



INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN BOLIVIA

SUMMER 2024

JUNE 20 – JULY 12



<https://geo.uoregon.edu/programs/americas-bolivia/indigenous-rights-and-environmental-justice-bolivia>

Travel to the Bolivian Amazon and study indigenous rights and environmental justice with Professors from the University of Oregon and Bolivia. Collaborate with Guarayo and Monkoxi indigenous peoples on service-learning projects like forest conservation, music education and handicrafts. View wildlife in the renowned Pantanal Wetlands! Apply now. Admission is rolling. Anyone can also volunteer remotely with www.sirejbolivia.org

VOLUNTEER: Students for Indigenous Rights and Environmental Justice in Bolivia (SIREJ)

STUDY ABROAD: UO's Indigenous Rights & Environmental Justice in Bolivia program

- learn in Bolivia's Amazon doing community service projects with Guarayo and Monkox indigenous peoples
- incredible wildlife viewing
- volunteer remotely from UO supporting Amazon forest conservation, indigenous music and handicraft schools, raising funds, donations & more!




Study abroad: <https://geo.uoregon.edu/programs/americas-bolivia/indigenous-rights-and-environmental-justice-bolivia>

Volunteer with SIREJ: www.sirejbolivia.org

4 MINUTE VIDEO ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

<https://vimeo.com/378907597>



Guarayo indigenous youth protesting logging truck in their territory in the Bolivian Amazon, advocating for their indigenous music school instead of logging. Photo taken during 2019 study abroad.

FACULTY LEADERSHIP



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This study abroad program is part of broader collaboration between the University of Oregon and indigenous peoples of Bolivia, launched in 2015 by Professors Hindery and Galvan, Indigenous leaders Bienvenido Zacu Mborobainchi (Guarayo leader) and Carlos Cuasace (Monkox leader), Waldo Mina Quiroga, Jose Martinez (Bolivian Sociology Professor) and others.

https://international.uoregon.edu/Bolivia_leaders



Program launch with Dennis Galvan, Vice- Provost of Office of International Affairs, University of Oregon, Spring 2015

[https://international.uoregon.edu/
Bolivia_leaders](https://international.uoregon.edu/Bolivia_leaders)



ITINERARY

- **In Santa Cruz:**
 - *Day 1:* Arrival and hotel transfer.
 - *Day 2:* Cultural orientation, visit Indigenous Parliament, World Wildlife Fund, welcome dinner.
- **In Urubichá (Guarayo Indigenous Territory):**
 - *Day 3:* Travel from Santa Cruz to Urubichá and check-in at hostel.
 - *Days 4-7:* Orientation, academic classes, forest excursion, service-learning activities, music performances, dances, meetings (e.g. main Guarayo indigenous organization, music & handicraft schools, women's babassu collective) and free time.
- **Transfer to Concepción/Monteverde (Chiquitano/Monkox Indigenous Territory):**
 - *Day 8:* Journey to Concepción with cultural stops, hotel check-in, meeting with main Chiquitano/Monkox indigenous organization (OICH)
 - *Day 9:* visit 2 indigenous communities with collectives that extract babassu and copaibo in Monteverde territory
- **In San Lorenzo de Lomerío (Chiquitano/Monkox Indigenous Territory):**
 - *Day 10:* Arrival and orientation to San Lorenzo community, Lomerío territory and service-learning activities
 - *Days 11-13:* Academic classes, forest & lagoon explorations, optional sports, dancing, community visits, and free time.
- **Transfer to Hacienda Bodega in San Jose de Chiquitos:**
 - *Day 14:* Travel, stop at women's handicraft collective, meet with San Jose Indigenous organization, sunset viewing, and campfire gathering.
 - *Day 15:* Document community & environmental impacts of Cuiaba pipeline, Don Mario mine, campfire gathering.
- **Transfer to Puerto Quijarro (Pantanal Wetlands):**
 - *Day 16:* Travel to Otuquis Protected Area, visit community affected by El Mutun mine, Bolivia-Brazil pipeline & water pipeline, view wildlife and flora, dinner, check in to hotel, free time
 - *Day 17:* Wildlife and flora viewing in Otuquis Protected Area, dinner, free time.
 - *Day 18:* Travel to Santiago. Options: visit women who produce natural medicine, look for medicinal plants, swim in crystalline pools, cave paintings, waterfalls of San Luis, view scenic rock and forest formations, evening concert
- **Return to Santa Cruz:**
 - *Day 19:* Journey back to Santa Cruz, viewing Chochis, Roboré, Santiago highlands and Tucavaca valley on the way.
 - *Day 20:* visit Guarani Museum, Guembe biocenter (or spa if cold and rainy) and farewell dinner at traditional Bolivian restaurant
 - *Day 21:* Free morning. Departure.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN BOLIVIA



