Semester ABROAD in Costa Rica

"Your Gateway to Latin America: Semester Abroad in Costa Rica, Learn Globally, Live Locally"

Earn credits in fully English-taught courses across Business & Marketing, Industrial and Biomedical Engineering, IT (Software, AI & Cybersecurity), Psychology, and Latin American Studies — at Costa Rica's most international university.

Return home with skills, memories, and new perspectives.

ULACIT
WORLD CLASS. OUR CLASS.

CONTENT

Discover the Land of Pura Vida

WHY COSTA RICA?

- Biodiversity
- Sustaninability
- Safety
- Multicultural
- Technology and innovation

1.Happiness comes first: #1 in Latin America and 6th worldwide in the World Happiness Report 2025.

2.A country of peace: No army since 1948; military budget invested in education and healthcare.

3.Leading educational system: Among the highest literacy rates in the region; 6–7% of GDP invested in education.

4.State-of-the-art healthcare: Global destination for innovative quality health care, 9.9% of GDP in healthcare, one of the world's highest life expectancies.

5.Multilingual and multicultural: Bilingual nation with Mesoamerican, Afro-Costa Rican, and Indigenous heritage.

6.Naturally gifted and biodiverse: 5% of global biodiversity, 26% of land protected, 51% forest coverage, 160+ conservation areas.

7.Powered by green energy: Over 99.5% of electricity from renewable sources.

8.Friendly people, friendly climate: Welcoming culture and stable, pleasant climate year-round.

9.Political and economic prosperity: Stable democracy for over 120 years, thriving hub for high-tech, medical devices, and services with the highest GDP per capita in Central America.

10.San José: Vibrant capital city with museums, theaters, parks, and historical landmarks; ULACIT is in the heart of it all.

#1 QS
15 YEARS

Your Gateway to Academic Excellence in Central America

· QS-ranked #1 private university in Costa Rica for 15 consecutive years.

· Competency-based and High-order Thinking Skills curricula structure

· Project-based learning and Experiential Learning assessments based on applied research, group projects, case studies, and community engagement.

· Urban campus in San José: connect with Costa Rica's innovation & tech ecosystem.

· International classroom: study alongside global peers.

WHY
ULACIT?

SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAM

Our Semester Abroad experience invites students to enroll in up to five exclusive courses per academic period, each designed for credit transfer compatibility and a career-focused international experience.

•**Course Structure:** Each course includes 45 contact hours, representing 3 US credits / 6 ECTS, while lab-intensive courses cover 60 contact hours (4 US credits / 8 ECTS).

•**Academic Calendar:** ULACIT works annually with three quarterly academic periods, Spring and Fall, with two-week vacations between them. Academic periods: 15-week terms (Spring and Fall) allow participants to earn up to 15 US credits or 30 ECTS per term, offering an accelerated international study option.

•**Curriculum Focus:** Courses focus on Career-oriented fields: Business & Marketing, Industrial Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, IT Engineering (Software & AI emphasis), Psychology, and Latin American & Development Studies; with the option to add Spanish as a Second Language for a bilingual edge.

•**At the end of each academic period, students receive an official for seamless credit transfer to their home institution.**

SEMESTER
ABROAD
COURSE
OFFERINGS

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BUSINESS & MARKETING

Explore Latin America's dynamic business environment through courses in cross-border strategy, digital marketing, innovation, entrepreneurship, and analytics.

Build international business skills while working directly with local enterprises in a vibrant regional economy. Engage in real consulting projects with Costa Rican companies, benchmark campaigns from startups and global brands, and design culturally relevant market strategies.

