

**Summer  
Study Abroad  
2009**



# Easter Island

AND CENTRAL CHILE  
JUNE 8 – JUNE 23, 2009 (JUNE 1 – JUNE 7 ON-LINE)

**Application Deadline**  
February 15, 2009

**Enrollment Limit**  
20 students

**Cost**  
Approximately \$4,650  
plus airfare to/from Chile

**Payment Schedule**

- Non-refundable \$150 deposit due February 16, 2009 (make check payable to the University of Richmond, designated Easter Island Study Abroad Program, and submit with your application)
- 1st payment due March 16
- Final payment due April 20

**Program Director**

Kim Klinker

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## Want to go to the end of the world?

### Geography and Environmental Studies in Easter Island and Chile

Earn 1 unit (and a lab science requirement) while experiencing first-hand the splendor of Chile's Central Region and mysteries of historic Easter Island. Chile's Central Region is a microcosm of the country, balanced between deserts to the north and forests to the south. It is home to the highest peaks in the Americas and is the cultural nucleus of the country. Protected by the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains, Chile is home to some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Easter Island has long been the subject of curiosity and speculation: How and why did its inhabitants carve and transport the massive statues which surround the island? What remains of this culture today, and what lessons can we learn from their legacy? First inhabited more than 1000 years ago, Easter Island (called Rapa Nui in the native language), Easter Island has become a showcase of the effects of human influences on the landscape. With a population that peaked at over 10,000 people, the inhabitants quickly exceeded the island's ecosystem, degrading the once-lush landscape and causing a collapse of the native civilization. The island, now controlled by Chile, is being preserved as a living laboratory of sustainable development and a monument to the effects that humans have on the environment. These courses examine the geomorphology, climate, ecology and environmental ethics of these isolated habitats.

The first part of the program consists of one week of on-line (June 1-7). Students will spend this time becoming familiar with basic geography of the region they will be visiting as well as setting the foundation for concepts to be taught on site. This initial week, experienced from the convenience of their own homes via the internet, will be excellent preparation for their field experience in South America.

The next part of the program will consist of hiking in the Andes, exploring glaciers along with geomorphic and tectonic features of the region. It will also include visiting the meteorological naval center and exploring the cultural and recreational diversity of Santiago (capital city of Chile), and the coastal cities of Vina Del Mar and Valparaiso.



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The Easter Island program represents the second part of the program. Students will spend approximately 7 days studying the fascinating history and geography of Polynesia, concentrating on the complex relationship between humans and their environment. These studies will include discussions relating to the environmental ethics and implications of human-environment interaction, as well as in-depth studies of the history, archeology, and ecology of the island. This will include numerous outings to various parts of the island, where we will examine the conditions that undermined the culture that once existed here, including a detailed examination of the Moai, the distinctive huge stone heads that have come to symbolize Easter Island.

This program is open to all students, with no formal prerequisites. However, a sense of adventure and a desire to learn more about how society and nature interact are mandatory!

## Course

- GEOG 250: Introduction to Earth Systems and Physical Geography (NOTES: satisfies FSNB laboratory science requirement!)

## Instructor

Mr. Timothy Klinker, Adjunct Faculty  
University of Richmond

## Topics covered:

- Introduction to the Geography of Easter Island and greater Polynesia
- Geomorphology, geology, and coastal processes
- Climatology and climate change
- Theory and Practice of Environmental Ethics
- Island Ecology
- Polynesian Culture and Commemoration: the Moai

## Costs include:

- Tuition for up to 1 unit for the course listed above
- All transportation within Chile and Easter Island
- All excursions and field trips in Chile and Easter Island
- Accommodations and meals in Chile and Easter Island

*All dates and costs are approximate and subject to change as are program details. The University of Richmond reserves the right to alter the program costs as a result of fluctuations of international currency.*



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