

College of Charleston Summer 2017 British Virgin Islands

Program Dates:

**July 27 - August 10,
2017**

Program Fee:

\$3,728*

(*subject to change and
does not include tuition or
round-trip airfare)



Program Courses: (students choose one course)

**BIOL 250 + Lab: Field
Studies in Coral Reef
Biology-4 cr.
(non-majors)**

**BIOL 453 + Lab: Field
Studies in Coral Reef
Biology-4 cr.
(majors)**

Program Information:

Students study the biology, ecology, and conservation of the Caribbean coral reef ecosystem. The emphasis is placed on field methods and labs, including field experiments that contribute to ongoing research projects. The program is conducted aboard a large trimaran sailboat that serves as the accommodations, transportation, classroom, and research platform. Each day the class will sail to a new island in the archipelago of the British Virgin Islands to investigate new habitats. Students also receive practical nautical training (seamanship, navigation, sailing) to better prepare them as deckhands aboard a research vessel, they will earn their PADI Open Water, Advanced, or Specialty Scuba certification, and gain hands-on research diving experience. Students are required to complete the classroom portion of PADI's diver training online prior to departure for the trip. The program is conducted in collaboration with the non-profit organization called the Marine science And Nautical Training Academy (MANTA, www.manta-online.org).

Students participating in this course should expect the following conditions/activities: snorkeling, SCUBA diving, swimming, hiking, tropical summer heat, sailing, lifting scuba tanks, living aboard a boat, and prolonged physical activity.

Program Director:

Dr. Rusty Day, Biology Department/Grice Marine Lab, dayrd@cofc.edu or rusty.day@manta-online.org, 843 762-8904

Dr. Rusty Day is an Adjunct Professor of Biology at CofC and a research biologist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Hollings Marine Laboratory. He has a diverse scientific background that includes tropical field ecology, fisheries, wildlife toxicology, and chemical tracers in marine organisms. Dr. Day has directed the BVI study abroad program since 2010 and is also a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer, licensed U.S. Coast Guard Captain, and the founder and director of MANTA.

To Apply:

Applications can be found online through the Center for International Education's website, <https://cofc.abroadoffice.net>, as well as on MANTA's website (<http://manta-online.org/college-application/>). For further questions on the application process, please contact **Gabriela Peschiera**, Assistant Director, Center for International Education, peschierag@cofc.edu, 843-953-7823.

The Program fee of **\$3,728*** includes a non-refundable \$50 application fee, lodging, meals, and medical insurance. **TUITION FOR THE COURSE AND ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE ARE NOT INCLUDED.**

Application deadline is **March 1, 2017**. Program fee will be posted to the student's MyCharleston account once the application has been submitted to, and approved by, the CIE. Scholarships of up to \$1500 are available to CofC students for study abroad. Eligibility is based on demonstrated financial aid and academic merit.