

STUDY ABROAD. DIFFERENTLY.

ROUND RIVER STUDENT PROGRAMS



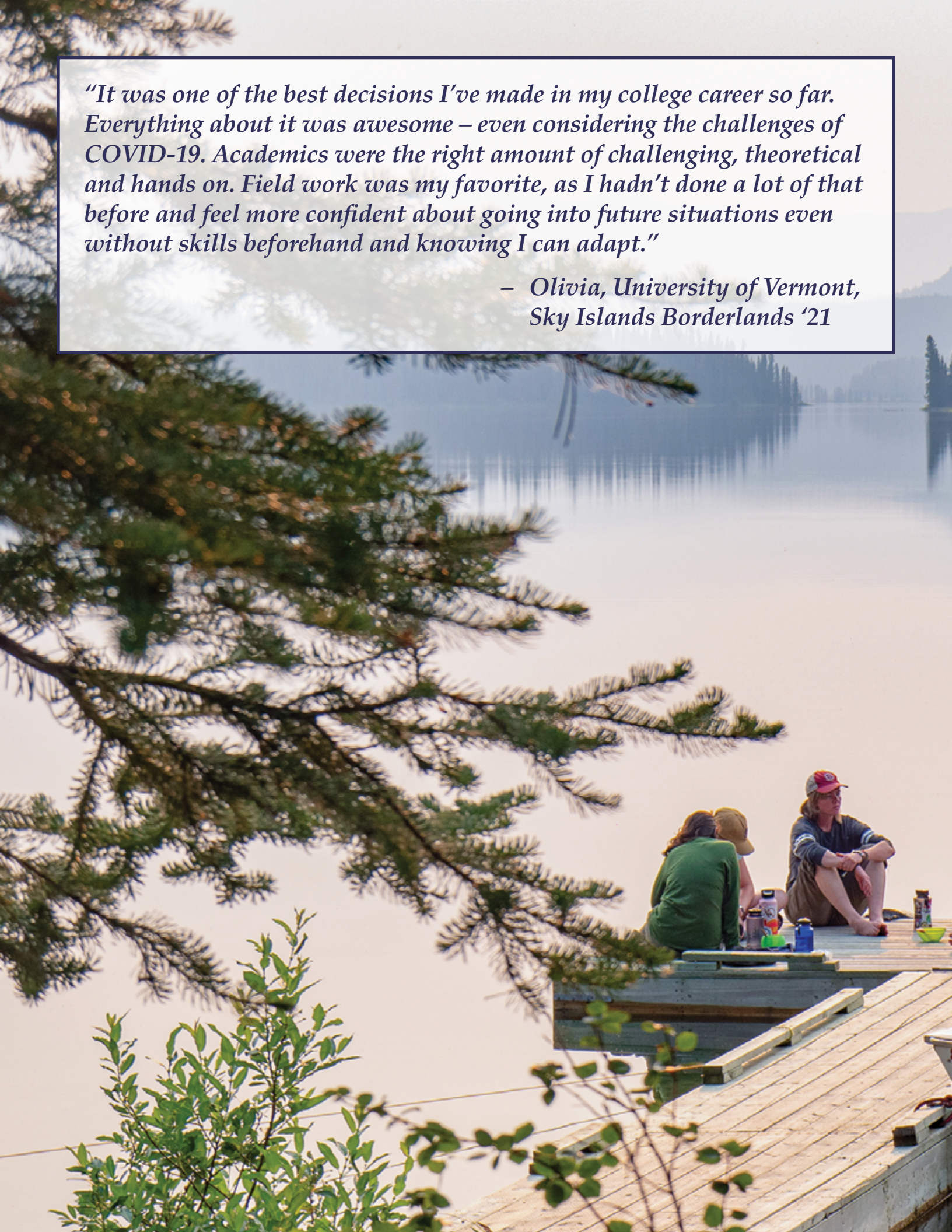
WWW.ROUNDRIVER.ORG

ROUND RIVER CONSERVATION STUDIES
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"It was one of the best decisions I've made in my college career so far. Everything about it was awesome – even considering the challenges of COVID-19. Academics were the right amount of challenging, theoretical and hands on. Field work was my favorite, as I hadn't done a lot of that before and feel more confident about going into future situations even without skills beforehand and knowing I can adapt."