And various professional concentrations: ID, IEI, ICAD, IDIR, IGH, IB, IEC, IGI, INPM, ITRS, ILHR, IJ, IMDR, ICR, ILAM

Six UO credits

- Readings and lectures on indigenous rights and environmental justice
- Participation in indigenous-led service learning projects
- Foster future collaboration
- What the course counts for determined by advisor for your major
- GBL Majors: satisfies Block C Latin America or Block B elective

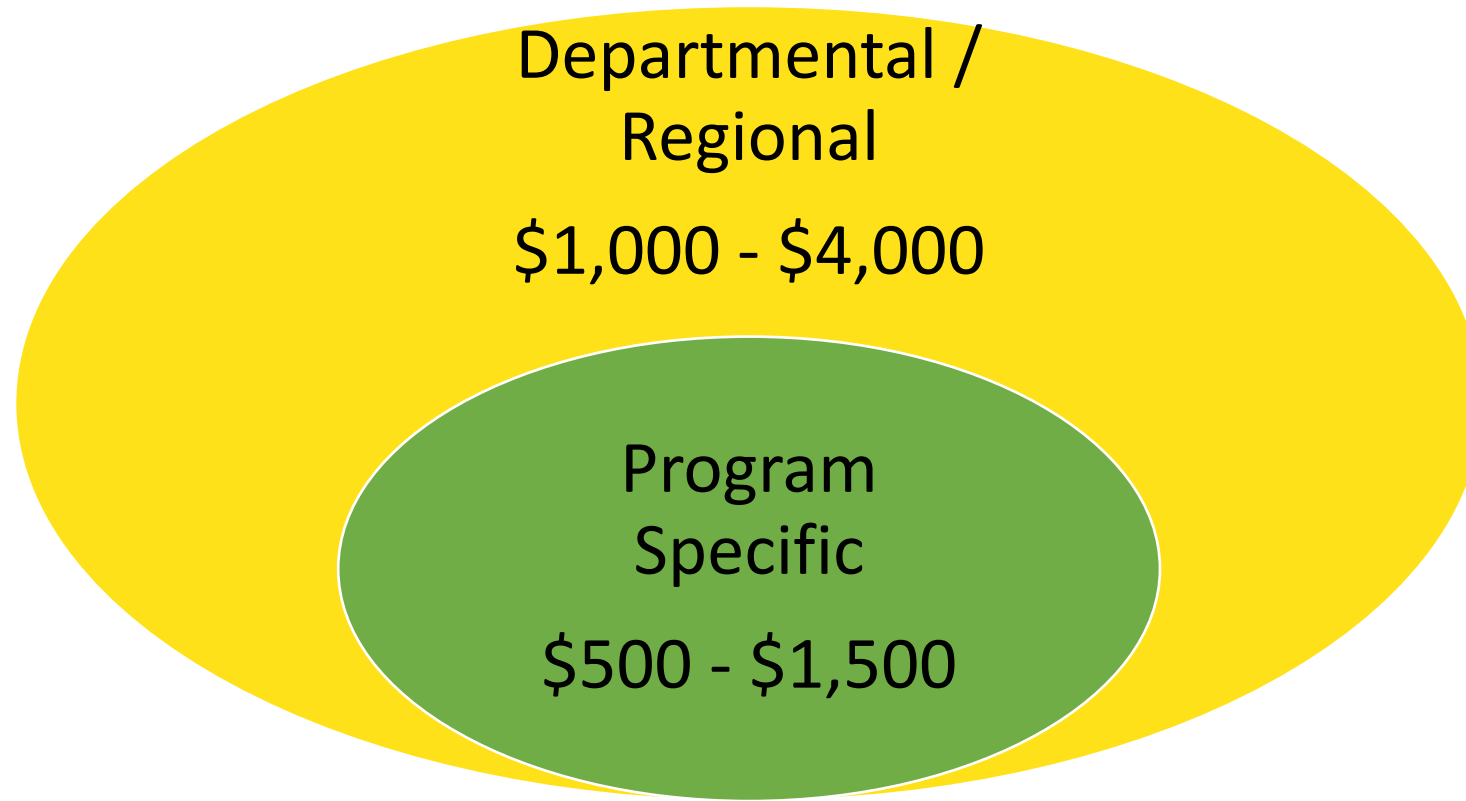
Scholarships



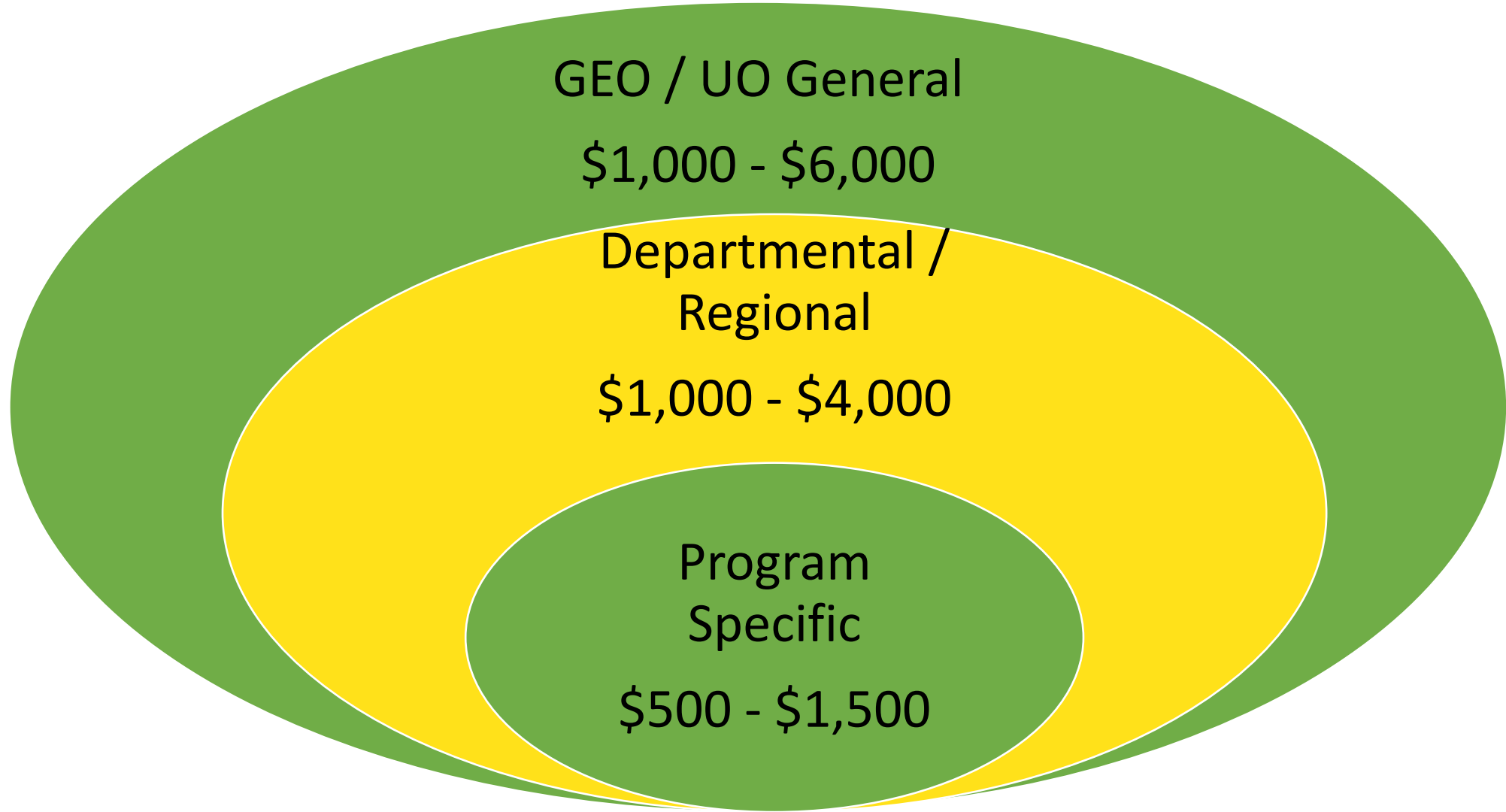
Program
Specific

\$500 - \$1,500

Scholarships



Scholarships



Scholarship

Distinguished /
External

\$500 - \$10,000

GEO / UO General

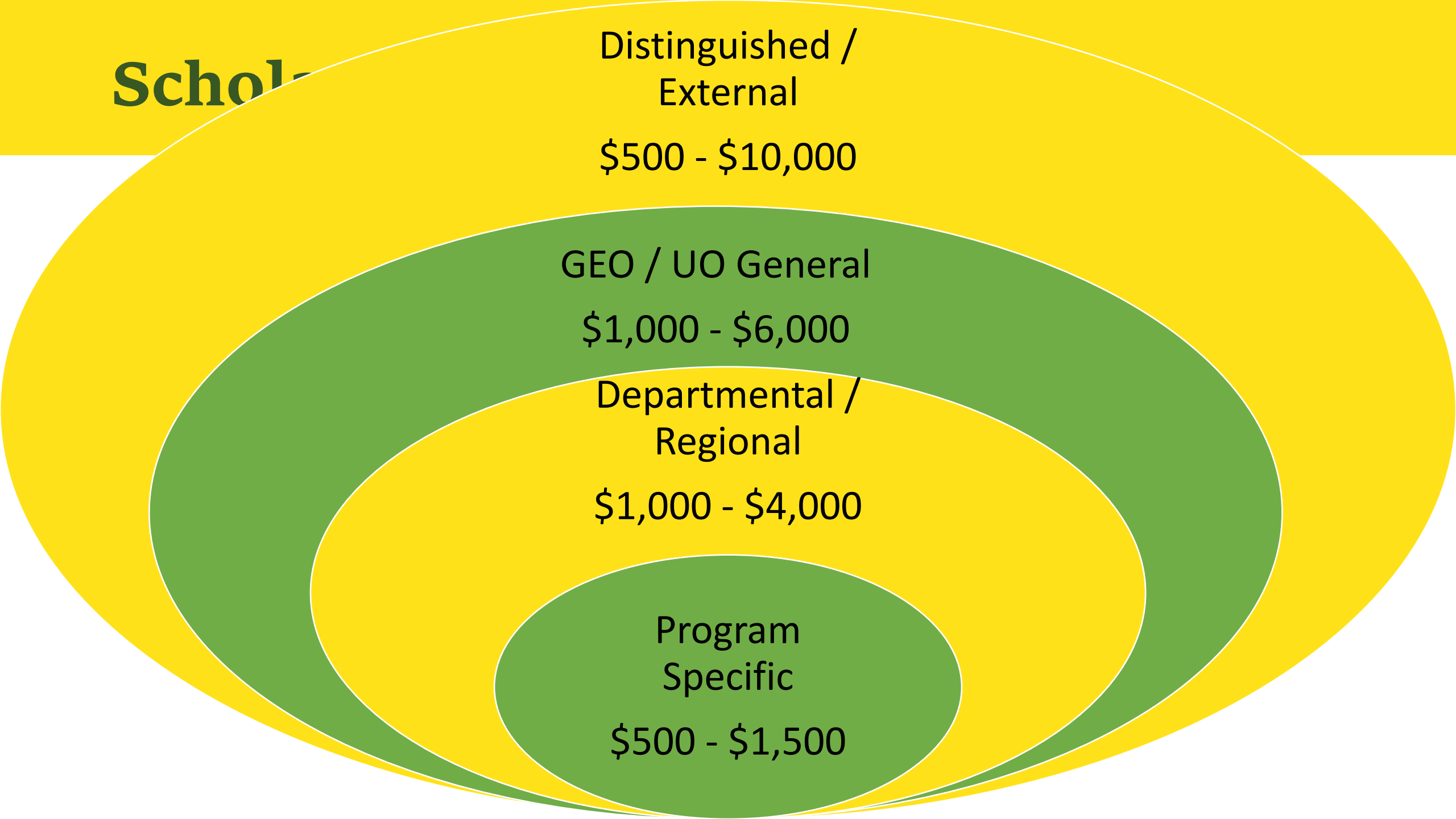
\$1,000 - \$6,000

Departmental /
Regional

\$1,000 - \$4,000

Program
Specific

\$500 - \$1,500



Scholarships

SAGE Scholarship:

(\$3,000 - \$5,000)

Deadline: November 15th

Planning Scholarship

(\$1,000 - \$2,000)

Deadline: December 15th

GEO General Scholarship

(\$1,000 - \$3,000)

Deadline: March 10th*

Gilman Scholarship

(\$3,000 - \$5,000)

Deadline: March 7th*

GEO *Study Abroad* SCHOLARSHIPS

Funding your study abroad experience

GEO Ambassador Scholarship

Based on financial need and academic merit.
Multiple awards available.

