



COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

MOUNTAIN SUSTAINABILITY FIELD SCHOOL¹

PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA MAY 25 – JUNE 12, 2024

All College students are invited to take part in a hands-on learning experience in the mountains of one of the most unique countries on Earth – the microstate of Andorra, which lies high in the Pyrenees between France and Spain. Take advantage of this opportunity for general interest or to receive College credit for Introduction to Environmental Sustainability (ENST 200), Sustainable Tourism (TOUR 237) or Sustainable Tourism and Environmental Stewardship (ATBO 207).

This learning opportunity features a 5-day alpine trek (with comfortable accommodation each night) and a separate day-hike to summit Andorra's highest mountain. As well, you will engage governmental, non-governmental and industry stakeholders on topics such as the natural environment as a driver for tourism, tourism's impact on the environment, carrying capacity, land-use, and climate change.

The field school is an opportunity to have a structured, organized and insider's experience in Europe. For some participants, this field school may be an easy way to travel internationally for the first time. And for some, the field school may be a jumping off point for an entire summer of travel in Europe.

Who is eligible?

All College of the Rockies students enrolled during the 2023-24 academic year:

- a. Who are in good standing in their program of study,
- b. For whom there are no issues related to student conduct that would give the College concern about possible disruptions to the learning environment during the field school,
- c. Who are able to demonstrate that they:
 - have what it takes to succeed in a group environment,
 - are both curious and sensitive to cultural differences,
 - are committed to representing the College in a responsible manner, and
 - will act in a professional and respectful manner during the experience.
- d. For whom there are no impediments with legal or regulatory requirements related to travel to and entry into Andorra and Spain.

¹ Information as of August 29, 2023.

- **Participants must comply with the physical fitness requirement to be able to hike 10 to 20 kilometers per day on terrain that features significant elevation changes and for successive days.** Participants are encouraged to participate in pre-trip group-training hikes in and around Cranbrook and Kimberley.

Cost:

- As a result of a significant investment in study abroad made by the College, the cost to students has been greatly reduced well below actual cost. Students are asked to contribute \$2,950.

Cost includes:

- Airfare from Cranbrook or Calgary to Barcelona return with a minimum of one checked bag
- Bus transportation from Barcelona to Andorra return
- Ground transportation in Andorra
- Shared accommodation in modest but comfortable hotels or hostels
- Breakfasts x 3, Lunches X 3 and dinners x 3 during stays in mountain hostels
- Travel medical insurance
- Farewell dinner
- Operational costs

Cost excludes:

- College of the Rockies tuition, meals (other than mentioned above), souvenirs, getting to / from the airport in Cranbrook or Calgary, and other personal expenses. Past participants have advised budgeting a minimum of approximately EUR 500 (approximately \$650) for meals plus funds to cover other costs.

Accommodation:

- 13 nights shared accommodation in hotels (usually two people per room) or hostels (4-6 people per room) in cities or towns in Andorra, 3 nights hostel-style accommodation in mountain refuges (4-8 people per room), 1 night accommodation in a hotel in Barcelona

Funding:

- College of the Rockies students can apply for an [Irving K. Barber International Travel Award](#). Contact College's Financial Assistance and Awards Advisor, [Lois Murray](#), for more information.

Deadline to apply:

- October 31, 2023 (Space is limited. Early applications are encouraged, and applications will be considered in the order that they are received.)

Application procedure:

- Complete an [application](#).
- Contact studyabroad@cotr.bc.ca on instructions to provide a \$500 deposit
- Have an instructor who is familiar with you / your abilities submit a [reference form](#) to studyabroad@cotr.bc.ca.

