



COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

MOUNTAIN SUSTAINABILITY FIELD SCHOOL¹

PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA MAY 24 – JUNE 11, 2025

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 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 five days of alpine trekking (with comfortable accommodation each night). 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 2024-25 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 September 3, 2024.

- **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 at least one pre-trip group-training hike in April / May 2025.**

Cost:

- As a result of a significant investment in learning abroad made by College of the Rockies, the cost to College of the Rockies students has been greatly reduced well below actual cost of \$4750 per student. College of the Rockies students are asked to contribute \$3,000.

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)
- Getting to / from the airport in Cranbrook or Calgary
- Souvenirs and other personal expenses.

Past participants have advised budgeting a minimum of approximately EUR 500 (approximately \$650) for these 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, Marifer Lam (lam@cotr.bc.ca), for more information.

Deadline to apply:

- October 31, 2024 (Space is limited. Early applications are encouraged, and applications will be considered in the order that they are received.)

Application procedure:

- Complete an [application form](#).
- Visit or contact the College's Finance Office² to provide a \$500 deposit.³
- Have an instructor who is familiar with you / your abilities submit a [reference form](#) to kbrinkert@cotr.bc.ca.

Tentative program⁴:

May 24:	Depart Cranbrook or Calgary for Barcelona
May 25:	Arrive in Barcelona; bus transportation to Andorra
May 26:	Orientation day, short hike and activity related to shopping tourism
May 27:	Activity at the University of Andorra
May 28:	Activity at the Madriu Perafita Claror Valley Interpretive Centre; visit to the Casa de la Vall
May 29:	Activity at the Museum of Electricity
May 30:	Activity at the Department of Tourism
May 31:	Alpine trekking 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 1:	Activities at the top of the Madriu Perafita Claror Valley ; overnight at the Refugi de l'Illa
June 2:	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 3:	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 4:	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 5:	Activities with Andorra Research + Innovation ; visit the Farga Rossell Interpretive Centre
June 6:	Activities with Andorra Research + Innovation
June 7:	Down day
June 8:	Down day or optional day hike
June 9:	Final student assessment activities; Farewell / thank-you dinner.
June 10:	Bus to Barcelona; free afternoon and evening in Barcelona
June 11:	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.

² Please do not submit funds at the front desk at Cranbrook or Golden campuses. Funds need to be submitted to the Finance Office. If you need assistance with this, contact kbrinkert@cotr.bc.ca.

³ Applicants who are not selected will have their deposits refunded. **Deposits for applicants who are selected are non-refundable.** College of the Rockies reserves the right to cancel the program due to insufficient enrollment or other factors beyond its control. In case of program cancellation, College of the Rockies will refund deposits.

⁴ This tentative program is based upon the program proposed for the 2024 field school and is subject to change.

- Payments are due as follows⁵:
 - \$500 to be submitted with the application
 - \$1,250 due by December 15, 2024
 - \$1,250 due by April 30, 2025
- 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 2025. 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, 2025 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.
- You will need to register in and pay tuition for ENST 200, TOUR 237 or ATBO 207 in February or March with a view that online course work would commence at the beginning of May 2025.
- 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 2025, 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 kbrinkert@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.

⁵ **Note that all payments made to the College are non-refundable.** College of the Rockies reserves the right to cancel the program due to insufficient enrollment or other factors beyond its control. In case of program cancellation, College of the Rockies will refund payments that have been made.