

## Safety and Precaution

Safety is a priority at CCFS and there are strict policies that guests are asked to observe regarding water, diving and personal safety. All students are briefed on safety guidelines for snorkeling the atoll.

The field station is connected to the mainland and the world through wireless internet and a fixed cellular telephone that utilizes calling cards. Cards can be purchased from the Station Manager.

There is also a VHF system in place for communication within the atoll, to mainland in case of emergencies or the Coast Guard. All vessels are equipped with marine and handheld radios, and safety gear.

In case of serious accidents the CCFS has an emergency response and evacuation plan that all guests are familiarized with. For hurricanes and tropical storms there is an evacuation plan with clearly outlined instructions in such an event.



**For more information  
contact us at:**

ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTUE  
UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

P.O. Box 340

Belmopan, Belize, C.A.

Tel: +501-822-2701

[info@eriub.org](mailto:info@eriub.org)

*Credits: Tony Rath and the Government of Belize*

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ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM



Tropical Marine Ecology  
Field Course

# TROPICAL MARINE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

## Course Description:

This is an introductory course to tropical marine ecology looking in particular at the biodiversity and ecology of mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs in the Caribbean, with special focus on the Belize Barrier Reef. It describes the main conservation issues associated with these systems and examine management strategies being utilized in Belize through case studies.

## Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be familiar with the ecology of tropical marine ecosystems including: tropical plankton, coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves, the impacts of natural and anthropogenic factors on these ecosystems, and the range of management strategies available to address these impacts.

## Prerequisites:

A basic biology background and ideally general biology, ecology and/or environmental sciences with a minimum GPA of 2.5.

## Credit hours: 3

**Course duration:** 10 days

**Course dates:** June 19 - 28, 2014

**Cost:** US\$1,762.00 per student

\*The cost of this course covers all expenses from arrival in Belize to departure including tuition and fees, ground and sea transportation, accommodation, meals, boat and snorkel gear rental, and lab fees.

Day	Course Content
Day 1	General Concepts—marine food webs, productivity, diversity, Oceanography and ecosystem connectivity
Day 2	Tropical marine plankton communities
Day 3	Turneffe marine ecosystems—Mangroves
Day 4	Turneffe marine ecosystems—Seagrasses
Day 5	Turneffe marine ecosystems—Coral Reefs
Day 6	Natural and anthropogenic impacts; climate change and coral reefs
Day 7	Conservation and management strategies—case studies
Day 8	Field Project
Day 9	Field Project and Data Analysis
Day 10	Field Project and Data Analysis

## Course Location

Belize lies on the Caribbean coast of Central America, bordered by Mexico to north and north-west and Guatemala to the south and south-west. The inner coastal waters are shallow and sheltered by coral atolls called 'cayes'.



The **Calabash Caye Field Station (CCFS)** is located in the Turneffe Atoll which is 50km offshore of Belize City. Travel time varies from 1 to 3 hours depending on vessel and weather conditions. The field station sits on a 5-acre plot on Calabash Caye in the southeastern part of Turneffe.



Turneffe is the largest of the three offshore atolls that form part of the Belize Barrier Reef and provides a habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species. It also has endemic species such as the white spotted toadfish found nowhere else in Belize or the world.

## Logistics:

- ◆ Airport pick up and drop off at Belize City dock
- ◆ Transportation to and from the CCFS