



# UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA

## Overview

The University of Costa Rica (UCR) has a rich and accomplished history, finding its origins in the University of Santo Tomás in 1843. After many years of political, economic and educational reform, it was established as the body responsible for Higher Level education in Costa Rica in 1940 through a constitutional decree that gave the University its autonomy and statutes for transforming society through academia, research and social action. Its autonomous state allows for it to continually seek academic excellence.

Its vision aims to teach and find ways to benefit the Costa Rican peoples and the Central American Region through research and critical thinking. The academic structure at the UCR has six academic areas: Liberal Arts, Basic Sciences, Social Sciences, Food and Agricultural Sciences, Health and Engineering that branch into 13 Faculties. Each faculty is composed by different schools and colleges, administered by a Dean and the corresponding Collegiate Assembly. UCR also has an interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Program that graduates the leading scholars in the region in various fields.

Overall there are 50 schools and colleges, 38 research centers and institutes, 5 Regional Campuses and 4 Branch Campuses, 3 experimental stations, 2 farms and 17 laboratories. UCR is a large university in a small country of approximately 4.5 million people. UCR has a student population of approximately 45,000 across its campuses and there are 5,000 teachers and professors and 3,500 administrative staff members. Each year approximately 8,000 new students are admitted to UCR and about 5,000 students graduate each year.

The University of Costa Rica has a high level of academic quality; offering 438 academic programs; 225 undergraduate programs, 205 graduate and specialization programs, and 8 doctoral interdisciplinary programs. The University strives to constantly elevate the quality of its professors by encouraging post graduate studies in foreign institutions. This strategy originates from the interest in becoming a leading educational institution in the region by having staff and faculty that receive academic training in prestigious international universities. The internationalization process of the University is an integral part of its work and institutional goals. Therefore the University seeks to forge new growth opportunities with institutions from different parts of the world to enhance its curricula and the academic quality of its staff and faculty.

UCR is a highly credible, leading national and international institution in the Latin American region. The University of Costa Rica is one of the top ranked Universities in Latin America. Its programs and curricula are in a continual process of self evaluation, assessment and accreditation at a national and international level to ensure the best level of studies and teaching at the University. Overall, UCR is responsible for 60% of the research in Costa Rica and 50% of the scientific and academic research done in Central America.

As part of its Internationalization process, UCR tries to diversify its student body and faculty by its Academic and Student Mobility Plans. Through our Visiting Scholar program leading researchers and professors can visit the University of Costa Rica for one to two weeks. Similarly, exchange students can study at the UCR for a semester or participate in special programs of study, tailored for international visiting students who wish to improve their Spanish language skills while attending specific English-taught courses in a wide range of academic areas such as biology, economics, arts, philosophy and music among others taught by qualified UCR professors in each field of study.

**General Information**

<b>Name of the University</b>	University of Costa Rica
<b>Founded</b>	1940
<b>Location</b>	San José, Costa Rica
<b>University Size</b>	50,000 students
<b>Number of International Students</b>	780
<b>Academic Profile/ Strengths</b>	Natural, Social and Health Sciences
<b>Features</b>	Top Ranked University in Central and Latin America. Leading Research Institution in Central America. Strong Social Outreach Broad range of subjects
<b>University of Costa Rica Official Website</b>	<a href="http://www.ucr.ac.cr">www.ucr.ac.cr</a>
<b>International Affairs Office</b>	Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation P.O. BOX: 11501-2060 San Pedro de Montes de Oca, San José Costa Rica Phone: (506) 2511-5080/2511-4729, Fax: (506)2225-5822 <a href="http://www.oaice.ucr.ac.cr/">http://www.oaice.ucr.ac.cr/</a>
<b><u>Academic Information</u></b>	
<b>Undergraduate Course Catalogues and Class descriptions</b>	<a href="http://www.ucr.ac.cr/estudiantes/grado/">http://www.ucr.ac.cr/estudiantes/grado/</a>
<b>Academic Calendar Information</b>	<a href="http://www.vve.ucr.ac.cr/?q=node/65">http://www.vve.ucr.ac.cr/?q=node/65</a> <a href="http://www.ori.ucr.ac.cr/sitio/">http://www.ori.ucr.ac.cr/sitio/</a>
<b>Language Requirements</b>	Proficiency in written and oral Spanish. ** English courses are available through tailored made programs for partner Universities. For more information regarding these programs, please contact Rita Jiménez at: <a href="mailto:rita.jimenez@ucr.ac.cr">rita.jimenez@ucr.ac.cr</a> **  **Intensive Spanish courses are available at <a href="http://spanishclasses.ucr.ac.cr/">http://spanishclasses.ucr.ac.cr/</a> **
<b>Minimum/maximum course load</b>	12 Credits minimum / 18 credits maximum

<b>Academic Areas</b>	<a href="#">Liberal and Fine Arts</a> <a href="#">Social Sciences</a> <a href="#">Basic Sciences</a> <a href="#">Food and Agricultural Sciences</a> <a href="#">Engineering</a> <a href="#">Health</a>
<b>Graduate Studies System</b>	<a href="http://www.sep.ucr.ac.cr/">http://www.sep.ucr.ac.cr/</a>
<b>Research Platform</b>	<a href="http://www.vinv.ucr.ac.cr/">http://www.vinv.ucr.ac.cr/</a>
<b><u>International Cooperation</u></b>	
<b>International Cooperation Agreements with foreign Institutions</b>	310 <a href="http://www.oaice.ucr.ac.cr/en/existing-partnerships.html">http://www.oaice.ucr.ac.cr/en/existing-partnerships.html</a>
<b><u>Academic Mobility</u></b>	
<b>Visiting Scholar Program</b>	UCR welcomes researches, professors and guest speakers to visit UCR via the <a href="#">Visiting Scholar Program</a> .
<b><u>International Student Admissions</u></b>	
<b>Admissions for international (Exchange Students)</b>	<a href="http://www.oaice.ucr.ac.cr/en/student-mobility/international-students.html">http://www.oaice.ucr.ac.cr/en/student-mobility/international-students.html</a>
<b>Exchange Duration</b>	Students can visit the University of Costa Rica for one or two semesters maximum.
<b>Restricted Programs/Courses</b>	The Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry (School of Health) are not available for exchange students due to limited enrollment capacity. However, exchange students can enroll in any other program offered at the UCR.
<b>Tuition and Fees</b>	Students who belong to a University that has a Cooperation Agreement with the University of Costa Rica do not have to pay any tuition fees. In any other case, international students have to pay approximately US\$1,000 each semester. For more information visit the <i>Services/Aranceles</i> information at the Office of Financial Administration <a href="#">website</a> .
<b>Financial Aid</b>	The UCR does not offer financial aid to exchange students.
<b>Medical Attention and Insurance</b>	Students must have international insurance coverage for the period they will be studying at the University of Costa Rica. Students can get basic medical attention at the on Campus Health Office.