

SHORT TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAMME
OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Student Services and Development Short-term Exchange Programmes are delivered as formal agreements between The University of the West Indies (UWI, Mona) and Florida State University (FSU) and the University of Costa Rica (UCR). The Memoranda of Understanding for both programmes were signed in 1995. The programmes are intensive, yet exciting and stress-free as they are structured so that all arrangements are in place on both sides (UWI, Mona, FSU/UCR) before the group arrives. The duration of the programmes does not allow for “home sickness” and the students are merged within the life of the campus that is visited.

The objectives of the programme are:

- ◆ To expose students to non-traditional forms of acquiring maximum knowledge in minimum time.
- ◆ To reinforce abstract learning with learning experiences.
- ◆ To expose students to the similarities and differences between developed and developing countries in areas of social, educational, economic, political and environmental issues.
- ◆ To enhance students’ ability to assess and understand (in a relatively short time) the culture of new groups of people, in order to function effectively as a contributing member of the given community.
- ◆ To expose students to the ethos of the campus environment in an international setting so as to establish bench marks against which they can measure the performance of their institution and their personal performance.
- ◆ To observe student life in an international setting and to exchange ideas that will enrich the lives of students visiting and students in the host country.
- ◆ To foster staff development.
- ◆ To help students to be ambassadors for their institution and region.

The Florida State University Programme (FSU)

- ❖ The programme is delivered over eight (8) days and in three (3) segments:
 - Educational
 - Cultural
 - Community Service
- ❖ Twelve (12) students and two (2) members of staff from UWI, Mona visit FSU in October of each year and an equal number of students and staff from FSU, visit UWI, Mona, in March.

The University of Costa Rica (UCR)

- ❖ The programme is delivered over two weeks and is also delivered in three (3) segments:
 - Educational
 - Cultural
 - Community Service
- ❖ Ten (10) students and two (2) members of staff from UWI, Mona visit UCR in May of each year and an equal number of students and staff from UCR, visit UWI, Mona, in January.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME

- ❖ Cultural, social and political awareness through interaction with students and the local population of the host country in a variety of social, cultural, service and academic settings
- ❖ Participation in learning opportunities
- ❖ Achievement of cultural and social awareness to operate in a global environment
- ❖ Foster intercultural sensitivity that help students to clarify stereotypes and underscores the value of experiential learning.

A. ELIGIBILITY

- ❖ All students involved in UWI, Mona Clubs and Societies
- ❖ All students are required to sign the *“Release of liability waiver of claims and indemnity agreement form”*.

B. CONDUCT

All students shall conduct themselves with dignity and shall show courtesy and respect for one another, including our hosts and adhere to the standards of The University of the West Indies.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BEHAVIOUR CONTRARY TO THE ACCEPTED NORM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES IS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

C. DRESS

- 1. Dress MODESTLY and Appropriately** – You are going to be out sightseeing and attending meetings and might have to deal with everything from heat and rain to chilly weather.
- 2. Dress Comfortably** – You are going to be walking so you do need comfortable shoes.
- 3. Pack lightly, please note that you are required to attend an opening and closing ceremony and should dress appropriately – elegantly casual.**

4. All students are required to wear a red UWI polo shirt for the entire journey to and from UWI to the host university.

D. GIFTS

PLEASE TAKE A GIFT FOR YOUR HOST AND AT LEAST TWO OTHER PERSONS. YOU MAY HAVE SEVERAL HOSTS.

E. POCKET MONEY

Please travel with your pocket money.

F. PUNCTUALITY

You must arrive at least fifteen (15) minutes before an event in order to be fully prepared to commence at the appointed time.

G. CULTURAL SHOWCASE

1. FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

You are required to entertain the group with Jamaican cultural items. Please prepare those items before leaving Jamaica.

2. UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA

You are required to entertain the group with Jamaican cultural items and showcase Jamaican food and music. Please prepare items before leaving Jamaica.

Views of Students who went on Exchange Programmes

- "It would take volumes to learn what I grasped in seven days"
- "We left as a group, we came back as a team"
- "Community service in Florida taught me that the streets of the US are not paved with gold"
- "There is much that the developed world can learn from the developing world"
- "My visit to FSU caused me to appreciate my campus"
- "All my expectations of Costa Rica were met. Excellent hospitality"
- "The experience has enabled me to interact with other young people and broaden my knowledge of Costa Rican life and culture"