

Study Abroad in Ecovillages

Study abroad in South America and investigate new ways of creating sustainable human habitats at Ecocentro IPEC – a grassroots ecological institute in tropical central Brazil. Learn permaculture principles and create your own unique ecological design as you study and apply sustainable community development theory in a real-world environment. The course offers a unique opportunity for students to gain environmental and international experience and the inspiration to adapt appropriate technologies and sustainable agriculture techniques to their own climates and cultures.



Students study and practice natural building and ecological design techniques.



Expert faculty and outdoor classrooms facilitate learning about sustainable living.

Program Highlights

- ☀ Become a Certified Permaculture Apprentice and create a permaculture design that will benefit the local community
- ☀ Visit a World Heritage Biosphere, home to endemic rare flora and fauna
- ☀ Experience Capoeira, a Brazilian martial art that is a mix of dance, acrobatics, and musical expression
- ☀ Get hands-on experience in natural building techniques from around the world
- ☀ Visit neighboring traditional communities of Caxambu, Furnas and Lagolandia

Academic Credit and 2010 Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts Amherst



Course: Permaculture (Natural Resources Conservation 398P)

Summer 2010 (see website)

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.

Ecocentro IPEC and the Region

Ecocentro IPEC (Permaculture Institute and Ecovillage of the Cerrado), is dedicated to sustainability education by fostering a profound understanding and direct experience of the natural world. Ecocentro IPEC serves as a model of viable rural settlement, incorporating appropriate technologies, living systems and sustainable community life from a holistic perspective. The community is a dynamic place where residents and students take part in community activities, including Portuguese instruction, yoga, meditation, Women's Food Cooperative events and Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of sacred dance, acrobatics and martial arts. IPEC is also host to a yearly Green Building Workshop called Bioconstruindo, which has transformed the community into a showcase for ecobuilding and design.



The Cerrado ecosystem, home of IPEC, is an important transition zone near the Amazon

Brazil's Cerrado, home to IPEC, is the second largest ecosystem in South America and represents the ecological transition zone between the Amazon and the Atlantic Rainforest. It is a tropical savanna with fauna and flora with high levels of endemic speciation. The remaining Cerrado forests, which are dangerously threatened by the use of fire, are classified as a World Heritage Biosphere by the UN.

Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions—contact us for late availability)

March 31

Cost (subject to change)

Tuition, room & board, travel insurance,
and in-country travel \$3,250
UMassAmherst credit included



In coursework and practice, students plan, build and integrate dwellings into the local environment

Faculty

Lucy Legan, M.Ed. Science and Environmental Education, Deakin University, Australia

Legan is an experienced environmental education teacher and permaculture designer. She has been working in Brazil since 1997, and is the co-founder of IPEC. More recently she has published an environmental educators manual called *Sustainable Schools - Eco-literacy and the Environment*. She has developed several permaculture training programs for training centers in Australia and Brazil.

Hildegard Magdalena Klever Krause, PhD, Sustainable Development of the Humid Tropics, Federal University of Para, Brazil

Krause has lived in the Amazon since the age of nine, personally witnessing the vast and varied impacts generated by humans on the forest. Hildegard has a masters in teacher training in public school systems and her doctorate in public policy and the implementation of environmental education programs.

Course Topics

Sustainable Shelter

Concepts and themes of design, natural building and architecture, renewable energy, and appropriate technologies

Aquaculture

Water technologies, earth movement, dry composting toilets, water harvesting, storage and distribution, recycling water, and desertification and the salting of soils

Community Development

Indigenous, intentional, alternative and traditional communities, economic strategies, globalization, and visits to various communities in the region

Cultivated Ecosystems

Organic gardening, food forests, small animal systems, tropics and sub-tropics, dryland strategies, and cold climate systems

Portuguese Language (optional)