



## Winter Break 2021/2022



### Principia Study Abroad

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# St. Lucia Study Abroad

## *Outdoor Leadership in Context*

### Program Focus

This program and the nature of its activities will give students an opportunity to explore outdoor leadership in the context of a culturally rich and ecologically diverse island within the Caribbean's Windward Islands chain: St. Lucia.

St. Lucia maintains an intriguing historical and contemporary narrative built through the impacts of colonialism and influences such as tourism, environmentalism, globalization, and foreign relations. The mountainous topography of St. Lucia also tells the story of its volcanic origin, while the beaches, rainforests, national parks, marine sanctuaries, plantations, and culturally rich villages tell the story of St. Lucia's distinctive biological and cultural history.

The unique beauty, nature, and culture of St. Lucia will be the setting for the group's exploration of the connection between context and outdoor leadership practices, through the application of related theories, skills, and methods. An emphasis will be placed on experiential, environmental, and adventure education and the additional exploration of each student's unique leadership development potential.

During this program, students will not only observe, analyze, and learn from outdoor guides and leaders who work with our group, but they will also develop and grow as leaders themselves. Students will participate in leadership, teambuilding, and community building activities which will emphasize learning to appreciate diversity, gaining intercultural awareness and competency, and nurturing global citizenship. Students will practice group facilitation, processing, and debriefing as ways of creating highly effective teams that can travel and live together harmoniously. The activities we do will build trust and communication skills which are applicable in every aspect of our lives. We will take advantage of all of the wonderful outdoor activities, the unique ecosystems of the land and sea, and diverse cultural activities as we build our skills.

Participants can expect and should be able to go hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, zip-lining, jungle biking, swimming with sea turtles, searching for the endangered St. Lucia Parrot, explore cultural heritage sites, and play a pick-up soccer game with the locals.

This program is open to all students and all majors.

### Applications

*(see Application Instructions on page 4 for more information)*

Applications are online as a google form at: [bit.ly/study-abroad-app-S20](https://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-S20)  
Applications must be completed and submitted no later than 5:00pm on **Wednesday, February 17, 2021**. Late applications not accepted.



## Program Staff

This program will be directed by Educational Studies faculty, Stephanie Lovseth, M.Ed., and accompanied by a Resident Counselor, TBD.

Stephanie has a master's degree in comparative and international higher education from Loyola University, Chicago. She studied abroad as a graduate student with Loyola in Vietnam and Italy. Stephanie is also a graduate of the Principia College Biology & Natural Resources program and participated in the Himalayan Kingdoms study abroad program as a student. As a faculty member she is the Director of Study Abroad and teaches in the Educational Studies department. Stephanie has been the resident counselor on Principia study abroad programs to New Zealand (2009) and India and Nepal (2010) and was the former Director of the 100 Elk Outdoor Center, in Colorado.

Stephanie and the Resident Counselor are both class-taught Christian Scientists.



## Program Preliminary Itinerary

We will spend all 3 weeks, of our in-country program time, on the island of St. Lucia, located in the Windward Islands of the Caribbean.

\*Please note: At this time, this program is scheduled to begin December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and conclude January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 (the Friday before spring semester begins).

Students will be given various leadership opportunities throughout the program, including acting as a “leader of the day,” on assigned days, to facilitate morning metaphysical foundation and group preparation, support activity logistics, and plan and/or facilitate program debriefing and reflection. Students can expect to be on a half-day or full-day guided excursion most days. Depending on the length of the day’s activities, the afternoon or evening will be our opportunity to have class sessions. Class sessions will be experiential in nature and will include content from our Outdoor Leadership textbook, cultural learning, student-led activities, debriefing, reflection, and planning & preparing for the next day. We’ll also explore the local culture and environment, and have daily, focused reflection-writing in our journals. Each day will require a sense of adventure and flexibility as we embark on our scheduled activities.

## Academics

FALL SEMESTER 2021

**SPST 285: Country Studies: St. Lucia**

SH: 1 Attribute: none

This course will provide an interdisciplinary survey of contemporary issues in St. Lucia. These issues will include topics such as: outdoor and adventure education, outdoor leadership, geography, cultural history, politics, foreign relations, and the environment. Taught on campus fall semester, 2021.

WINTER BREAK 2021/2022

**EDUC 235: Outdoor Leadership: St. Lucia**

SH: 3 Attribute: NONE

An exploration of outdoor leadership in St. Lucia, through the application of related theories, skills, and methods. Emphasis will be on experiential, environmental, and adventure education. Core competencies of outdoor leadership will include facilitation skills, technical skills, decision-making skills, teambuilding, self-awareness, safety and risk management, diversity and social responsibility mindfulness, and environmental stewardship.