*– Olivia, University of Vermont,
Sky Islands Borderlands '21*





Class in the Taku River Watershed, British Columbia. Photo by Adam Spencer

WHY ROUND RIVER?



Plant ID in southern Patagonia, Chile. Photo by Shalynn Pack.

Round River believes landscapes are powerful educators. Our programs are entirely field-based authentic experiences that offer the opportunity for small groups of students to contribute to real conservation efforts in big, wild places.

Round River programs are more than an outdoor classroom. Our students live, work, and study in the field, contributing directly to efforts promoting the conservation of fragile ecosystems. In Botswana, you will be immersed in the globally significant Okavango Delta, working with local people to monitor the dynamics of Africa's diverse wildlife populations. In Patagonia, you will visit massive glaciers and explore unknown valleys with guardaparques in the Chilean Fjords in search of wildlife. In Belize, you will rise to the sounds of the rainforest and assist local communities and rangers with monitoring the Mayan Golden Landscape. In British Columbia, you will watch a mother grizzly and her cub fish for salmon and hear the stories of local elders. In Mongolia, you will explore the vast taiga on foot in search of elusive wildlife species and learn from local park rangers about this rich landscape. In the Sky Islands, you'll hike through canyons and up mountains in one of the most biologically diverse places in the US, while investigating the complex environmental impacts of the border wall.

Our programs are immersive - join the Round River team to experience adventure science at its finest while gaining an understanding of the human element of conservation and connection to place. You will embark on an unforgettable personal journey in some of the world's most beautiful landscapes. For over 30 years, Round River students have shown the passion and dedication that leads to lifelong inspiration and stewardship of our shared global ecosystems.



(clockwise from L): Grizzly bear cub. Grizzly bear cub. Photo by Doug Milek; Atop Ruby Mountain. Photo by Doug Milek; Camp setup. Photo by Doug Milek.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TAKU RIVER WATERSHED

The Taku River watershed, located in the far northwest corner of British Columbia, is a place of great beauty and ecological significance. This landscape and the people of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation have taught us much about how to integrate field research with the needs of First Peoples.

Since 2003, our students have been a vital part of Round River's conservation work in the Taku that has culminated in over 7 million acres of protected land. Students have contributed to research projects with grizzly bear, wolf, woodland caribou, and all five species of Pacific Salmon. Early programs focused on wildlife surveys, documenting Tlingit oral histories and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and habitat studies and mapping. We have continued to evolve over a generation of time spent on the land, and today students explore the immense wilderness surrounding Atlin, B.C., trekking into remote alpine and subalpine areas to monitor critical habitat, wildlife populations, and vegetation in the face of climate change. Together we study and celebrate the natural history of an intact northern wilderness.

SUMMER TERM (9 CREDITS)

- Natural History of Northwestern British Columbia
- Applied Conservation Biology
- Biological Field Methods

PROGRAM COSTS

- \$11,900
- Scholarships Available

“It truly has shaped a lot of my views on life and guided me towards my future – not sure where I would be without it.”

– Kyle, Truman State University, Taku '19



(counter-clockwise from top L): Trail lunch during a backpacking trip. Photo by Rebekah Holt; Furgon in the Darhad Valley. Photo by Mikayla Call. Ranger cooking in the valley. Photo by Elizabeth Brunner.

MONGOLIA

THE DARHAD VALLEY

In partnerships with the Ulaan Taiga Protected Areas Administration, Round River conducts research in three newly formed protected areas of the taiga of northern Mongolia. Situated in the Huvsgul province, these protected areas comprise 1.5 million hectares of mountains and high-elevation boreal forest, contiguous with the vast Lake Huvsgul National Park to the east.

Students assist with multi-species monitoring in the Darhad Valley, studying fire dynamics, high-elevation wetlands, grazing impacts, permafrost distribution, and river systems. Student field crews conduct research on breeding and migratory birds, steppe- and talus-dwelling pikas, large mammals, and culturally significant medicinal plants, while exploring ways to incorporate local communities and their needs into park management.

