

2012 Action Education Field Courses

CAN Field Courses offer students the opportunity for intercultural exchange while exploring some of the diverse topics in which we work. Each course is designed a little differently but all aim to engage students in meaningful relationships with CAN communities and expose them to the many joys and struggles of international work and service.

If you are a faculty member at another university and are interested in developing a Field Course in partnership with CAN and one of our communities, please email our Director of Action Education at ActionEd@canunite.org

Alternative Spring Break (ASB)

March 23-31, 2012



ASB in the Yucatan is a field course that focuses on the experience of intercultural exchange in Maya communities. Through working with community members on community-based projects, homestays with host families, and hearing stories from community members, students get a glimpse into life in Tzucucab, a small Mayan town. Activities are focused on hearing from a diverse group of community members about their town and their culture. This course is open to UCSC and other university students.

Dates: March 23-March 31, 2012

Application Deadline: November, 2011

Cost: \$1500

AgroEco® Coffee Tour

January 2013

This tour takes you to northern Nicaragua to interact with the people and processes behind CAN's AgroEco® Coffee while learning about and experiencing the natural beauty and unique culture of the country. Participants live with a farm family for part of the trip and experience the daily rhythms of the coffee harvest. Visiting Nicaragua's natural wonders like volcanoes and lakes, as well as cultural activities and colonial cities are also part of this complete Nicaragua coffee experience. This course is open to anyone interested in learning about AgroEco® Coffee in a comfortable environment. This one fills up, so be sure to register early!!!

Dates: January 2013

Registration Open: June 1-November 1, 2012 (or until full)

Cost: \$1500



Community Economic Development in San Ramon, Nicaragua June 19-July 2, 2012

Students engage with farmers, cooperative, and community members to participate in the economic realities and challenges facing an international, alternative business model and the rural, agrarian community it supports. There is a focus on the cooperative's work to support community food sovereignty through a hybrid model of rural entrepreneurship and sustainable agricultural methods. This course uses active listening and reflection to more deeply understand structural and contextual implications to economic development in the local community. Students employ business skills to join with the local community in analysis of local food and agricultural business options and opportunities. This course is open to California State University, Monterey Bay undergraduate students.



Dates: June 19-July 2, 2012
Application deadline: December 2011
Cost: \$1300

Agroecology Practicum: Sustainable Development in Agua Buena, Costa Rica August 2012



This course's goal is to deepen students' understanding of the theory and practice of sustainable development through the intensive, interdisciplinary field study of community development and coffee agroforestry in Agua Buena, Costa Rica. Using an agroecological and participatory development approach, students will engage with the institutions, households, and agroecosystems of Agua Buena in a variety of projects that serve to give students exposure to some of the most important skills, tools, and approaches in sustainable development. This course is open to both undergraduate and graduate university students.

Dates: August 2012
Application deadline: May 1
Cost: \$1500

International Youth Exchange: Youth Leaders Supporting Community Food Sovereignty June 24-Jun 30, 2012

This course aims to facilitate and develop Youth Leadership to amplify and support Community Food Security and Sovereignty movements in CAN's partner communities throughout Latin America. It brings together youth leaders working with CAN partner organizations to promote food sovereignty in their communities to engage in workshops and trainings around Food Security and Food Sovereignty while engaging themes of Gardens and Agroecology, the youth/campesino role, seed banks, access and availability of water and sharing of experiences among communities. All activities are designed to create, strengthen and support the international network of youth leaders in community food security and sovereignty. This course is limited enrollment, and is open to university students in the US who have experience in environmental or food-systems activism, and who have a long-term commitment to working in an international youth network supporting food sovereignty.



Dates: June 24-June 30, 2012

Application deadline: Please contact us if you think you meet the requirements for participation

Cost: \$1000 (does not include airfare)

Participatory Action Research for Sustainable Rural Development Dates TBD

This course introduces participatory methods for achieving sustainable rural development that creates positive social change. By integrating components of reflection, participation, and action, these methods aim to create sustainable rural livelihoods that include transformational change at all levels of society: from the individual, to agencies, organizations, and governments. Students learn fundamental concepts, practices, and theories for approaching and solving problems collaboratively and understanding how these methods have been applied in various settings. The course is open to undergraduate and graduate university students and researchers.

Dates: TBD

Application deadline: TBD

Cost: TBD