COFC ON SPIRIT OF SOUTH CAROLINA: BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN

>> PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Participants who sail aboard the Spirit of South Carolina glean a greater awareness of the world and of themselves as they participate as active members of the crew and immerse themselves in all aspects of shipboard life. As the ship makes its way along the Eastern seaboard of the United States and Caribbean Sea, those onboard learn firsthand about the nature of marine and island biodiversity throughout the region and its historical impacts on cultural diversity, socioeconomic development, and the efficacy of achieving sustainable environmental stewardship. Participants assist with navigation by gaining a better understanding of geometric theories and applications, while history permeates discussions as the ship visits new destinations and participants experience new cultures and traditions. Many equate stepping aboard a traditionally-rigged tall ship akin to living in a foreign country. There is a unique language and culture. The simple act of setting sail includes a dozen new terms and forces teamwork as no individual can set any of the ship's sails alone. As a program progresses, participants are given increasing levels of knowledge and consequently, responsibility for running the ship. Each participant is challenged with the task of organizing and running their watch; taking on leadership roles in an environment they are still trying to understand themselves. The ship also operates on a "closed utilities system" which makes patterns of consumption readily apparent to participants. For example, there is a fixed amount of water for the duration of the program and all electricity must be generated with a fixed amount of fuel from the 3 generators. Participants receive valuable practice in living sustainably, within the parameters of the resources available to them. All programs are led by one of our experienced captains and eight additional professional crew members including three mates, a head educator, cook and three deckhands. We are equipped with the latest in navigational technology and wireless internet access aboard ship.

All crew members are First Aid and CPR certified and are fully licensed for their position aboard. Participants who enroll in our 90-day sailing program will voyage over 4,000 nautical miles. Each day participants will utilize the knowledge they have gained through daily life at sea as well as topics conveyed through the active academic component of the program and numerous immersive engagements at local sites with a diversity of educational hosts in major ports of call. Participants take on a full academic load, in addition to crew responsibilities.

>> COURSE OFFERINGS (TENTATIVE)
Core curriculum of 16 credits for all participants:
Courses to be taught during a continuous 90-day mentoring schedule are as follows:
-BIOL 340/ST 250 Zoogeography (Shedlock, 3 cr.)
-BIOL 409 / ST 250 Conservation Biology (Shedlock, 3 cr.)
-PEAC 118 & 130 Basic and Intermediate Sailing (Shedlock, with SSC Crew, 4 cr.)
Courses to be taught via distance education (DE) and site-specific faculty engagements:
-LACS 101 Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies (Avendaño, 3 cr.)
-AAST 300 Special Topics: Voodoo and Visual Culture (Martin, with Lowe, 3 cr.)

PROGRAM DATES
January 8, 2019 - April 23, 2019

PROGRAM FEE
$11,755
*Fee is estimated and does not include tuition

APPLICATION DEADLINE
October 14, 2018
**PROGRAM FEE**

The program fee is $11,755*

*This fee is estimated and does not include tuition

**INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FEE**

- Local onshore site specific activities
- Meals
- All ground transportation during program excursions
- International Medical Insurance
- International Student ID Card
- Entrance fees to natural and historical sites and museums while on excursion
- Non-refundable application fee of $50

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Andrew M. Shedlock | Biology | a.m.shedlock@gmail.com | 843-469-0393

**NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FEE**

- Tuition: Students will pay their normal CofC tuition. All financial aid and scholarships that students normally receive will apply.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships from $500-2000 each are available to support CofC degree-seeking students to study abroad; eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need and academic merit. Applications can be found on the CIE website: https://international.cofc.edu under Scholarships.

**TO APPLY**

To apply visit cofc.via-trm.com. For more information contact Sabrina Prioleau, Study Abroad Program Assistant, Center for International Education, prioleaus@cofc.edu, 843-953-0441 or Stephanie Leahy, Assistant Director of Study Abroad, Center for International Education, leahys@cofc.edu, 843-953-7823.

The application deadline is October 14, 2018. Please note that a non-refundable $50 application fee, will be charged to the student’s MyCharleston account once the application has been submitted to, and approved by, the CIE. This fee is included in the program fee of $11,755.