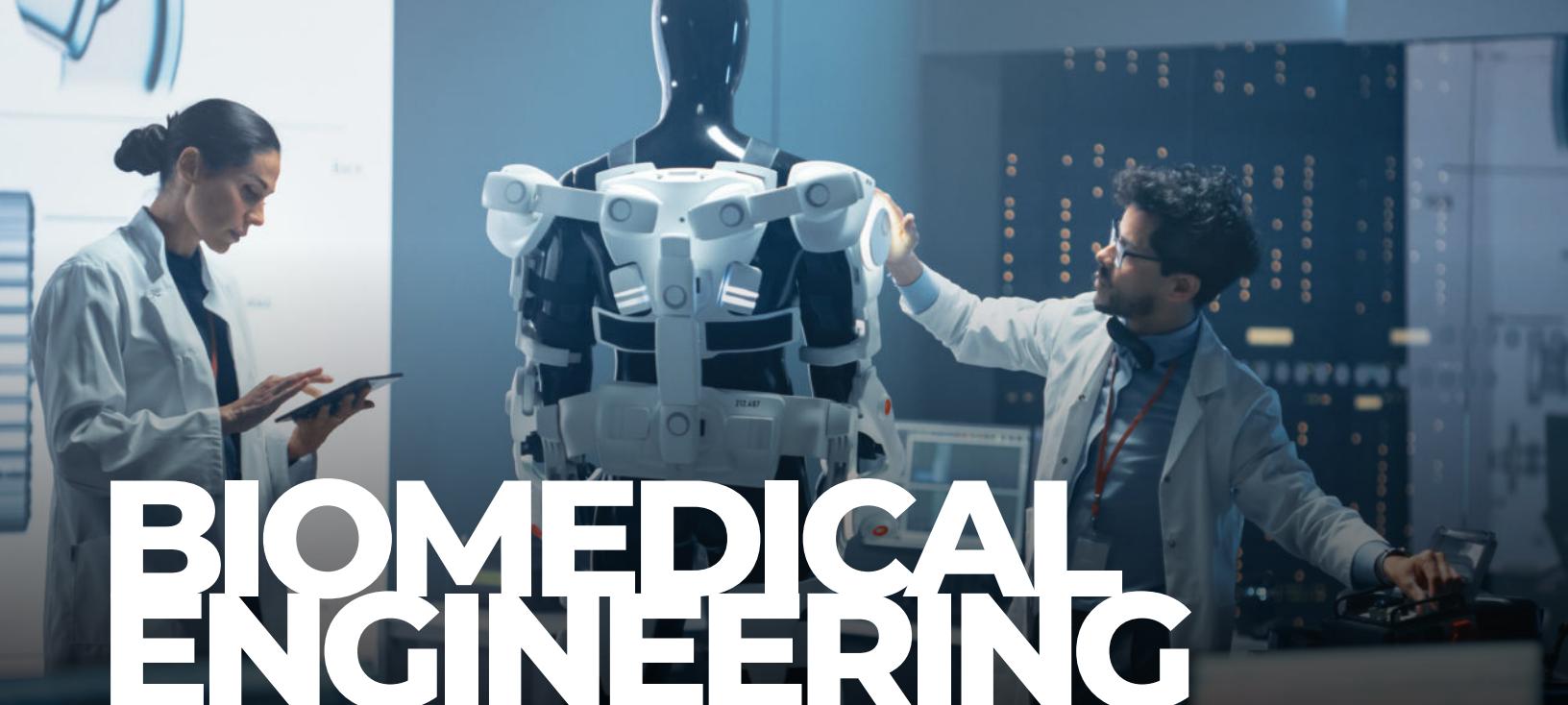| Disciplinary Area	Code	Course	Credits	Description
Business & Marketing	BUS 330	Cross-Border Business Strategy	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Study how businesses operate across Latin American borders, integrating trade policy, market analysis, and legal frameworks. Work on simulated expansion projects informed by case studies of multinational operations in Costa Rica. Build culturally informed strategies for emerging markets.
Business & Marketing	BUS 350	Digital Marketing in Emerging Markets	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Learn to design culturally relevant digital marketing campaigns using SEO, social media, and automation tools. Benchmark successful campaigns from local startups and global brands, then work with a Costa Rican SME to develop a real-world, data-driven strategy. Blend theory, analytics, and intercultural market insight.
Business & Marketing	BUS 360	Business Innovation & Lean Startups	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Apply lean startup principles to develop business solutions for underserved communities. Collaborate in teams with local entrepreneurs, validate ideas, and build scalable models. Gain entrepreneurial skills while engaging directly with Costa Rica's startup ecosystem and understanding market diversity.
Business & Marketing	BUS 420	Social Entrepreneurship in Latin America	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Partner with Costa Rican social ventures to address real challenges through entrepreneurship. Apply stakeholder analysis, sustainability frameworks, and impact measurement tools. Develop culturally grounded, scalable solutions while building practical experience in social enterprise management.
Business & Marketing	BUS 480	Data Analytics for Business	4 Credits 60 Contact Hours	Master data analysis using Excel, Power BI, and real company datasets. Apply forecasting, visualization, and scenario planning to solve business problems in marketing, finance, and operations. Work on a capstone project with a local firm, integrating technical skills with market context understanding.