Award amount: \$1,000

Available to all students applying for a GEO faculty-led or GEO Center program. Scholarship recipients will participate in a GEO Ambassador Project that typically involves documenting your study abroad experience and creating content for the GEO team to share with other students.

Deadlines

Winter Quarter: November 1
Spring Semester: November 1
Spring Quarter: January 10
Summer: March 10
Fall Semester/Quarter: April 10

Map Your Future Scholarship

Based on financial need and academic merit.
Multiple awards available.

Award amount: \$1,000

Available to all first-year and transfer students who want to study abroad during college. Scholarship recipients are able to use the funds within the next three years after being granted the scholarship.

Deadline
December 15

Scan to
learn more!



Make an advising appointment: (541) 346-3207
geoinfo@uoregon.edu
@geoabroad





Lomerío Territory: *Community Collaboration*

Left to Right:

- Class at elementary school
- Community Meeting
- Leadership Discussion



Lomerío Territory: service-learning with Monkox and students



Lomerío Territory Community Projects (while in Bolivia and ongoing remote support):

- Invasive species removal and plaza clean up
- Website creation (Monkox Nation and Lomerio indigenous organization)
- Amazon Fire relief fundraising
- Pottery training
- Handicraft catalog



Monkox Territory: documenting pipeline impacts



Women's handicraft cooperative in Lomerio (Monkox indigenous territory)



Possible service projects:

- Non-timber forest products promotion (medicinal oils, coffee, tea, nuts)
- Arts and handicrafts (assistance with marketing, technical capacity)
- Ecotourism development (planning, outreach)
- Environmental education (aimed at visitors and community members): energy conservation, pesticide alternatives, waste disposal and composting
- Sustainable transit promotion (walking, biking)
- Monitoring impacts of mining, pipelines, logging and farming (with multimedia, GPS, GIS, satellite imagery)
- Music and historical documentation: historical archives, written and multimedia
- Native foods: research and promotion
- Public health promotion: working with community health clinics

Student activities

- cross-cultural exchange (art, music, dance and game workshop/exchange)
- Sports at the local soccer, volleyball and basketball centers
- Ecotourism on local lagoons (wildlife viewing: fish, capybaras, alligators, birds)
- Musical instrument, playing and handicraft making

Dancing at Guarayo and Monkox schools



Optional sports in Monkox and Guarayo territories



Observing Guarayo musical instrument making



Discussions, dancing and activities at Indigenous schools





Chiquitano Dry Forest

The last best conserved dry
tropical forest in the world





Forest excursions with Monkox guides



Forest excursions with Monkox guides









Course topics:

- indigenous rights and environmental justice
- oil, gas and mining conflicts in indigenous territories
- legal advocacy
- natural resource management in indigenous territories (e.g. community-forestry)
- development encroachment
- transnational indigenous environmental movements
- conservation of biodiversity related to indigenous peoples' intellectual property rights
- indigenous agroecology

- List of community projects carried out in 2019, 2023: [link](#)
- Ongoing remote work is being carried out by [Students for Indigenous Rights and Environmental Justice in Bolivia](#) (SIREJ, founded by 2019 University of Oregon Bolivia study abroad students (www.sirejbolivia.org))
- Indigenous websites, YouTube channels, women's handicraft and forest product cooperatives, Amazon fire relief, fundraising and donations, Guarani Museum, Indigenous Parliament)

Guarayos Territory:

- Collaborating with music school on websites, filming performances etc.
- 2 minute clip of Urubicha music school students playing a Pirates of the Caribbean song (last 2 min.): [link](#)







**Demonstration by Guarayo women who
extract and process babassu palm nuts for
medicinal and other uses**



**Demonstration by Guarayo women who
extract and process babassu palm nuts for
medicinal and other uses**



Demonstration by Guarayo women who extract and process babassu palm nuts for medicinal and other uses











