CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY
SINCE 2010

APPLICATION DEADLINES

• Spring: October 20th, 2018
• Summer: January 12th, 2019
• Fall: February 15th, 2019

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)
• GPA above 2.0; good academic standing
• Agree to complete a background check; also, a driving check if needed
• Interview with program directors, coordinators, and assistants

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CONTACT US!

Dr. Gail Nonnecke
105 Horticulture Hall
nonnecke@iastate.edu
515-294-0037

Ms. Jennifer Lillo
105 Horticulture Hall
jlillo@iastate.edu
515-294-5855

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

E A R T H
P R O G R A M
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.

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.

- Gifft Hill School Nutrition Program
  EARTH students practice “Farm to Table” methods as they consolidate food grown at Gifft 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, informational compost meetings presented to the community. Sessions encompass anything from informational compost meetings to discussing the impact of plastic waste on the island.

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