Tentative program²:

May 25:	Depart Cranbrook or Calgary for Barcelona
May 26:	Arrive in Barcelona; bus transportation to Andorra
May 27:	Orientation day and activity related to shopping tourism
May 28:	Activity at the University of Andorra
May 29:	Activity at the Madriu Perafita Claror Valley Interpretive Centre; visit to the Casa de la Vall
May 30:	Activity at the Museum of Electricity
May 31:	Activity at the Department of Tourism
June 1:	Alpine trek begins with the first day passing through the Madriu Perafita Claror Valley – approximately 15 km in distance and about 1,400 meters in elevation gain; overnight at 2,488 meters at the Refugi de l'Illa
June 2:	Activities at the top of the Madriu Perafita Claror Valley ; overnight at the Refugi de l'Illa
June 3:	Hike from Refugi de l'Illa to Soldeu – approximately 17 km beginning with about 375 meters in elevation gain followed by a descent from about 2,800 meters to 1,700 meters. Overnight at a hotel in Soldeu
June 4:	Activity with representatives of Andorra's mountain resorts / ski industry followed by a hike from Soldeu up the Juclar Valley – approximately 8 km in distance and about 530 meters in elevation gain; overnight at Refugi de Juclar at 2,310 meters.
June 5:	Optional hike to the border between Andorra and France; hike from Refugi de Juclar back to Soldeu and onwards by bus to la Massana
June 6:	Activities with Andorra Research + Innovation ; visit the Farga Rossell Interpretive Centre
June 7:	Activities with Andorra Research + Innovation
June 8:	Down day
June 9:	Down day or optional day trek to summit Coma Pedrosa , which at 2,942 meters, is Andorra's highest peak
June 10:	Final student assessment activities; Farewell / thank-you dinner.
June 11:	Bus to Barcelona; free afternoon and evening in Barcelona
June 12:	Depart Barcelona for Cranbrook or Calgary

What happens after I'm selected?

- You will be asked to sign a letter of agreement in which you will commit to all aspects of the program, conduct yourself in a responsible and professional manner, and comply with College of the Rockies' risk management plan and emergency protocols for travel abroad.
- Payment is due as follows: \$500 to be submitted with the application
\$1,200 due by December 15, 2023
\$1,250 due by April 30, 2024

² Subject to change.

- You will be enrolled in College of the Rockies' Global Engagement Certificate of Completion Course, which provides College recognition of enhanced global awareness and intercultural competencies.
- You will be expected to participate in activities and complete assignments related to the Global Engagement course, including four 1.5 hour sessions that will be scheduled between January and May 2022. Assignments focus on researching practical considerations and cultural aspects related to travel, identifying, assessing and developing strategies to manage risk, and developing strategies to communicate in culturally diverse contexts and manage culture shock.
- You will be asked to sign a waiver, the College's risk management plan and emergency protocols for travel abroad, and the College's protocols for responsible communications while traveling abroad. You will be asked to register with the federal government's registry of Canadians abroad and provide confirmation that you have reviewed the federal government's advice for travel to Andorra and Spain.
- The College will arrange flights for all participants. If you wish to depart for Europe prior to the field school or remain in Europe following the end of the field school, you must inform the College by January 15, 2024 of dates and locations. If your itinerary costs more than what it would have cost for travel to Barcelona for field school-specific dates, you will be asked to pay the difference.
- If you are participating for ENST 200, TOUR 237 or ATBO 207 credit, you will need to register and pay tuition for this course in February or March with a view that online course work would commence at the beginning of May 2024.
- In addition to participating in sustainability learning activities in Andorra, you will complete a reflective essay during your time abroad as part of the Global Engagement Certificate of Completion Course.
- By the end of the Fall Semester 2024, you will complete the final Global Engagement assignment. This assignment is to engage in communications activity that describes how your international experience impacted learning in your field of study and / or your career goals and / or your personal growth.
- It is the responsibility of participating students to continuously comply with the College's criteria for eligibility until the date of departure. Those who fail to do so will have their participation terminated and will not have payments made to the College refunded.

Need more information?

- Contact studyabroad@cotr.bc.ca
- To learn about how ENST 200 / TOUR 237 / ATBO 207 credit opportunities relate to your program of studies, College of the Rockies, meet with an Education Advisor or your Program Coordinator.