

2019-2020 Handbook



Photo: Dr. Jeffrey Dick

Table of Contents

Welcome to Gerace Research Institute	4
Purpose of the Institute.....	4
Personal Conduct.....	4
University of The Bahamas and GRI Policies.....	4
Quick Guide for Faculty	4
2019 GRI Fee Schedule	6
Insurance Information.....	7
Reserving a Course at GRI	8
Overview of Registration Forms.....	8
Course Proposal Form.....	8
Housing Form.....	8
Travel Information Form.....	9
Insurance/Course Participants Form	9
Health Status Form.....	9
Student Contract.....	10
Vehicle Use Agreement (Section G).....	10
Payment Policies.....	10
Credit Card Payments.....	10
Cancellation Policy	10
Late Fees	11
Example Course Cost.....	11
Annex 1: Student Information Packet.....	13
General Information	13
San Salvador Island	13
Purpose of Gerace Research Institute	13
<i>The Cross Cultural Experience</i>	13
Research Institute Facilities.....	14
Faculty Housing.....	14
Student Housing.....	14
Laboratory Facilities.....	14
Dining Facilities	14
Technology.....	15

Recreation and Entertainment	15
Laundry	15
Rules and Regulations	15
Student Contract.....	15
Health Status Form	15
Student Rules	15
Personal Conduct.....	15
Property Damage Bond.....	15
Dress Code	16
Bahamas Immigration and Customs	16
SCUBA Diving Regulations.....	16
Visitor Information.....	16
Things to Bring	16
Personal Funds.....	16
Medical Care	17
Insurance Coverage	17
Flight Information	17
Hotels in Nassau.....	17
Transportation	17
Payment	18
Cancellation Policy	18
Insects	18
Electricity	18
Time	18
Churches	18
Telephone Service.....	18
Mail	19
Summary	19

Welcome to Gerace Research Institute

Gerace Research Institute (GRI) is one of the field stations of University of The Bahamas and is located on San Salvador. To all of our returning groups, thank you for your continued support of GRI. To new researchers and groups, we hope you will join the long list of people who consider GRI and San Salvador a home away from home. We are here to facilitate your research needs and help make your time at the station as productive as possible. We are:

Dr. Troy Dexter, Executive Director, troy.dexter@ub.edu.bs

Mrs. Rochelle Hanna, Financial Manager, rhannagrc@gmail.com

We can be reached at (242)-331-2520/2521 or via Fax at (242)-331-2524.

Purpose of the Institute

GRI, as part of University of The Bahamas, has a continuing agreement with the Government of The Bahamas to undertake a wide range of environmental research projects in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. San Salvador offers a natural field laboratory for such studies. Four purposes guide our activities. They are to:

1. inquire into the meaning of environmental relationships.
2. develop an understanding of other cultures.
3. instruct students in research methods and techniques.
4. conduct initial surveys and advanced field studies of this tropical island.

Personal Conduct

GRI and its guests are on San Salvador at the invitation of the people and Government of The Bahamas. As such, we are expected to be courteous and to behave in a manner that is respectful of local sensitivities, customs and laws. Any violations of Bahamian law will be prosecuted in The Bahamas with no recourse to U.S. laws and attorneys. Any conduct that reflects negatively on the Institute will be grounds for immediate deportation at the expense of those involved.

University of The Bahamas and GRI Policies

All University of The Bahamas policies, rules and regulations must be observed while visiting and residing at the Institute. Also, GRI has specific policies and regulations by which guests must abide. These include the insurance policy, student rules, dress code, payment policy and vehicle use regulations that can be found in this handbook. Violation of these policies may result in termination of the project or activity at GRI and may affect permission for future use of the facility.

Quick Guide for Faculty

- Payment is required at least two weeks in advance of your arrival on San Salvador.
- U.S. and foreign citizens are required to have valid passports to enter The Bahamas. Ensure everyone in your group is aware of this and, if necessary, has applied for a passport well in advance of the expected travel date.
- All required forms should be sent to GRI within the time frame specified in the section 'Reserving a Course at GRI'. These forms help to ensure we are properly prepared for your group. Problems invariably arise when we do not get these forms in a timely manner.

