

# Application – IPDS Costa Rica

## SUNY Buffalo State School of Education

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The School of Education at SUNY Buffalo State believes that education students engaged in global outreach and travel – whether locally, nationally, or internationally – are better prepared to become teachers who meet the needs of children in today’s classrooms. Students who study, teach, and observe abroad enhance their academic proficiency, develop confidence and leadership skills, build credentials noticed by future employers, and bring an inclusive approach to their teaching.

### Program Description

**IPDS Costa Rica** is an International Professional Development Schools opportunity that includes enrollment in a fall semester course and a 2-week-abroad adventure for students in San José, Costa Rica. **IPDS Costa Rica** is offered every other fall semester (even years) with travel every other January (odd years).

While abroad Buffalo State program leaders and participants will complete a Spanish language immersion program, observe and assist teachers in local schools and/or community centers, provide service learning, tour area communities and delve into Costa Rican education, history, geography and culture. Participants will also explore theories and aspects of human development - including social, emotional, and cognitive growth - and discuss child advocacy from a variety of perspectives. Participants may enroll in EDU 380/580 in the fall semester prior to the January travel and meet regularly at Buffalo State.

### Application Details

<b>Eligibility</b>	Open to all undergraduate and graduate students Open to students seeking certification at any grade level and within any academic discipline
<b>Requirements</b>	Must be currently enrolled Must be a current Buffalo State student (including those graduating the December before travel) Must maintain good academic standing
<b>To Apply</b>	Submit materials to Tamara Horstman-Riphahn in the Buffalo State School of Education: - completed 2-page Application Form - completed Academic Reference Form - typed Statement of Intent (in response to provided prompts) - copy of transcript (unofficial is acceptable), Degree Works printout, or Banner printout
<b>To Participate</b>	Eligible applicants will be invited to an interview for final selection in April. Those selected to participate will be required to submit a non-refundable deposit and submit all final payments by the deadlines specified. Participants are required to obtain a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after travel return date, complete required program paperwork and processes, purchase travel insurance through Buffalo State, and participate in the pre-travel course in the fall semester.

**IPDS Costa Rica Program Coordinators:**  
**Tamara Horstman-Riphahn & Pamela Schuetze**  
[horstmath@buffalostate.edu](mailto:horstmath@buffalostate.edu) ♦ [schuetp@buffalostate.edu](mailto:schuetp@buffalostate.edu)  
1300 Elmwood Avenue ♦ Buffalo, NY 14222 ♦ Phone (716) 878-3008

# Application – IPDS Costa Rica

page 1 of 2

## Application Submission & Process

Mail, Email, or Fax completed form and attachments to:

**Tamara Horstman-Riphahn ♦ School of Education**  
1300 Elmwood Avenue ♦ Bacon 306 ♦ Buffalo, NY 14222  
Phone (716) 878-3008 ♦ Fax (716) 878-5301  
Email [horstmath@buffalostate.edu](mailto:horstmath@buffalostate.edu)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** April 1 (even years)  
**INTERVIEWING OF QUALIFIED STUDENTS:** April  
**NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTED STUDENTS:** May

## Supplemental Materials

**TRANSCRIPT** – Attach a copy of your most recent transcript (does not have to be an official copy) or a copy of your Banner printout. Material provided must indicate that you are registered for the upcoming spring semester and show your current overall GPA.

**ACADEMIC REFERENCE** – Ask a recent university instructor or academic advisor to complete the “Academic Reference Form.” You must submit one academic reference (referrer can send completed and signed form directly to the School of Education).

- ESSAY** – Attach a typed statement of no more than 500 words:
- 1) Explain what you hope to gain from this program professionally/academically and how you plan to integrate your experiences into your future goals.
  - 2) Explain what you hope to gain personally.
  - 3) Explain what you hope to bring to the program (our hosts, the children in the schools, your peers, etc).
  - 4) Describe your characteristics and experiences that will help you be successful within this program. For instance: What are your interests? What are your strengths and challenges? How do you handle stressful situations, etc.?
  - 5) Explain what you feel is important when communicating with people of varying beliefs, backgrounds and cultures. What does respect for difference look like?
  - 6) Describe how you will be an ambassador of Buffalo State and the USA.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RCVD:

DCSN:

## Applicant Checklist

- Completed Application Form
- Completed Academic Reference Form
- Completed Statement of Intent
- Copy of transcript, Degree Works or Banner printout
- I am currently enrolled at Buffalo State
- I am currently in good academic standing

## Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
last

first

middle

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yyyy

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street

city

state

zip

Email 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary / Year-Round

Email 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary / School

Phone – Home \_\_\_\_\_

Phone – Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Phone – Work \_\_\_\_\_

Country(ies) of Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

Racial/Ethnic Background \_\_\_\_\_

## Education Information

- Graduate Student
- Undergraduate Student

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Study \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Major GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Banner # \_\_\_\_\_

# Application – IPDS Costa Rica

page 2 of 2

## Travel & Homestay Information

Preferred return date:

- When the program is complete  
 On my own (indicate approx date) \_\_\_\_\_

Languages spoken (other than English) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Particular dietary practices or needs \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Chronic Ailments or Health Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Are you allergic to animals? Yes No  
Are you able to stay in a home that has pets? Yes No  
Do you smoke? Yes No  
Can you tolerate smoking? Yes No

## Passport Information

*\* Do not complete this section unless you have already obtained a passport. Be sure to reference your passport for accuracy.*

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *EXACTLY as it appears on your passport, including middle names and suffixes (e.g. Jr.)*

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

## Academic Reference

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact - Primary

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
last

\_\_\_\_\_  
first

Relationship to You \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
home/cell/work (circle one)

Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
home/cell/work (circle one)

## Emergency Contact - Secondary

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
last

\_\_\_\_\_  
first

Relationship to You \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
home/cell/work (circle one)

Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
home/cell/work (circle one)

# Application – IPDS Costa Rica

## Academic Reference Form

Learn about the program: <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/costa-rica>  
Return completed reference form to applicant to include with application materials, or mail, email, or fax completed form to:  
**Tamara Horstman-Riphahn ♦ School of Education ♦ 1300 Elmwood Avenue ♦ Bacon 306♦ Buffalo, NY 14222**  
Phone (716) 878-3008 ♦ Fax (716) 878-5301 ♦ Email [horstmath@buffalostate.edu](mailto:horstmath@buffalostate.edu)

### Applicant Information

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

### Reference

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In comparison with other students you have known, please rate (circle one) applicant on the following characteristics. In a separate letter please elaborate on any of the characteristics, describe the student's strengths related to studying abroad, explain any of the student's weakness related to studying abroad, and/or provide additional comments regarding the applicant's potential for this program.

Motivation/Initiative	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Integrity (commitment to high ethical standards)	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Problem Solving Skills	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Common Sense and Good Judgment	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Interpersonal Skills (ability to work well with others)	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Coping Skills (ability to deal with stress, ambiguity, unusual situations)	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Writing Skills	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Verbal Communication Skills	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Self-Concept (extent of self-esteem, positive self-regard)	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown

I  would  would not expect the student to be appropriate and considerate as a homestay participant

I  would  would not enjoy have the student as a member of a group for which I was responsible.

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments \_\_\_\_\_