

GREENHEART TRAVEL

High School Abroad

Costa Rica

Curriculum Guidelines



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travel



OVERVIEW OF THE COSTA RICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

The government of Costa Rica invests much of its funding toward their education system. To fully embrace your local Costa Rican community, you will attend a public school and all of your classes will be taught in Spanish. Mandatory school uniforms minimize the recognition of economic differences among classmates and will make your packing process much easier!

Subjects in Costa Rica

It's difficult to give you a clear view about the subjects taught in school, because it can range depending on your school placement. The main classes within the Costa Rican school system are Mathematics, Spanish, Science, and Geography.

Schedule

Students go to school from Monday to Friday. Classes start at 7:00 AM and finish at 4 PM. Each course lasts 45 minutes. Some days students attend "Modules". *Modules* last 1 hour and 30 minutes. This schedule may change in some schools; your school may be organized in a different way.

Sample timetable of a secondary school student:

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	English	History	Biology	History	Theory
2	English	History	Biology	Career Guide	Theory
3	History	Literature	Literature	English	Literature
4	History	Literature	Career Guide	English	Literature
5	Math	English	Math	Technology	Technology
6	Math	English	Math	Technology	Technology
7	Biology	Technology	English	Theory	Computer
8	Biology	Technology	English	-	-

School Uniform

School uniforms are mandatory in Costa Rican schools.

What Should I Do Next?

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently so there isn't an "average" process that you can be guided through.

You should bring this document with you to the meeting with your counselor so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask about what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.



Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.