

# College of Charleston Summer 2012 British Virgin Islands

## Program Dates:

Late July -August,  
2012

## Program Fee:

**\$3,725\***

(\*subject to change and does not include tuition and airfare)

## Program Information:

This program allows students to study the biology, ecology, and conservation of the Caribbean coral reef ecosystem. The emphasis is placed on field methods and labs, including small field experiments to test hypotheses. The program is conducted aboard a large catamaran sailboat that serves as the accommodations, transportation, classroom, and research platform. Each day, the participants will sail to a new island in the archipelago of the British Virgin Islands (including Tortola, Jost Van Dyke, Norman, Peter, Salt, Cooper, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Muskmelon) to investigate new habitats. Students will learn the nautical skills (seamanship, navigation, sailing) needed to become a proficient crew member on a research vessel and will earn their PADI Open Water or Advanced Scuba Diver certification during a total of 14 training and research dives. Prior to departure, students are required to complete the classroom portion of PADI's Open Water Diver or Advanced Diver Course online ([www.padi.com](http://www.padi.com)). The program will be conducted in conjunction with a non-profit organization called the Marine Science and Nautical Training Academy (MANTA, <http://manta-online.org>). Participants will be required to engage in activities such as snorkeling, SCUBA diving, swimming, hiking, sailing, lifting scuba tanks, preparing meals, and vessel upkeep as part of this program. Program is limited to 10 students.

## Program Directors:

**Dr. Erik Sotka, Biology Department, [sotkae@cofc.edu](mailto:sotkae@cofc.edu), 843-953-9191**

Dr. Sotka is an Assistant Professor and has 15 years of research experience on coral reefs, focusing on chemical and molecular ecology and experimental field ecology.

**Rusty Day, Grice Marine Lab and NIST, [Russell.day@noaa.gov](mailto:Russell.day@noaa.gov), 843-762-8904**

Mr. Day is an Adjunct Professor of the Graduate Program in Marine Biology and an alumni of CofC. He holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master 50 gross ton captain's license, and a PADI Open Water SCUBA instructor certification. He is the founder of MANTA. Dr. Sotka and Mr. Day directed this same program in summer 2010 and 2011.

## To Apply:

Applications can either be downloaded from the CIE website, <http://international.cofc.edu>, or picked up in the CIE office. All applications must be submitted to **Julie Swigert, Study Abroad Coordinator, Center for International Education, [swigertj@cofc.edu](mailto:swigertj@cofc.edu), 843-953-7823.**

The Program Fee of **\$3,725\*** includes a non-refundable \$50 application fee, lodging, meals, and medical insurance. **TUITION FOR THE COURSES AND AIRFARE IS NOT INCLUDED.**

Application deadline is **March 02, 2012**. Deposit of \$550 will be posted to the student's MyCharleston account once the application has been submitted to, and approved by, the CIE. A non-refundable secondary payment of **\$1350 is due by April 1, 2012** to ensure a spot in the program. Scholarships of up to \$1500 are available to CofC students for study abroad. Eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need and academic merit.



## Program Courses:

(students choose one course)

**BIOL 250 and Lab: Field Studies in Coral Reef Biology (non-majors)**

**BIOL 453 and Lab: Field Studies in Coral Reef Biology (majors)**