SPRING SEMESTER 2022

**SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: St. Lucia**

SH: 1 Attribute: none

The reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to articulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study abroad program experience. Students will share their growth and experiences through reflection and writing assignments, directly linked to the Study Abroad Office learning outcomes, of intercultural competence and multicultural professional development, and create a community presentation.



## Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2021-2022 academic year may request Principia financial aid and/or scholarship.

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Accounting Office in St. Louis, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, voluntarily or involuntarily, after April, 21 2021, they agree to pay the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus any Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all pre-paid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account and payment will be due by December 26th, 2021.

## Program Selection

Selection will take place during spring semester, 2021. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and program RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date. See the [Study Abroad Student Selection Criteria](#) for additional student selection criteria and eligibility.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant during Week 8 of spring semester, 2021 regarding the decision on his/her application.

Those eligible, but not accepted in the initial selection process, may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put her or him on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the *Principia Conduct Standards* or the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

## Eligibility and Prerequisites

This study abroad is open to **all** students in good academic and social standing, regardless of major.

There are no prerequisites for the St. Lucia Study Abroad. If accepted, all participants are required to participate in the program's fall semester, 2021, SPST 285 Country Studies: St. Lucia course.

We expect students to show a commitment to solving problems metaphysically and to developing strength of character. Other fundamental criteria for consideration in selection includes the student's response to the essay questions on the application and responses in the in-person interview with the program faculty and resident counselor.

## Cost

The cost of the St. Lucia Study Abroad program will be the same as tuition for 3 semester hours, \$300 a week for Room and Board, airfare up to \$1500, and a \$150 study abroad fee.

The following expenses will be INCLUDED in the program: all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs NOT INCLUDED: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$150 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Please see the "Financial Aid and Responsibility" section to the left to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

# Application Instructions

- Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: <http://www.principiacollege.edu/abroads/upcoming-abroads> or directly from this link: <https://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-S20>
- To authenticate the google form application submission, you must use your Principia email address.
- Your study abroad application, as well as the online signature forms from your resident counselor and academic advisor, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY** 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 17 (Week 4). No late applications will be accepted!
- The application has 9 sections, and you must complete each section before moving to the next.
  1. The first section includes basic **personal information** including Po1 number, date of birth, citizenship, email, phone number, address, emergency contact(s), declared/expected major and minor, and expected graduation date.
  2. The second section includes **listing two references**, their emails and phone numbers. One is your personal/character reference and the other is for group learning.
  3. The third section confirms that you **met with your academic advisor** to discuss this study abroad program and that it does not conflict with any graduation requirements. You will send your academic advisor this signature page to confirm the meeting: <https://bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature>
  4. The next section confirms that you **met with your resident counselor** to discuss your ability to demonstrate emotional maturity, personal responsibility, and commitment to adapt to different living and learning conditions. You will send your RC the signature form to confirm this meeting: <https://bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature>
  5. The next section includes **additional questions** including previous international travel and previous abroads for which you have applied and been accepted or not accepted
  6. **Essay questions:**
    - a) Why you are interested in participating in this particular program;
    - b) Describe your spiritual practice, in specific regard to how you envision it being relevant to participating in this study abroad program;
    - c) Describe an experience where you needed to work to accomplish something with a group and incorporate your preferred role(s) as a leader and/or follower within a group, and what qualities you believe are most essential to effective group functioning;
    - d) Describe your willingness to be responsible for your own learning as well as your willingness to be flexible and adventurous in your learning. Provide examples illustrating your ability to be a self-motivated, curious, professional, and adaptable learner;
    - e) Describe a time when you were placed in a situation that was outside of your comfort zone, and elaborate on how you navigated that challenging situation.
  7. The last three sections include signing off on your understanding of the following topics
    - a) **Financial Responsibility** – including commitment and withdrawal deadlines
    - b) **Academic & Social Responsibility** – including that you have read the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#)
    - c) **Statement of Expectations** – including abiding by the standards set forth in the previous documents, [Principia's standards](#), additional standards stipulated by the program faculty or international laws and custom, and expectation that you will fully participate in all aspects of the program.
- Again, the application and two online signature forms must be received by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 17 (Week 4). Please be in touch with Study Abroad Program Manager Mary Jane Hoff with any questions – [maryjane.hoff@principia.edu](mailto:maryjane.hoff@principia.edu) or 618-374-5214.