LATIN-AMERICAN & DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Gain a deep understanding of Latin America's history, politics, economy, and environmental issues and current reality through an interdisciplinary lens. Courses address globalization, trade agreements, poverty, and sustainability, enriched by case studies and local site visits.

Build analytical skills to assess regional development while engaging with Costa Rican perspectives and fostering informed global citizenship.

Disciplinary Area	Code	Course	Credits	Description
LATAM & Development Studies	LAS 330	Globalization, Environment and Human Development	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Examine global systems and their socio-economic, cultural, and environmental impacts. Develop sustainable solutions through intercultural analysis, fostering global citizenship and applied problem-solving.
LATAM & Development Studies	LAS 340	Environmental Sustainability and Development in Latin America	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Analyze development and environmental challenges in Latin America. Propose culturally aware strategies for sustainable improvement, integrating social, economic, and ecological dimensions.
LATAM & Development Studies	LAS 350	Contemporary Latin American History	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Study historical trends shaping Latin America's political, cultural, and economic landscape. Develop critical perspectives through analysis of diverse sources and intercultural discussions on the regions most relevant current historical events.
LATAM & Development Studies	LAS 360	Free Trade Agreements in Latin America	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Explore regional trade agreements and economic integration regimes in LATAM and its global economic integration. Analyze their impact on development and design strategies for sustainable regional growth through case studies.
LATAM & Development Studies	LAS 370	Poverty, Economics and Development in Latin American	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Study poverty's complex causes and consequences in the region. Propose data-driven, culturally relevant policies for equitable and sustainable development.

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Immerse yourself in Costa Rica's medtech innovation hub through applied courses in biomedical design, bioinformatics, global health, and medical technology for emerging economies. Gain hands-on experience with device prototyping, field visits to clinics, and collaboration with engineers in the country's thriving biomedical sector.

Ideal for students seeking cross-cultural insight into healthcare systems, regulatory frameworks, and engineering solutions for global health challenges.

Disciplinary Area	Code	Course	Credits	Description
Biomedical Engineering	BME 330	Tropical Healthcare Innovations	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Analyze healthcare innovation in tropical and rural settings through immersive field visits, case studies, and interaction with local health professionals. Study how Costa Rican engineers and doctors adapt medical technologies, telemedicine, and diagnostics for underserved populations. Gain academic insight into global health challenges and practical experience in cross-cultural problem-solving.
Biomedical Engineering	BME 340	Biomedical Data & Bioinformatics	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Gain hands-on experience in bioinformatics using real public health datasets. Learn to navigate biological databases, model proteins, and conduct genomic analysis. Collaborate in teams to design a biomedical application, integrating technical skills with problem-solving in diverse contexts. Experience project-based learning that connects data science with healthcare innovation.
Biomedical Engineering	BME 350	Biomaterials & Device Design	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Study the interaction between materials and the human body while designing therapeutic biomedical devices. Participate in workshops and simulations with engineers in Costa Rica's manufacturing hub. Prototype functional components using design-thinking and CAD tools, bridging academic theory with real-world device development in a global market context.
Biomedical Engineering	BME 420	Biomedical Startups & Regulatory Frameworks	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Explore how biomedical products progress from lab to market in regulated industries. Learn about FDA/CE standards, clinical trials, and IP management through expert-led panels and case studies. Understand Costa Rica's regulatory landscape while developing cross-border commercialization strategies in biomedical innovation.
Biomedical Engineering	BME 470	Ethics and Global Health in Emerging Economies	4 Credits 60 Contact Hours	Examine ethical dilemmas in delivering healthcare in low-resource environments. Analyze Latin American case studies on moral reasoning, equity, and public health interventions. Engage in reflective discussions on engineer's role in sustainable health innovation, enhancing cultural competence and global awareness.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

