



**Spanish Immersion and Service-
Learning Program
2025 Costa Rica**

Eligibility and Application Information

PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY

Tentative Travel Dates: April 24-May 5, 2025 (Dates are subject to change)

Description

Enrich your Spanish communication skills through a 2-week language immersion program focusing on a combination of language training (in and outside the classroom), cultural enrichment, and community service work.

The first week of the immersion program will have selected students in and around the coastal city of Tamarindo (Guanacaste Province) where students will engage in intensive language training programs, practical language use challenges in the local community, as well as work with local NGO's on community projects (English Language training for children, reforestation efforts).

The second week of the program will have selected students in the and around the Capital City of San Jose, where students will engage in additional daily language immersion training programs, stay with local host families, as well as training and volunteer time at local organizations (sustainability projects).

(PARTICIPATING STUDENTS WILL ENGAGE IN OVER 30 HOURS OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER HOURS IN THIS PROGRAM)

Open to students to all GTC students that meet eligibility requirements.

Focus areas – Language Training, Human Services, Early Childhood Education

To be eligible you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be in compliance with department and college policies and free of disciplinary action or progressive disciplinary action.
- Have or be able to obtain a valid U.S. Passport by January 2025.

Additional eligibility requirements for STUDENTS:

- Be declared in a Gateway Associate Degree or Diploma.
- Have completed 6 credits.
- Have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4-point scale) in declared programs.
- Be able to provide two (2) letters of recommendation from Gateway faculty members.
- Be available for an interview Fall Semester 2024.

Successful candidates should have the social maturity to represent the U.S. and Gateway Technical College abroad with dignity, respect, and accountability for one's actions, work well in a team setting, and to be able to handle uncertainty with maturity.

If selected to participate you will be required to:

- Register for and successfully complete course International Biz-squad (3 credits)
- Meet all deadlines including payment deadline
- Participate in **MANDATORY** pre and post departure activities including **MANDATORY Orientations**
- Submit a signed Publicity Release form
- Submit a completed Medical/Emergency Information form
- We reserve the right to request additional health information from you and/or a statement from your health care provider verifying your health prior to departure
- Submit a copy of the front page of your passport
- Meet program requirements and comply with any applicable rule, code of conduct, regulation, instruction or law during the program. Noncompliance may result in expulsion from the program, forfeiture of fees, and **being immediately sent home at your expense**

How much will it cost? (all fees are estimated and subject to change) Includes: Airfare, some meals, transportation, standard hotel double occupancy rooms, and insurance.	\$2800.00 (EST)
Tuition	\$500.00 00 (EST)
Total:	\$3300.00 (EST)

Other costs to consider, passport \$200.00 and spending money

Financial assistance for Program Fees

- New, first time Global Scholars will receive **\$750.00** in funds from Gateway.
- Previous Global Scholars will receive \$500.00 in funds from Gateway.
- If you are eligible for financial aid, you may use it to pay tuition for the required coursework.

Fee payment schedule

- **\$80.00** Application and processing fee → **ONLY** refundable if student drops from program prior the start of the semester of classes. **NON-REFUNDABLE** after the start of the semester of travel. (Paid after acceptance into program at Orientation November 2024).
- **\$100.00** Flight reservation fee → Used to reserve airline seats for participating students. Applied to the accounts of participating students, usually a month before travel. **NOTE, THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM OR NOT.** (Paid after acceptance into program at Orientation November 2024).

Course tuition and program fees

- Paid to Gateway and subject to the same payment and refund policies as other Gateway courses. See your student handbook or Student Services Center for further information.
- Student accounts must be current prior to departure.

Participants who drop from the program will be held responsible for any unrecoverable fees incurred by Gateway Technical College.

TO APPLY:

- **Complete online application by October 31, 2024**
- **Obtain 2 online recommendations from Gateway Staff (you will need their email address, and let them know you are asking for a recommendation)**

Whom do I contact if I have questions? Chinedu Obowu, International Education Coordinator at 262-564-2505 or obowuc@gtc.edu