



Agroecology Field School: February 15th – 22nd, 2025

University of Victoria Department of Geography

General Information

Are you looking to participate in an international field school that explores the intricate connections between food, culture, and the environment? The Agroecology Field School involves a week-long immersion on diverse cacao farms in Belize where students will explore sustainability challenges underpinning today's global food systems. The field school runs from February 15th-22nd, 2025, with campus-based class sessions throughout the spring 2025 semester.

Eligibility

We expect many more applicants than the ~12 positions available. Accordingly, we list the following eligibility information:

- Students must have third or fourth year standing.
- This field school is designed primarily as a capstone experience for senior undergraduate students who are interested in learning about how sustainability is applied in practice. The selection committee will consider applicants based on a variety of factors, including prior courses, engagement in student life, and work experience.
- This field school includes an immersive experience in a remote area of tropical rainforest in Belize and will involve outdoor activities that will at times be physically demanding, such as hiking, camping, hot weather, and exposure to insects. Applicants must be aware of these conditions and mention if they have any accessibility needs that may affect their ability to participate in these activities.
- Finally, we ask applicants to answer several questions, which allows us to assess the fit of each applicant and what they could contribute to the learning and community-engaged experience.

Application Requirements

Please see the Application Form for all application instructions and requirements. **Applications are due by Wednesday, July 31st, 2024.** (Note: early applications are looked upon favourably).

If you have any further questions after reading this information sheet, please email geography@uvic.ca or carodenuto@uvic.ca.

Course

This field school is comprised of one course worth 1.5 credits. Successful applicants will be registered in this course through special registration by the Department of Geography (*students will not register themselves*).

COURSE OVERVIEW:

GEOG 491: Global Food Systems Sustainability in Practice

Instructor: Sophia Carodenuto

Feb 25th-22nd, 2025 – pre- and post-trip instruction will occur over the spring 2025 semester.

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Course – Continued

Overview: This semester-long course will invite students to contemplate sustainability challenges underpinning today's global food systems. Students will be connected with community research partners in Victoria and Belize. Using agroecology as a lens, we will study the complex relationships between food production, consumption, and conservation. Agroecology is a framework that emphasizes reciprocal learning with farmers and place-based communities. Applying this agroecology lens, students will engage in hands-on and student-led research projects and witness the trade-offs and synergies between ecologically sustainable agriculture, economic empowerment, and social equity, and the various forms of power shaping global food systems.

KEY THEMES: Agroecology, global food systems, research-enriched learning, community-engaged research, tropical forest conservation

Fees and Financial Support

Fees:

For field schools, students pay regular UVic tuition **plus field school fees** (see below).

Field school fees can be paid by **cheque, money order, counter cheque, or cash ONLY**. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Victoria. Payment can be dropped off at the Geography main office (David Turpin Building room B203), or mailed (cheque only). **DO NOT MAIL CASH.**

Field school fees:

- **\$350** deposit due with application
- **\$1500** due by **December 12, 2024**

Field school fees include:

- Dorm-stye accommodation for the duration of the field school
- Meals for the duration of the field school
- Transportation between locations
- Activity costs (entry admissions, local facilitators and guides, park entry fees)
- Compensation (and travel expenses) for guest lecturers and knowledge holders

Field school fees do not include:

- Tuition
- Airfare to and from Belize International Airport (BZE)
- Travel insurance
- Other expenses such as any personal gear (e.g. hiking shoes) required for the course.

Financial Support:

This field school has been directly subsidized by the Department of Geography. No application is necessary to receive this support, as it has already been built into the field school fees.

Students are encouraged to explore other funding opportunities for example through [Funding opportunities - International experiences - UVic](#)