The Institute for Central American Development Studies (ICADS) was created to fill information gap in foreign policy between North American citizens and their governments. ICADS is a center for study, research, and analysis of Central American social and environmental issues. The institute focuses on economic development, agriculture, human rights, women’s issues, education, public health, the environment, and Spanish language instruction.

**The Setting:**
Situated on the Central American isthmus, Costa Rica is a small peaceful country with unique characteristics. It is an ecological bridge for thousands of animal and plant species from both North and South America. Costa Rica shelters within its valleys, plains, and mountains a valuable part of the natural richness of the world. 205 species of mammals, 849 species of birds, 160 species of amphibians, 218 species of reptiles, and 9,000 species of plants. The vast system of national parks encompass both beautiful beaches and tropical rainforests. ICADS is located only fifteen minutes by bus from downtown San José. The center is close to the campus of the University of Costa Rica, one of the best universities in Central America. The San Pedro and Curridabat areas of San José are quiet and residential. However, their proximity to the university makes a variety of restaurants and bookstores easily accessible.

**ICADS Spanish Program:**
The major objectives of the ICADS Spanish language program are consistent with the philosophy and goals of the institute. Teaching is done with an emphasis on learning about the politics, social conditions, environmental issues, and human rights in Central America today. ICADS supplements intensive conversation, grammar and practice with guest lectures, and discussions on the environment, culture, political processes, women’s issues, and economic development. The program is an intensive five days a week, four and a half hours a day experience (over 80 classroom hours per month) geared to the individual abilities and needs of each participant. Students are taught individually or in a class with no more than three others. Upon arrival, students are tested and placed in classes depending on their level of language skills, from absolute beginners to advanced students. Placement assures the active participation of each student in an atmosphere which is stimulating, supportive, and fun. KU students are required to attend all language and supplemental classes.

**ICADS Spanish Students and Instructors:**
Students come to ICADS from all over North America and Europe. They represent all age groups, educational levels, job, and professions. They all share a sensitivity to the myriad problems facing Central America and desire to learn more about the region and it’s people through language training and participation in the culture.

ICADS instructors are highly qualified native speakers with years of experience teaching students of all age groups and levels. All professors attend regular workshops that emphasize creative uses of new materials and teaching techniques.

**Living Arrangements:**
Upon arrival, students are placed with Costa Rican families. An integral part of the program, this home-stay experience facilitates language learning and an active participation in the culture and society of Costa Rica. Host families provide private rooms, breakfast, dinner, and laundry services. Family placements are supervised by a housing coordinator who makes every effort to match the needs of the students with those of the host family. ICADS strongly recommends the home-stay experience; however, we will gladly provide information on alternative housing arrangements at local hotels, hostels, and/or apartments upon request (prices vary).

**Program Format:**
Each four week cycle of classes and lectures begins on the first Monday of each month. Please refer to “Program Dates” for exact dates of each month. You should plan to arrive at least one day before classes begin. An ICADS staffer will be waiting at the airport to greet you and take you to your host family.

**ICADS Schedule of Classes and Events:**

- **8 am – 12:30 pm** Spanish Classes (Mon–Fri)
- **12:30 pm – 2 pm** Spanish Classes (Mon–Thurs)
- **2 pm – 5 pm**

Lectures:
Between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm optional lectures and video presentations are given. The number of lectures given depends on the size and interest of the group.

**Volunteer Opportunities:**
ICADS Spanish language students also have the option of volunteering their skills at orphanages, daycare centers, environmental centers, and other sites in the Central Valley. It is a wonderful way to practice Spanish as well as to make a contribution to people and groups worthy of support. Students should have some prior knowledge of Spanish to work as volunteers.

**2015 Program Dates:**
- June: 1–26
- July: June 29–July 24
- August: July 27–Aug. 21

Students begin classes at the beginning of each month on the dates listed above.
How To Apply:

To apply for the KU-ICADS Intensive Spanish Program, you must complete an application form available from the office of Modern Language Studies. Applications for June, July, and August 2015 are due February 28, 2015. A non-refundable deposit of $50.00 is due with your application for enrollment. This fee will be refunded if you are not excepted into the program. Students wishing to attend another session should consult with the program director. Students must have a 2.5 GPA in Spanish, as well as a 2.5 QPA to be admitted to the program. Selection of participants is also based on the student’s stated academic objectives and a demonstrated ability to adapt to a foreign culture. The program is competitive, and the applicant must clearly demonstrate why he/she should be accepted. Upon selection, students will be formally advised of required orientation meetings at which time they will provide a deposit check made out to ICADS in the amount of $300.00. Upon receipt of the deposit, ICADS will provide students with a copy of the ICADS Guide to Costa Rica. This booklet will help students with preparations for their trip. Students may pay the remaining balance of their fees at any time prior to their departure by sending a check to the Miami address. Students also have the option of paying their balance upon arrival at ICADS. A personal check is acceptable. Should cancellation of your participation be required, the Modern Language Studies Department must be informed in writing immediately.

How To Apply:

Students will be advised as to travel arrangements during the informational meetings.

Costs:

Total cost for the four week intensive program in 2015 is $1,990.00 plus airfare. This price includes all classes, afternoon lectures, activities, books, fieldtrips, airport pickup, room with partial board (breakfast and dinner) with your Costa Rican family, and laundry service. All deposits and tuition payments are refundable up to three weeks before classes begins. Once classes begin, no refunds will be made.

Academic Credit:

Any student who wishes to receive academic credit for work completed at ICADS will receive an official transcript indicating the number of class hours completed and an overall grade for performance. KU students must complete a Request for Permission to Study at Another College form and receive approval from the Registrar’s Office prior to departure. Failure to complete the form to Modern Languages Studies may jeopardize the successful transfer of credits. Students can receive three to six credits for the one month intensive Spanish language program.

Health Care:

Students should be prepared to pay (cash or credit) for any medical care (emergency or otherwise) needed in Costa Rica. Accumulated bills are then submitted to individual insurance companies on return to the U.S. The health care system of Costa Rica is of the highest quality and will provide for your every need in a competent, professional manner. ICADS staff is able to make recommendations with respect to doctors, dentists, and hospitals.

“Kutztown University, the Department of Modern Language Studies, and individuals associated with KU/ICADS program are not responsible for the personal well being of students who choose to participate in the program.”