Develop practical engineering skills through courses in ergonomics, supply chain sustainability, lean manufacturing, innovation labs, and operations analytics.

Participate in industry visits, solve real manufacturing challenges, and design optimization plans for regional companies. This program combines technical mastery with insight into Latin America's industrial sectors, preparing students for global operations roles.

Disciplinary Area	Code	Course	Credits	Description
Industrial Engineering	IE 330	Human Factors and Ergonomics	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Learn ergonomic design principles and apply them in on-site assessments of Costa Rican industrial workplaces. Develop solutions that improve safety, productivity, and cultural fit, integrating technical knowledge with practical workplace insights.
Industrial Engineering	IE 350	Industrial Innovation Lab	4 Credits 60 Contact Hours	Work in interdisciplinary teams to solve industrial challenges. Create prototypes, pitch solutions to mentors, and engage with Costa Rica's startup and manufacturing sectors. Combine innovation skills with market-specific cultural awareness.
Industrial Engineering	IE 360	Sustainable Supply Chains in Latin America	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Study how emerging market companies design sustainable and resilient supply chains. Conduct technical visits to ports and logistics hubs, applying performance metrics to create optimization plans tailored to regional realities.
Industrial Engineering	IE 370	Lean Manufacturing in Emerging Economies	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Collaborate with Costa Rican manufacturers to identify inefficiencies and propose lean solutions. Apply value stream mapping and waste reduction methods in real production environments, connecting process improvement with cultural contexts.
Industrial Engineering	IE 420	Applied Data Analytics for Operations	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Use simulation and analytics tools to optimize production, inventory, and logistics systems. Complete a real-world project with a local company, integrating technical operations management skills with regional industry insights.

IT ENGINEERING (SOFTWARE, CYBERSECURITY & AI EMPHASIS)

Advance your technical expertise with courses in secure software development, ethical hacking, AI for social impact, cloud computing, and cybersecurity policy. Work with real datasets, simulate cyberattacks, and design AI solutions addressing regional challenges.

Experience Costa Rica's growing tech ecosystem while mastering skills in emerging technologies, compliance, and innovation for global digital markets.

Disciplinary Area	Code	Course	Credits	Description
IT Engineering (Software, AI & Cybersecurity)	CS 340	Secure Software Development	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Build secure, scalable software using secure coding practices, threat modeling, and testing. Develop projects in C# and Visual Studio, understanding how software security principles apply in diverse cultural and industry contexts.
IT Engineering (Software, AI & Cybersecurity)	CS 350	Ethical Hacking & Cyber Defense	4 Credits 60 Contact Hours	Conduct penetration testing, vulnerability assessments, and defense strategies in simulated environments. Apply ethical hacking principles to regional cybersecurity challenges through lab-intensive, hands-on learning.
IT Engineering (Software, AI & Cybersecurity)	CS 360	AI for Social Impact	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Design machine learning solutions for public health, agriculture, and education challenges in emerging economies. Work with real datasets and Costa Rican case studies to address ethical and social dimensions of AI.
IT Engineering (Software, AI & Cybersecurity)	CS 370	Cloud Computing and Identity Management	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Learn to deploy cloud infrastructure and manage identity governance in compliance with GDPR and ISO standards. Apply concepts through simulations for local startups and institutions, merging technical skills with real-world cases.
IT Engineering (Software, AI & Cybersecurity)	CS 420	Cybersecurity Policy and Risk	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Study policy frameworks, governance, and risk management in cybersecurity. Evaluate Latin American case studies and conduct crisis simulations to develop culturally informed strategies.
IT Engineering (Software, AI & Cybersecurity)	CS 430	AI for Sustainable Busines	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Explore how AI supports ESG and sustainability initiatives. Apply AI tools to corporate strategy, environmental monitoring, and social impact projects, integrating ethics with innovation.
IT Engineering (Software, AI & Cybersecurity)	CS 480	Astrodynamics Without Math	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Learn orbital mechanics for spaceflight through simulations and hands-on missions. Apply concepts of orbital alignment, docking, and reentry without complex math, building teamwork and problem-solving skills in a global aerospace context.

