Admission requirements

A complete application package includes: the attached application, your most recent transcript, and one letter of recommendation. Admission is open to majors of all disciplines. Students are selected from the various colleges of Rutgers University and from colleges throughout the United States and Canada. Application deadline is 1 April. Applications are accepted until the program is full.

Contact information

For further details about the program, contact:

Rutgers Study Abroad
102 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8543
Tel: 732/932-7787 Fax: 732/932-8659
Email: ru_abroad@email.rutgers.edu
Internet: studyabroad.rutgers.edu

This program assumes no liability for personal property. Students desiring liability insurance should secure their own.

Rutgers University reserves the right to make any changes in the Study Abroad programs that may become necessary.

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Primate Behavior, & Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Field School in Kenya

Tana River Primate Reserve and Kakamega Forest National Reserve
About the program
Earn six credits this summer studying the animals and ecosystems of Kenya. Experience the diverse habitats of Kenya and their biodiversity by using primate field studies as your entry point. Expose yourself to specific conservation problems and emerging innovative solutions that are contextually and culturally different from any other found around the globe.

Academics
Your course includes lectures, readings, and discussions on important concepts in primatology and conservation biology. You also review important notions in primate behavioral ecology, and learn about primate behavior and ecological data collection. The core of this field school will be training in and practice of field methods. You learn how to census primates, study social behavior and habitat use, practice animal identification, perform time budget analysis via scan and focal animal sampling, and discover how to measure habitat use. The field school is conducted in two ecologically different sites in order to expose you to methods used to study primates found in different habitat types: a forest ecosystem in the Tana River Primate National Reserve (TRPNR) on the coast, and a savanna ecosystem at Kakamega Forest in western Kenya.

Program locations
TRPNR is the only reserve in the world dedicated solely to conservation of primates. There are eight nonhuman primate species in the reserve: the Tana River red colobus, crested mangabey and syke's monkey, baboons and vervet monkeys, and three prosimians - the lesser, greater, and Garnet's galagos. Both the red colobus and crested mangabey are endemic to the area and are ranked among the world's top 25 most endangered primate species. The forests contain a high diversity of other species of rare animals and plants, and are designated as a global biodiversity hotspot. Three indigenous groups of people live within the vicinity of the reserve.

Kakamega Forest, in western Kenya, is the largest surviving stand of rainforest in Kenya. The park supports over 350 species of trees and five observable primate species. The majestic black and white colobus monkeys are abundant and often associate with blue monkeys. The forest is also home to endangered DeBrazza monkeys as well as red-tailed monkeys and olive baboons. For bird and butterfly enthusiasts, this is the place of choice. Being such a food rich reserve habitat, the park supports over 300 bird species and over 400 species of butterflies (about 45% of all recorded butterflies in Kenya); birdlife includes the endangered Turner's eremomela, Charpins flycatcher and the voice mimicking African grey parrot. Antelope such as forest bucks, duikers and dik diks are also found in this enormously bio-diverse rain forest. Large age-old trees are in plenty as a result of early efforts in conservation.

Housing and meals
You will live in camps in the field for the majority of the field school. You will need to provide your own tent and sleeping gear. Food is provided by cooks employed by the program.

Administration
This program is administered by Rutgers Study Abroad. Field School Directors are Dr. Leah Domb (Ph.D. Harvard) who has worked with wild primates and other animals in Africa for ten years. The Kenya Co-Director is Dr. Mbaruk A. Suleman (Ph.D. Uppsala) who is a research scientist at Institute of Primate Research, National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi. He has undertaken research on Sykes and African Green Monkeys at the Tana River Reserve. Overall coordination of the Field School is administered by Dr. Jack Harris, a professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University with 35 years of experience in East Africa. You will receive a Rutgers University transcript at the end of the program. Transcripts will not be released until all payments have been made and all debts paid. The responsibility of Rutgers University ends after final examinations. Students then become responsible for their own travel and living arrangements.

Program dates and fees
Program dates:
Annually held during the month of August

Program fees:
$4,000 for New Jersey students and $4,500 for out-of-state students.
The program costs include all tuition, fees, meals, group trips, orientations, and basic medical insurance.
The program costs do not include travel to and from Kenya, individual tent, personal expenses, books, vacation travel or personal liability insurance.

Fees are subject to change. Inflation and fluctuating exchange rates have made it impossible to state fixed costs. These rates could increase 10 to 15 percent.