

College of Charleston Summer 2010 Study Abroad Program British Virgin Islands

Program Dates:

**July 30 - August 13,
2010**

Program Fee:

\$3,718*

(*subject to change and does not include airfare and tuition)



Program Courses:

BIOL 250 and Lab: Field Studies in Coral Reef Biology

BIOL 453 and Lab: Field Studies in Coral Reef Biology

Program Information:

This program allows students to study the biology, ecology, and conservation of the Caribbean coral reef ecosystem. The emphasis is placed on field methods and labs, including small field experiments to test hypotheses. The program is conducted aboard a large catamaran sailboat that serves as the accommodations, transportation, classroom, and research platform. Each day, the participants will sail to a new island in the archipelago of the British Virgin Islands (including Tortola, Jost Van Dyke, Norman, Peter, Salt, Cooper, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Muskmelon) to investigate new habitats.

Students will learn the nautical skills (seamanship, navigation, sailing) needed to become a proficient crew member on a research vessel and will earn their PADI Open Water or Advanced Scuba Diver certification during a total of 14 training and research dives. Prior to departure, students are required to complete the classroom portion of PADI's Open Water Diver or Advanced Diver Course online (www.padi.com). The program will be conducted in conjunction with a non-profit organization called the Marine Science and Nautical Training Academy (MANTA, www.manta-online.org).

Participants will be required to engage in activities such as snorkeling, SCUBA diving, swimming, hiking, sailing, lifting scuba tanks, preparing meals, and vessel upkeep as part of this program.

Program Directors:

Dr. Erik Sotka, Biology Department, sotka@cofc.edu, 843-953-9191

Dr. Sotka is an Assistant Professor and has 15 years of research experience on coral reefs, focusing on chemical and molecular ecology and experimental field ecology.

Rusty Day, Grice Marine Lab and NIST, Russell.day@noaa.gov, 843-762-8904

Mr. Day is an Adjunct Professor of the Graduate Program in Marine Biology and an alumni of CofC. He holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master 50 gross ton captain's license, and a PADI Open Water SCUBA instructor certification.

Jennifer Keller, Grice Marine Lab and NIST, jennifer.keller@noaa.gov, 843-725-4822

Dr. Keller is an Adjunct Professor of the Graduate Program in Marine Biology. She has her PADI Advanced Open Water SCUBA certification and taught the Aquatic Toxicology course for CofC for 3 years.

To Apply:

For information and to apply, contact Julie Swigert, Study Abroad Coordinator, Center for International Education, swigertj@cofc.edu, 843-953-7823.

The Program Fee of **\$3,718** includes a non-refundable application fee of \$50 (CofC students), lodging, meals, activities, ground transportation, and medical insurance. **TUITION FOR THE COURSES AND AIRFARE IS NOT INCLUDED.**

Application and a deposit of \$550 are due by **February 5, 2010**. **SCHOLARSHIPS OF UP TO \$1500 ARE AVAILABLE TO COFC STUDENTS FOR STUDY ABROAD. ELIGIBILITY IS BASED ON DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED AND ACADEMIC MERIT (APP. DEADLINE FEB. 26, 2010).**