HEALTH & PSYCHOLOGY

Examine health systems, mental well-being, and human behavior from an intercultural lens. Courses span cross-cultural psychology, global public health, organizational well-being, and holistic health.

Fieldwork in indigenous communities, site visits to clinics, and applied research with NGOs provide rich experiential learning. Perfect for students interested in public health, applied psychology, and community engagement in Latin America.

Disciplinary Area	Code	Course	Credits	Description
Health & Psychology	PSY 340	Cross-Cultural Psychology	4 Credits 60 Contact Hours	Explore cultural influences on human behavior through academic study and fieldwork with Costa Rican indigenous communities. Conduct community-based research, integrating public health and intercultural communication. Enhance cross-cultural competence while applying psychological principles to real contexts.
Health & Psychology	PSY 350	Mental Health and Social Change	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Investigate how social determinants shape mental health in Latin America. Work with local organizations to design interventions for vulnerable populations such as migrants and youth. Engage in applied research and case analysis to develop culturally sensitive mental health strategies.
Health & Psychology	PSY 360	Organizational Psychology and Wellbeing	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Analyze motivation, leadership, and workplace culture through local organizational case studies. Conduct assessments and propose interventions that enhance employee well-being and productivity, applying psychology in Costa Rica's cultural and business contexts.
Health & Psychology	PSY 370	Psychology of Innovation and Creativity	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Study how individuals and teams generate creative solutions and manage change. Apply positive psychology, leadership models, and innovation frameworks in collaborative projects. Learn how cultural perspectives shape creativity and organizational transformation.
Health & Psychology	PSY 410	Global Public Health in Latin America	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Examine public health policies, epidemiology, and healthcare equity in Latin America, with emphasis on Costa Rica's model. Participate in site visits to clinics and NGOs, integrating theoretical knowledge with first-hand exposure to regional health systems.
Health & Psychology	PSY 415	Integrative and Holistic Health Approaches	3 Credits 45 Contact Hours	Explore alternative healthcare practices such as herbal medicine, acupuncture, and mindfulness. Analyze their role in Costa Rica's health system through optional field visits to practitioners. Blend cultural and scientific perspectives in evaluating holistic care.
Health & Psychology	PSY 380	Blueprints for Thriving: Dimensions of Well-Being	4 Credits 60 Contact Hours	Explore nine dimensions of well-being including physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health. Combine research with self-reflection to design a Healthy Lifestyle Plan. Connect personal development with Costa Rica's emphasis on community, sustainability, and holistic approaches to health.

ADMISSIONS & KEY DATES

Spring 2026: Jan 12 – Apr 25 | Apply by Dec 5, 2025
Fall 2026: Sep 7 – Dec 19 | Apply by Aug 24, 2026

SPRING ACADEMIC PERIOD (1ST QUARTERLY PERIOD 2026)

Late Nomination & Application Deadline: December 05th, 2025
Total Payment Deadline: December 12th, 2025
New Student Orientation: January 09th, 2026
Class Start & End Dates: January 12th to April 25th, 2026

FALL ACADEMIC PERIOD (2ND QUARTERLY PERIOD 2026)

Late Nomination & Application Deadline: August 24th, 2026
Total Payment Deadline: August 31st, 2026
New Student Orientation: September 4th, 2026
Class Start & End Dates: September 7th to December 19th, 2026

Steps to Apply:
1. Complete the International Nomination Form.
2. Receive your acceptance & complete payment.
3. Prepare for your Costa Rica adventure!