- Students should be required to read the entire **Student Group Information Packet** (included in this handbook and available on our website) before they sign up for your field course.
- Bring completed Health Status Forms, Student Contracts and Vehicle Use Agreements with you and submit them to the main office upon arrival.
- Credit cards are not widely accepted in San Salvador. Be sure that your students bring adequate cash and that most of it is in smaller denominations (\$5 and \$10 bills) as it can be difficult to make change for larger bills. Student cheques are not accepted at GRI.
- Ensure that students (and parents) are aware that GRI's U.S. mailing address should not be used for personal mail. This is not a regular service. If something is mailed to students it will not arrive until well after they are gone.
- San Salvador continues to grow, but its beauty and charm is that it is still very much an isolated island with limited facilities. Ensure your students are aware of this – phone service, electricity and Internet access do not always function at GRI. Students may want to reconsider their visit if they do not believe they can handle being out of communication with family or friends for up to a week or more. Also, medical facilities are extremely limited and emergency transport off the island remains a challenge.



2019 GRI Fee Schedule

Standard Rates for Courses

Each student per night	\$ 69.00
One faculty member per eight students.....	free
Each additional faculty member per night	\$ 69.00
Faculty are credited \$8.62 for every student over 8	
Each faculty spouse per night	\$ 63.00
Each faculty child per night (5 yrs. or younger)	free
(5 to 14 yrs. old)	\$ 34.00
(14 yrs. or older)	\$ 56.00
Professional programmes (conferences) housed in faculty housing (per person, double occupancy, per night)	\$ 80.00

Standard Rates for Researchers

Researcher per night	\$ 69.00
Extended researcher stays per night (≥ 45 consecutive nights)	\$ 54.00
<i>Requires Director's approval and must hold a current GRI Research Number and BEST Permit</i>	

Additional Fees

Insurance - per person, per day	\$ 1.50
Technology fee – per person per stay	\$ 10.00
(includes 24-hour access to the computer lab, use of projectors, etc.)	
Vehicle Rental per day (1 to 3 people)	\$ 60.00
(4 to 6 people)	\$ 48.00
(7 to 9 people)	\$ 36.00
(10 to 12 people)	\$ 24.00
(13 to 15 people)	\$ 12.00
(16 people or more)	free
Vehicle rentals include gas ; must fill out vehicle usage form; can be driven during day time only	

Extras

Window Air Conditioner for Rooms, per night	\$ 10.00
(Faculty or graduate rooms only, limited availability so sign up before arrival.)	
Window Air Conditioner for Lab, per night	\$ 10.00
SCUBA Tanks, per tank.....	\$ 15.00
Nighttime Dive Lights, per light, per use.....	\$ 3.00
Captained Boat in Grahams Harbour, half-day	\$ 20.00/person (\$160.00 minimum)
(Visit neighboring cays and snorkel reefs; trip includes fuel and Captain's fee)	

*To receive the reduced rate, any additional faculty must be an integral part of the programme and contribute to teaching and supervision of the course.

Insurance Information

GRI has arranged an accident and sickness insurance policy with CIGNA Worldwide Insurance Company with the following benefits:

Accidental Death & Dismemberment.....	\$25,000 per person
Accident & Sickness Medical Expense.....	\$10,000 per occurrence
with Deductible.....	\$25,000 per person
Medical Evacuation & Repatriation.....	\$ 5,000
Deductible.....	\$ 25

This insurance will cost \$1.50 per person, per day. It is mandatory that all students have this coverage while in residence at GRI and for the days on which they arrive and depart from San Salvador. However, if a student desires insurance while in transit from their home institution to San Salvador, they can pay for this additional coverage at \$1.50 per travel day.

This insurance carries a \$25 deductible. Medical expenses must first be borne by the student and then a claim submitted for reimbursement. A visit to the medical clinic on the island starts at \$30 for nonresidents; therefore, students should keep at least this much cash in reserve in the event of a medical emergency while at GRI or on San Salvador.

Insurance Waiver

GRI will waive the mandatory policy for those students who have comparable insurance which covers accident and sickness and medical evacuation costs up to \$5,000. Faculty lead must submit a letter requesting the GRI insurance plan be waived and provide proof of comparable coverage. A word of caution, however, many medical insurance policies **do not cover** air ambulance and repatriation costs and many accident policies do not cover sickness.

GRI will also waive the mandatory insurance if the head of the home institution's business office signs a letter confirming that the home institution will be responsible for covering all expenses accrued by their students due to sickness and/or accident, including air ambulance service.

***If you choose to waive the GRI insurance policy, it will fall to the faculty member and the home institution to secure medical air evacuation in coordination with the designated insurance provider.



Reserving a Course at GRI

In order to visit GRI with your students or for your research, you are required to complete and submit the seven forms detailed below within the time specified. We encourage you to read the documents carefully and fill out the forms completely. We cannot guarantee your spot if the forms are not submitted within the minimum times indicated.

