

This module provides a unique opportunity to undertake 2 weeks high quality human or physical geography field-based research in California. Santa Cruz was selected as a location for this field class for a number of reasons. High on the list are the mild weather, accessibility of information, and the great diversity of natural and human environments.

Working in teams of three or four you will design and undertake a programme of research. In the weeks before travelling, a lecture series provides information about logistics and safety, gives you a grounding in a selection of current research issues relating to California, and helps you to identify research topics. Staff support you in preparing a research proposal which is presented to the class and submitted for assessment before leaving for California. Because of this preparation, by the time you arrive in Santa Cruz you will know exactly how to make the most of your time in the field. In addition to the project work, there are two guided tours of the Monterey Bay area examining a range of geographical issues and you get a day off to explore Santa Cruz.

This Field Class will give you experience in:

- Application of theory to practical field research;
- Fieldwork and project management skills (critical observation, data collection, planning and time management, continual re-evaluation of progress, etc.);
- Synthesis, interpretation and presentation of data obtained through independent research;
- Team work, including group report writing.

Assessment includes: a research proposal (Before travelling, group work, 17%); Field notebook (In the field, individual work, 33%); Final report (On your return, group work, 34%); Individual report (On your return, individual work, 16%).