FALL SEMESTER (15 CREDITS)

- Natural History of Mongolia
- Applied Conservation Biology
- Biological Field Methods
- Humans and the Environment
- Applied Ecology

PROGRAM COSTS

- Summer: \$11,900
 - Semester: \$22,900
- Scholarships Available*

SUMMER TERM (9 CREDITS)

- Natural History of Mongolia
- Applied Conservation Biology
- Biological Field Methods

“Through our work for the local protected areas we worked with the rangers and their families and were super grateful to be welcomed into their homes and brought under their wing. I appreciated that they were so eager to teach us how to stay warm, cook, travel, and live like Mongolians, which is a point of pride for them.”

– Joscie, University of Vermont, Mongolia '18



(clockwise from L) Leopard enjoys its impala meal in the Okavango. Photo by Trent Alvey; Botswana sundowner. Photo by Gabriel Kayano; Lion pride interrupts transect. Photo by Adriane Mason.

BOTSWANA

OKAVANGO DELTA

Botswana is teeming with wildlife. Exotic birds and elephant herds range through acacia forests, lions hunt the savannah, and hippos bob in wide rivers. The Okavango Delta, one of the largest inland deltas in the world, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014. For a variety of reasons, many of its iconic wildlife populations are in decline. To help understand these declines, Round River students are assisting the Okavango Community Trusts with ungulate surveys and rare and threatened bird monitoring. Working closely with local instructors and guides to accomplish these important wildlife and habitat studies, students also assist with training, capacity building, and community outreach activities with local people.

Join Round River to experience one of the world's most abundant ecosystems. You will thrive on the invaluable educational opportunities of working alongside the stewards of this rich landscape, while surrounded by wildlife and immersed in the culture and its people.

FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS (15 CREDITS)

- Natural History of Botswana
- Applied Conservation Biology
- Biological Field Methods
- Humans and the Environment
- Community-Based Natural Resource Management

PROGRAM COSTS

- \$22,900
- Scholarships available

“The work that was accomplished and is still continuing in Botswana with the local people is important and I am so thankful to have been able to be a part of the Round River team... This program changed my life and I still look back and think of what an amazing time I had.”

– Paige, Westminster College, Botswana '19



(clockwise from L) Student takes a bearing. Photo by Adam Spencer; Hiking along the Ruta de los Pioneros. Photo by Sara Grillo. Putting the Rite in the Rain notebooks to the test. Photo by Adam Spencer.

CHILE PATAGONIA

Patagonia is a dramatic landscape of ice fields, fjords, windswept grasslands, and glacial peaks rising from deep river valleys. Contribute to local conservation efforts by assisting our broad array of partners, ranging from small communities to branches of the Chilean government. Students spend the semester working in a variety of field sites: the grasslands of the Chacabuco Valley within Patagonia National Park, the misty, remote fjords of Bernardo O'Higgins National Park at the edge of the Southern Patagonia Ice Field, and the glaciers, lakes, and forests of the Los Glaciares region near Villa O'Higgins.

Students operate out of three field bases near the remote villages of Cochrane, Tortel, and Puerto Eden. Students become familiar with wildlife monitoring techniques, focusing on iconic Chilean mammals such as guanaco and endangered huemul deer, and an array of bird species including the lesser rhea. Students also participate in Southern Ice Field community-based conservation and environmental education, an ongoing sustainable sphagnum moss harvest study, compilation of the first-ever plant field guide for Bernardo O'Higgins National Park, and biodiversity assessments in remote regions of Aysén.

You will experience local Patagonian culture and enjoy ample opportunities to interact with guardaparques and gauchos. Weeklong homestays provide unique and special cultural experiences.

FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS (15 CREDITS)*

- Natural History of Patagonia
- Applied Conservation Biology
- Biological Field Methods
- Humans and the Environment
- Applied Ecology

*Spanish skills are strongly recommended, though not required.

PROGRAM COSTS

- \$22,900
Scholarships available

“Round River’s Patagonia program is perfect for any student interested in a career in conservation. An array of meaningful research projects forms the foundation of the program...If you are looking for an opportunity to gain research skills in a unique setting, this is the perfect program.”

