, our locations are the perfect set up to run international education opportunities. From the island of Isabela in the biodiversity hotspot of Galapagos to the culturally rich island of Cuba, each location offers a unique and powerful environment for each course and trip.

With resident teams in both of our locations who are experts in their fields, we have 10+ years of experience in creating and executing programs that transform participants, enhance learning outcomes, and fit educational demands.

Our tailored approach

Resident teams

Year-round teams on the ground, combining local experts with international staff.

Available add ons and customization

Home stays or local B&Bs, Spanish language lessons, and cultural trips and classes. We adapt to your course needs and priorities.

Health & Safety

With experienced and highly trained staff, the safety of our students is our top priority. We combine local knowledge with global support and protocols.

Variety of study focuses

From environmental journalism, to rural community economics, or marine or terrestrial ecology – we have a variety of continuous projects your study abroad program can anchor to.

100% tailored to your needs

We provide the local context that eliminates much of the planning stress associated with working in unknown environments, while you get to enjoy your teaching abroad experience



CUBA

With a mix of Spanish and African roots, fascinating modern history, undeveloped marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and extremely friendly locals, this island is the perfect location to run unique and meaningful courses and trips.

Consider one of the following study topics:

- + invasive species management
- + turtle nesting monitoring
- + environmental restoration
- + environmental community education
- + Cuban public health end education systems
- + sustainable agriculture



GALAPAGOS

The largest but least inhabited island of the Galapagos and one of the most volcanically active places on Earth, Isabela is the ultimate dream to explore and observe nature and wildlife.

Develop your research in one of our continuous outreach programs:

- + coastal and watershed management analysis
- + trail and park maintenance
- + sustainable agriculture and urban gardening
- + terrestrial/marine conservation and ecology projects
- + sustainable tourism management
- + coastal clean-ups and waste management education
- + environmental journalism and blogging

STUDY ABROAD

IOI offers affordable, safe, fun, and impactful trips so students get extraordinary academic experiences and gain highly valuable global competence and other key employability skills. The design of our service programs merges international education, research, and local sustainable development projects.

Thus, our service projects are academically informed by research, financed and participated in by international education, and executed throughout the year by our students, volunteers, local authorities, and community members.

All our programs and courses are co-designed with university faculty to ensure educational objectives are met while contributing to IOI's long term conservation and development goals, and the global UN SDGs. By participating in our programs, your Students will get deep insights into IOI's sustainable development work in conservation, education, and social development.

Our focus areas

Education

English as a Second Language, International Baccalaureate Program Development, Community Education in Public Health, and Environmental Education, the Cuban Education System

Conservation

Climate Change, Marine and/or Terrestrial Ecology, Marine Biology, Eco-Tourism, Sustainable Agriculture

Social Development

Environmental Journalism, the Cuban Public Health System, North-South Relationships and Decolonization in Tourism Development, Government and Society in Fragile Ecosystems



3 program examples



GALAPAGOS

Sustainable tourism and conservation

Students will analyze the competing needs of human development and environmental protection. Eco-tourism offers an alternative income-source to formerly unsustainable fisheries but has created a new set of pressures on island society and its environment. Conservation problems and solutions will be explored that might provide a sustainable balance for man and nature in Galapagos.

GALAPAGOS

Marine, coastal, or terrestrial Ecology

For example: Mangroves forests grow in saline coastal habitats in the tropics and subtropics. They provide numerous roles in the coastal ecosystem, serving as habitat to hundreds of species, helping to improve and maintain water quality, and protect shorelines from damaging storms, waves, and floods. In the Galapagos, they are unfortunately under threat by local development.



GALAPAGOS

Human-Wildlife Conflict Management

A review of the key principles, concepts, methods, and techniques of protected areas management, combined with a strong emphasis on practical exercises, field work, and case studies both from developing countries and the United States.



CONTACT US

to design a course according to your academic needs

INFO@IOI.INGO - TEL +1 (786) 709 9885

✓ Carbon Negative ✓ 100% customizable ✓ UN SDG contribution

SHORT TERM FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS

We know that planning a class abroad trip can be an incredibly daunting task.

IOI specializes in planning your faculty-led study abroad experiences, custom designed to your curriculum. Our tailored approach allows you to enjoy your teaching abroad experience by providing local context that eliminates much of the planning stress associated with working in unknown environments. We know that, historically, faculty members have had to be responsible for so much more than teaching the course: from overseeing program reservations and payments, on-site crises, logistical changes, risk management, and everything else that comes with these programs. That's where we come in: we take care of all the logistical requirements and can assist you with the academic programming where needed, so you can take care of what matters most – teaching! Through our experience, on-site management, and local connections, we will support you every step of the way.

Guided reflection sessions

We believe in combining our local expertise with your academic knowledge to facilitate engaging and transformative reflection session.

100% customizable

We adapt to your educational and logistical needs and we work with faculty and administrators to comply with all your admin requirements and processes.

Co-designed and collaborative courses

We believe in collaboration. Regardless of your academic focus, we will co-design and organize a program to your specific needs and learning outcomes, offering a unique, transformative experience.

Short term programs, long term impact

We work with our partners to include a service component to ensure that learning outcomes are enhanced, but also guarantees an impact on IOI's long term sustainable goals and the UN SDGs.

Because of our unique locations and the long term commitment to our communities, we can offer courses in a variety of academic topics, such as: terrestrial/marine conservation and ecology, sustainable development, eco-tourism, environmental journalism, geology, evolution, emerging countries and development theory, as well as topic-specific biology classes, among others.

contact us!

3 program examples

CUBA

Conservation and Marine Ecosystems

This course will prepare students to better understand the challenges of conservation biology, the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity, and global sustainability, environmental quality, and socio-economic well-being for current and future generations.



GALAPAGOS

Darwin's playground: explore the cradle of evolution

There's a reason why many of the world's most famous scientists have visited the Galapagos Islands—now it's your turn to discover one of the most beautiful and biologically diverse archipelagos. You will visit four of the Galapagos Islands, immersing yourselves in this pristine environment, seeing blue-footed boobies, land tortoises, sea turtles, penguins, marine iguanas, and hundreds of other species.

CUBA

Culture, language, and architecture

You will explore Old Havana and learn about the history of the city. You will also visit other important historical and cultural sites and go on architectural explorations of Havana's distinct and unique features. Additionally, we will have talks and round table discussions on Cuban socioeconomic and political systems with experts from the Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO).



INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS



An independent research project is an excellent starting point for students aspiring to write a senior or master thesis. It is also ideal preparation for future graduate work.

Those interested should review IOI's project pages to become familiar with our projects and objectives, review the suggested research focuses, and ensure there is a good fit with their own interest and studies.

Prior to departure, students should check in with their advisors at the home college or university to see if there are any additional requirements for students conducting independent research abroad.



Our research topics include:

- + terrestrial/marine ecology
- + sustainable development
- + eco-tourism
- + environmental journalism
- + geology
- + evolution
- + conservation and development theory
- + sustainable agriculture



let's discuss your project!



Together, let's help your students gain field experience and academic knowledge in some of the most isolated ecosystems in the Americas.

are you ready?



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TEL +1 (786) 709 9885



WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO COLLABORATING WITH YOU!

