



ECOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY IN TANZANIA

Carleton Global Engagement Programs • Fall 2022 Advising Guide

FOCUS

Ecology, anthropology, research methods, team-based field research projects with local experts, and an introduction to Swahili language and Tanzanian cultures.

LOCATION

The main base of the program is in Usa River near Arusha, Tanzania, at the base of Mt. Meru, a 15,000-ft extinct volcano. The MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS-TCDC) in Usa River is internationally recognized, including by the US State Department, for its excellence in Swahili language training. Our students live in homestays near the Centre and engage in Swahili language classes and course lectures on the MS-TCDC campus. Usa River provides easy access to the protected areas and communities that the program visits while on excursion in northern Tanzania.

THIS PROGRAM WILL BE A GREAT FIT FOR:

- Students with background in either ecology, cultural anthropology, environmental studies and geography who are looking for an interdisciplinary approach to understanding human-environment interactions.
- Students committed to team-based student research projects which originate from community needs and interests.
- Students who want a balance scheduled of classroom instruction and field research.
- Students who like to camp and look forward to multi-day field research excursions in the savanna.
- Students eager to engage with people from different cultural backgrounds.

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FEATURES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Live with local host families in the Usa River community near Arusha and take classes in ecology, cultural anthropology, Swahili, and field research methods.
- Visit some of Tanzania's world-renowned protected areas and learn from communities practicing different livelihoods, including agro-pastoralists, semi-nomadic pastoralists and hunter-gatherers.
- Introduction to and application of field research skills under the guidance of local experts as part of an on-going research project.

COMMUNITY INTERACTION

- Live in a homestay in the agricultural community of Usa River immediately adjacent to the MS-TCDC campus.
- Become acquainted with local university students who serve as Swahili language partners.
- Local instructors and guest lecturers from organizations such as the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, Tanzania National Parks Authority, the Ujamaa Community Trust, and the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum.
- Interactions with Maasai pastoralists and Hadzabe hunter-gatherers on excursions in northern Tanzania.

SITE LOCATIONS DURING THE PROGRAM

- Arusha
- Usa River
- Multi-day excursions in the Maasai Steppe and greater Serengeti ecosystems in northern Tanzania

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Students must have completed coursework in biology/environmental studies/ecology **or** anthropology.
- Students must consult with a medical professional during the summer regarding appropriate vaccinations and malaria prevention medication. Students are strongly advised to follow the recommendations of their doctor/medical professional.
- Students who wish to travel independently should do so after the program concludes in mid-December. An extended mid-term break for independent travel is not part of the schedule.

BE PREPARED FOR

- Camping during multi-day excursions and field research excursions. Camping equipment will be provided by in-country outfitters.
- Significant amounts of time in the field with hot and dry conditions.

COURSEWORK

Coursework is accredited and transcribed by Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota. Students enroll in five courses for a total of the Carleton-equivalent of 16 semester credits.

- SOAN 326: Cultural Anthropology of East Africa
- ENTS 355: Ecology and Conservation of Savanna Ecosystems in Northern Tanzania
- LCST 101: Elementary Swahili
- ENTS 255: Field Methods in Ecology and Anthropology
- ENTS 392: Independent Field Research