Ready to Study in Costa Rica? Contact: studyabroad@ulacit.ac.cr

INTER CULTURAL SERVICES

Studying abroad means connection, culture, and community. ULACIT offers a wide range of intercultural services to help international students thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

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SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Learn Spanish and Experience Costa Rica
Flexible, Credit-Bearing Language Program

Enroll in our 15-week Spanish Immersion Courses, offered every academic period. Students attend 3-hour classes once per week for fifteen weeks.

Seven Proficiency Levels

Our experienced Spanish professors will administer a placement test to determine your starting level. Courses are designed to take you from beginner to advanced proficiency:

1. SPAN-101 Basic 1 Spanish
2. SPAN-102 Basic 2 Spanish
3. SPAN-201 Intermediate 1 Spanish
4. SPAN-202 Intermediate 2 Spanish
5. SPAN-301 Advanced 1 Spanish
6. SPAN-302 Advanced 2 Spanish
7. SSP-304 Spanish for Specific Purposes (Business Spanish) (other SSP according to department needs)

Credits and Contact Hours
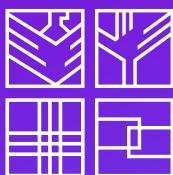• 3 US credits / 6 ECTS per course (30 contact hours)

Program Highlights

•Paced Learning: Build language competencies throughout the semester with 15-week module courses.

•Immersive Experience: Combine grammar & conversation competencies-based language lessons with cultural experiences and daily practice opportunities in San José.

• Smooth Progression: Attain pragmatics dexterity step by step while engaging with Costa Rican culture.

Acquier Spanish communicative skills, enhance your intercultural competency, and make the most of your Study Abroad experience in Costa Rica.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Studying Abroad at ULACIT in Costa Rica means combining world-class academics with a dynamic international experience in the heart of Latin America.

Both the Semester and Summer offerings feature a robust experiential learning component, maximizing the academic and professional value of the program.

Students gain hands-on exposure to Costa Rica's innovation, sustainability, and technology ecosystems, building global competencies and applying academic knowledge in real-world contexts.

•Field-Based Learning: Site visits to companies, NGOs, and research centers.

•Industry Engagement: Guest lectures and workshops led by business and technology leaders.

•Optional Cultural Excursions: Volcanoes, beaches, rainforests, historical and cultural landmarks enrich the experience.

By the end of the program, participants return home with tangible skills, enhanced employability, and a competitive edge in global business and technology sectors, while enjoying an unforgettable academic and cultural journey in Costa Rica.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM

EXPERIENCE COSTA RICAN LIFE WITH A LOCAL FAMILY

ULACIT partners with carefully selected host families in San José, each with years of experience welcoming international students.