Pantanal Wetlands Visit:

- **1 of world's largest wetlands**
- **over 120 mammal species**
- **650 bird species**
- **90 reptile species**
- **40 amphibian species**
- **260 fish species**
- **1030 butterfly species**
- **1650 vascular plant species**

Anteater in the Pantanal Wetlands







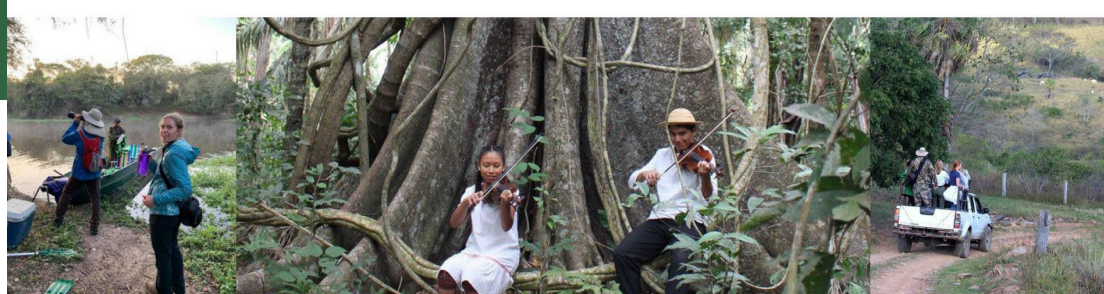




Santa Cruz City – 2 days, including excursion to Guembe Butterfly Sanctuary (world's largest) & Bioreserve

<http://guembe.bo/contacto.html>





Students for Indigenous Rights and Environmental Justice in Bolivia (SIREJ)

Student Organization & Study Abroad Program

Are you interested in learning about and supporting indigenous rights, environmental justice, gender empowerment, sustainability, decolonization and autonomy? Would you like to be part of a consensus-decision-based team? If so, we invite you to join our collaborative efforts working with indigenous peoples in Bolivia!

SIREJ, a University of Oregon (UO) student organization that is made up of students, indigenous peoples and others around the world, collaborates with Bolivian indigenous peoples, both in-person and remotely, to support indigenous rights and environmental justice. Together with indigenous partners, UO Professors Derrick Hindery and Juan Eduardo Wolf, Bolivian Professor Jose Martinez (UAGRM), and Bolivian environmental scientist Zulma Villegas, SIREJ works on projects such as website and YouTube channel creation, fundraising, soliciting donations, marketing medicinal oils and handicrafts with indigenous women collectives, supporting indigenous museums, music and handicraft schools, as well as raising awareness and funds for the Amazon Fires and COVID-19 relief.

We offer formal and informal internships and the following learning opportunities:

- ☐ Building collaboration skills
- ☐ Fundraising knowledge
- ☐ Leadership experience
- ☐ Translation experience
- ☐ Social Media creation
- ☐ Outreach experience
- ☐ Website design
- ☐ Video editing
- ☐ Advocacy

Learn More!



SIREJ was founded in 2019 by students who traveled to Bolivia on UO's **"Indigenous Rights and Environmental Justice in Bolivia" study abroad program, which will run again from June 20 to July 12, 2024**

(<https://geo.uoregon.edu/programs/americas-bolivia/indigenous-rights-and-environmental-justice-bolivia>). **Apply now** to travel to Bolivia to collaborate directly with indigenous peoples on exciting community service projects, such as invasive species removal, filming stunning music and dance performances, supporting women's collectives producing medicinal oils and handicrafts and much more! You'll receive 6 UO credits for the experience. The program is open to university students at UO and around the world! Register online through the University of Oregon's Global Education Oregon (GEO).

Please send questions to sirejbolivia@gmail.com and dhindery@uoregon.edu

With many thanks,
The SIREJ Team
<http://www.sirejbolivia.org/>



Optional wildlife [tours](#) in the Bolivian Amazon and the world famous [Salar de Uyuni](#) salt flats



Salar de Uyuni



Salar de Uyuni



La Paz



- Seven minute clip on the Chiquitano struggle for autonomy in Lomerío: [link](#)
- 3 minute video clip on Urubicha music, instrument-making and handicrafts: [link](#) (you can select “CC” and autotranslate captions from Spanish into English)



Be Sure to Check In

Planning Scholarship deadline December 15!



**International Education
Week Events:**

