



APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Spring semester: November 1st
- Summer semester: February 1st
- Fall semester: March 15th



HOW TO APPLY

- Complete Online Study Abroad Application
- Obtain one letter of recommendation from Iowa State University faculty (this portion is completed in the online application)
- Essay questions (part of the online application)
- Good academic standing
- Agree to complete a background check; also, a driving check if needed
- Interview with program directors, coordinators, and assistants



CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY SINCE 2010



CONTACT US!

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

EARTH
PROGRAM



LEARN ABOUT EARTH

Through the EARTH Program, Iowa State students travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Island of St. John for their summer, spring, or fall semester. While in St. John, students will live, work, and provide community service for the local communities.

Iowa State University students (also known as “service learners”) assist with EARTH gardens to grow local produce in a sustainable manner. The EARTH Program has hosted service learners who were actively involved with youth, horticulture, agriculture, food, and environmental projects in the greater community.

For 6-14 weeks, students will incorporate their various backgrounds to communicate and contribute in agricultural, horticultural, soil, environmental, food, nutritional, culinary and global resource systems practices to the local communities. Students will gain an understanding of sustainability of human and ecosystem interactions and the contributions of U.S. Virgin Islanders in the culture of the United States.



COURSE INFORMATION

Travel dates:

- Fall and Spring semester - semester long
- Summer semester - approx. 6 weeks

Course(s):

- Pre-departure Seminar
- Service Learning (Hort or Globe 494B): arr 6-12 Credits
- U.S. Diversity (Globe 494C): 3 Credits
- Online Coursework: Potential for ISU Distance Education Credits while on Island



SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning is a multifaceted approach for students to actively engage in an academic curriculum while participating in a community service project. Students who are involved with service learning assist in community engagement projects that benefit both the local area as well as the participant’s own knowledge-base.

The EARTH Program exemplifies active learning by immersing students in a program that utilizes hands-on methods for addressing sustainability in agriculture, agronomy, horticulture, food and nutrition, history, culture, global resources, and the environment.

EARTH students assist with the following volunteer efforts:

[St. John, Feed the Hungry](#)

EARTH students assist with harvesting produce grown in the EARTH Garden. Food is then transported and prepped at the local, *Feed the Hungry* kitchen.

[Giffit Hill School Nutrition Program](#)

EARTH students practice “Farm to Table” methods as they consolidate food grown at Giffit Hill into nutritious and delectable dishes for school children.

[Island Green Composting Initiative](#)

Students collect food waste and scraps from local food establishments. The collected material is then utilized in composting to create soil amendments.

[Island Green Outreach and Extension](#)

EARTH students assist with the promotion of hands on, information sessions presented to the community. Sessions encompass anything from informational compost meetings to discussing the impact of plastic waste on the island.