Our Homestay Program allows you to:
• Live in a safe, family-oriented environment.
• Experience authentic Costa Rican culture and daily life.
• Practice Spanish with native speakers.
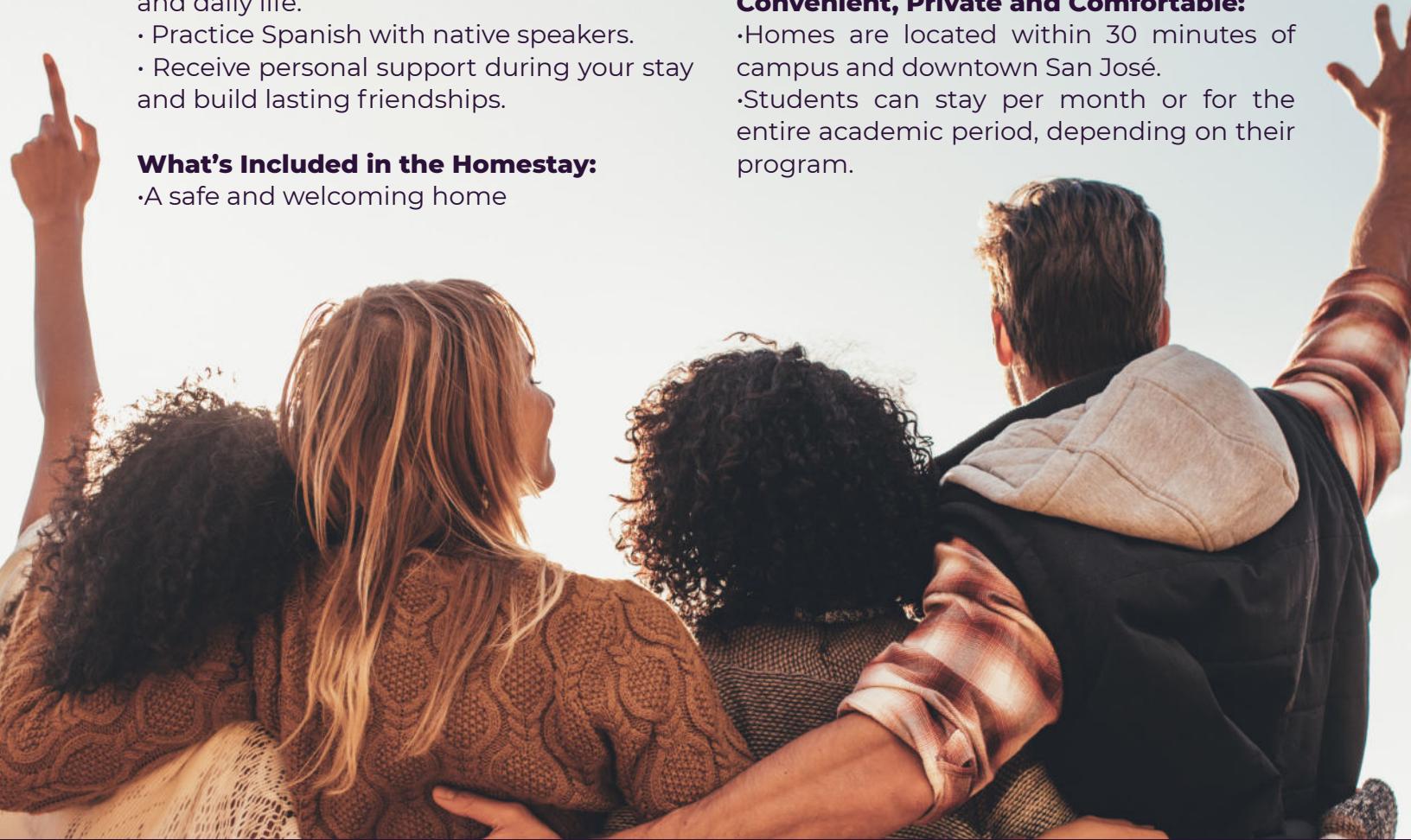• Receive personal support during your stay and build lasting friendships.

What's Included in the Homestay:
·A safe and welcoming home

·Private room with keys and full access to common areas
·Half-pension included (breakfast and dinner)
·Wi-Fi internet access
·Use of the kitchen and laundry room
·Weekly laundry and linen service

Convenient, Private and Comfortable:
·Homes are located within 30 minutes of campus and downtown San José.
·Students can stay per month or for the entire academic period, depending on their program.

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Enjoy the comfort of a local home and the full cultural immersion of living with a Costa Rican family while studying abroad with ULACIT.

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15 YEARS
PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN COSTA RICA

GEO
GLOBAL EDUCATION OFFICE
ULACIT

For more information:
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Transform Your Education.
Experience Costa Rica.