

Latin America and the Caribbean

ACTIVITY SUMMARY



At Duke University, we want our programs and course offerings in Latin American and Caribbean Studies to reflect the breadth, complexity and importance of the ties that bind the countries and cultures of the hemisphere we share.

— Antonio Arce, Duke University

81 Undergraduate students from this region currently enrolled at Duke

267 Graduate and professional students from this region currently enrolled at Duke

22 Partnerships with universities and organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean

1,246 Alumni currently living in Latin America and the Caribbean

66 Duke scholars with expertise related to Latin America and the Caribbean.

124 Duke faculty members conducting research in or related to this region

10 International study opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean

29 Duke faculty members with teaching experience in Latin America and the Caribbean

DUKE IN THE WORLD

A deep and continuous exchange of influences exists between North and South America as the continents work to address shared challenges, including energy issues, climate change and transnational crime. Duke University programs and course offerings in Latin American and Caribbean Studies reflect the breadth, complexity and importance of the ties that bind the countries and cultures of the hemisphere we share.

EDUCATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Duke's partners in Latin America and the Caribbean come from universities, local governments, hospitals, health ministries and community-based organizations across the region. The medical community at Duke is particularly engaged with Latin America and the Caribbean and supports student exchanges in clinical nursing rotations. Several key partnerships in the region are facilitated by the Duke Global Health Institute.

In Ecuador, the Center for Latin American Studies and the Nicholas School of the Environment partner with the **Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)** to conduct joint energy research. In addition to facilitating the exchange of experts and students, this partnership gives Duke students and faculty access to OLADE's energy database, allowing them to analyze energy trends and challenges in the region.



Scholars at the Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI) are working with the **Federal University of Sao Paulo's Paulista Medical School** to develop the

Brazilian Global Health Institute and research programs to address the burden of disease on underserved populations.

DGHI also partners with the **Secretariat of Health of the Republic of Honduras** and the **Heifer International Project** to build maternal and child clinics in Las Mercedes, Honduras, where students and researchers provide labor and emergency services to local women and children.

Duke's School of Nursing maintains a number of partnerships in the region. Its collaborations with the **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College, Barbados Community College, the Universidad Politecnica de Nicaragua** and other universities in the region allow undergraduate nursing students to complete clinical rotations in local hospitals.

Students in the Duke Law School and the Fuqua School of Business also participate in student exchanges in Chile and Brazil.



Each year, students in Duke's Exploring Medicine class bring medical supplies to rural Honduras and deliver basic care in the new clinic, an effort led by DGHI faculty member and pediatrician Dennis Clements.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In addition to the above partnerships, many of which send students to countries across the region to work with and learn from Latin American partners, Duke sponsors a number of trips for students to experience the cultures and customs of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The **Global Education Office for Undergraduates (GEO)** offers several summer programs for students to study in the region.

In addition to two programs organized by the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica, GEO offers Costa Rica study away programs for

students in both the Pratt School of Engineering and Trinity College of Arts & Sciences. While the Trinity program focuses on key community health issues, the Pratt program teaches the fundamental concepts of engineering. Both programs support students in developing advanced Spanish language skills and experiencing Costa Rican culture.

GEO also offers a program in Brazil for students interested in gaining exposure to social issues in Rio de Janeiro, environmental issues in the Brazilian Amazon and Portuguese language.



GEO administers semester and summer programs in Costa Rica organized by the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS). The programs take place at OTS's biological field stations, where students get hands-on experience studying tropical ecosystems.

DukeImmerse, a semester-long program offering small seminar courses on particular themes, offers a program on human rights and identity in the Americas. By interviewing indigenous immigrant families who have settled in Durham, as well as visiting many of these families' hometowns in Mexico, students examine the transnational issues that are reshaping the relationship between North and South America.

In the fall of 2017, **DukeEngage** announced a new student program in Bolivia. The program connects students with the organization Bridges to Prosperity to construct a suspension bridge in Cochabamba. While the program is of particular interest to engineering students, it is open to students from all academic backgrounds.

In addition to its Bolivia program, DukeEngage offers civic engagement opportunities in Peru, Chile, Costa Rica and Guatemala. Each program has a unique focus, including forest conservation and support of indigenous communities.

RESEARCH

Duke faculty members conduct research in or related to **24 Latin American countries**. This research spans 8 of Duke's 10 schools and many of its institutes and centers.

Among Duke's researchers exploring topics related to Latin America and the Caribbean are:

- **Jocelyn Harrison Olcott**—on the labor, political and conceptual history of motherhood in twentieth-century Mexico
- **Stuart L. Pimm**—on the Atlantic Coast forest of Brazil and the northern Andes as hotspots for threatened species
- **Esther Gabara**—on popular art, literature and visual culture in Latin America and its representations of race and gender
- **John French**—on working class history in Brazil



Professor **Elizabeth Shapiro-Garza** studies the social and environmental impacts of market-based environmental initiatives and policies in Latin America, and their social and environmental impacts. She investigates cacao agroforestry systems in biosphere reserve buffer zones in Panama and Costa Rica, as well as coffee sustainability certification programs in El Salvador.



- **Christine Folch**—on water and energy politics in the region, and the ways groups politicize their relationships to nature
- **Alexander Pfaff**—on the outlook of forests in Brazil, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Peru and Panama

To find more Duke experts, visit global.duke.edu/regions and search our Global Activities Map by school and country of interest.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT DUKE

Duke has a vibrant community of Latin American and the Caribbean scholars. The **Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies** brings together faculty members and students who share an interest in the countries and cultures of this region. The center:

- Hosts visiting scholars and artists
- Promotes local, state and national outreach to create an intellectual community of scholars and activists
- Prepares students to be future leaders in academics, business, arts, government and other fields in the region
- Organizes the **Duke Brazil Initiative**, which builds connections with Brazil through faculty and student exchanges, and the **Global Brazil Lab**, which fosters awareness of Brazilian arts, social movements and natural environment



The **Haiti Lab** merges research, education and practical applications of innovative thinking for Haiti's disaster recovery and for expansion of Haitian studies in the U.S. and in Haiti. Although the lab's courses concluded in 2013, the lab continues to offer public events and curate scholarly publications supporting Haitian studies.

Students also organize several groups with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. **Mi Gente** is Duke's primary Latino/a student organization, focused on bringing Latino/a culture to the Duke community.

Faculty also organize a **Tropical Conservation Initiative** to support the development of solutions for combating the loss of biological diversity in the Amazon and other tropical regions of the world.

Together these initiatives help students build upon knowledge gained in **more than 80 Latin America and Caribbean-related courses** offered at Duke in the Brazilian and Global Portuguese program; the Creole, Spanish and French majors; and programs in biology, global health, history, nursing and Latino/a studies, among others.