— Jack, College of St. Benedict and
St. John’s University, Patagonia ‘21



(clockwise from top L): Students with Ya'axché rangers in Bladen Nature Reserve. Photo by Sara Grillo. Maya Golden Landscape. Photo by Erik Hammar. Jaguar in the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve. Photo by Ya'axché Conservation Trust

BELIZE

MAYA GOLDEN LANDSCAPE

In partnership with Ya'axché Trust, Round River operates in the Maya Golden Landscape of southern Belize, an ancient socio-ecological system that harbors many of the region's iconic species such as jaguar and Harpy Eagle. Ya'axché co-manages three protected areas, including Bladen Nature Reserve, one of the wildest forest tracts in Mesoamerica, Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve, where they hold a concession for cacao cultivation in an innovative project aimed at discouraging illegal activity, and Golden Stream Corridor Preserve.

Our students will support Ya'axché with on a diverse set of conservation initiatives, from scientific research and monitoring to agro-forestry production.

FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS (15 CREDITS)*

- Natural History of Belize
- Applied Conservation Biology
- Biological Field Methods
- Humans and the Environment
- Applied Ecology

**Spanish skills are strongly recommended, though not required.*

PROGRAM COSTS

- \$22,900
Scholarships available

“Despite the difficulties of living and working in such a remote location, such as the seemingly endless barrage of mosquitos, ticks, and other biting insects, I still feel very lucky to have had an opportunity to study in Bladen Nature Reserve and learn from those responsible for its future management.”

– Lucas, Carleton College, Belize '21



(clockwise from L) US-Mexico Border wall. Photo by Perrin Milliken. Sierra Bacadehuachi, Sonora, Mexico. Photo by Chris Hedgcock. Plant identification in the Sky Islands.

U.S. – MEXICO

SKY ISLANDS BORDERLANDS

Although we are well known for our international conservation successes, Round River's roots come from the American West and its defenders of wilderness, and we are thrilled to partner with Sky Island Alliance to offer a program that brings us closer to home. Experience the wide-open spaces of the Borderlands where students camp, research, and study in the rugged transboundary Madrean Archipelago of southern Arizona and northern Mexico. A world biodiversity hotspot, this is where the jaguar and black bear meet, where bromeliads grow in the arms of maple trees, and spicy chiltepin pepper and sweet Arizona canyon grape grow side-by-side.

Students help monitor wildlife movement across the U.S.-Mexico border using camera traps, survey perennial springs that provide life-giving water in the desert, and study the elevational distribution of key species like the saguaro cactus. Conservation efforts in these areas are timely, active, and constantly evolving. Join us to get your hands dirty, sleep out under the desert stars, and dig deeply into the ever-changing conservation issues around the border.

FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS (15 CREDITS)*

- Natural History of the Sky Island Borderlands
- Applied Conservation Biology
- Biological Field Methods
- Humans and the Environment
- Applied Ecology

**Spanish skills are strongly recommended, though not required.*

PROGRAM COSTS

- Summer: \$10,900
 - Semester: \$20,900
- Scholarships Available*

SUMMER TERM (9 CREDITS)*

- Natural History of the Sky Island Borderlands
- Applied Conservation Biology
- Biological Field Methods

“I learned how the border is affecting wildlife, how to do ecological surveys, how to carry out a scientific study and write a paper that will be used by conservationists, and how conservation and cultural issues tie together.”

– Perrin, Bowdoin College,
Sky Islands Borderlands '21



Mountain view with Mongolian Park Rangers. Darhad Valley, Mongolia. Photo by Mikayla Call.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Participation is open to motivated students who possess a keen interest in conservation. Enrollment is generally limited to 8-10 students per term; these small crews ensure high-quality instruction and research, and reduce our ecological footprint. Students may apply online and are accepted on a rolling basis. We recommend applying early.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

All courses are accredited through Westminster College and may be transferable to your home institution. Since 1991, students from more than sixty universities and colleges in the United States and Canada have participated on our programs.

TUITION, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Total cost includes tuition, registration fees, equipment, research fees, room and board, medical evacuation coverage, and ground transportation during the program. Air travel to/from program location and personal gear are not included.

Students can use federal financial aid toward Round River tuition and fees. Check with your home institution's financial aid office for information about other available resources.

We are able to assist students and families with payment planning - we encourage students to contact us if finances are an issue. Round River offers scholarships through the Edward Abbey Fund; awards are based on merit and need.



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