The Course Proposal, Housing, Travel Information, and Insurance/Course Participants forms can be submitted by e-mail or fax to Rochelle Hanna (rhannagrc@gmail.com, Fax: 1-242-331-2524). Health Status Forms, Student Contracts and Vehicle Use Agreements can be handed over to GRI on arrival, but must be signed and submitted to the faculty lead well in advance of the course.

Form	Submission Time
A. Course Proposal Form	8 weeks+, up to 2 years in advance
B. Housing Form	6 weeks+
C. Travel Information Form	4 weeks+
D. Insurance/Course Participants Form	4 weeks+
E. Health Status Form	Signed 6 weeks+; submit on arrival
F. Student Contracts	Signed 6 weeks+; submit on arrival
G. Vehicle Use Agreement	On arrival

Questions about project proposals and research can be addressed to Troy Dexter (researchgrc@gmail.com). Questions regarding room availabilities and dates can be addressed to Rochelle Hanna (rhannagrc@gmail.com) or Troy Dexter (troy.dexter@ub.edu.bs). Questions regarding fees and payments can be addressed to Rochelle Hanna (rhannagrc@gmail.com)

Overview of Registration Forms

Course Proposal Form

The course proposal serves as your means of making a reservation with Gerace Research Institute (GRI) and having your group placed on our calendar. Course proposals are required at least two months in advance of the anticipated arrival date. However, reservations for space are on a “first come, first served” basis. To ensure space is available, it is best to submit your course proposal early. Course proposals are accepted up to two (2) years in advance of your anticipated arrival.

The course proposal also allows GRI to prepare for the approximate size of your group and to determine the space, lab and field equipment you require. We also request that all faculty explain the purpose of their visit to guarantee the course meets UB and GRI goals. As GRI is focused on science and education, we have the right to refuse any course which does not meet those standards.

Completed course proposal forms should be e-mailed to Rochelle Hanna (rhannagrc@gmail.com) or Troy Dexter (troy.dexter@ub.edu.bs) as soon as possible. Even if you are a returning group, this form must be completed and submitted each year. Upon receipt of the proposal, we will confirm the dates for your utilization of GRI. Our Executive Director will contact you concerning any required alterations to your proposed course.

Housing Form

The housing form allows us to assign rooms to the persons participating in your course. This form must be submitted at least one month prior to arrival. We understand that circumstances may alter the number of students

in your course. Therefore, if a student withdraws or a new student signs up after the form has been submitted, contact us immediately so we can modify the room assignments.

Most visitors to GRI will be assigned rooms with roommates from among persons in the same class. Room assignments are sorted by gender in accordance with Bahamian culture. Only married student couples may room together. Please list the names of married couples separately on the form.

Generally, undergraduate students are housed in the dorms which have shared bathrooms, ceiling fans and screened windows. Ensure your students are aware of the limited accommodations available in the dorms prior to arrival. Graduate students are generally housed in graduate housing (space permitting) and faculty are generally housed in faculty rooms. Due to limited space, we cannot guarantee separate bathrooms or individual rooms for faculty. Faculty's families are also welcome to attend courses at GRI. Include on the form the names and ages of any children attending with your group.

Air conditioning window units are available for rent in both faculty and graduate housing. Contact us beforehand if air conditioning units are desired. However, there are a limited number of units and faculty take priority over graduate students. Air conditioning units are also available for rent in class labs.

Travel Information Form

The travel information form allows us to plan for your arrival, collect your group from the San Salvador airport and track any changes or delays to your flight schedule. Submit this form at least four weeks prior to your arrival and inform us of any changes to your travel schedule after submission. Most groups fly into Nassau and then continue on to San Salvador Island. In order to avoid missed connections, we suggest you leave at least a four-hour window between your flights to and from Nassau and San Salvador. Due to the usual flight schedule, it is likely that you will have to overnight for at least one evening in Nassau. Earlier and later flights between Nassau and San Salvador are available on certain days of the week. More recently, direct flights have been scheduled from Miami to San Salvador, although the price of these flights may make them cost prohibitive. Chartered flights for large groups are also available and can be scheduled directly with airlines. Feel free to contact us for more information as flight schedules do change over time.

Insurance/Course Participants Form

To initiate the CIGNA insurance policy, each faculty must complete and send the enclosed Insurance/Course Participants Form to Rochelle Hanna (rhannagrc@gmail.com) with the list of names of all persons insured and the number of days of coverage desired. This participant list also allows us to keep track of student security deposits and valuables envelopes. It is imperative we receive this list at least four weeks prior to your travel so the insurance policy can be instituted. If additional coverage for travel days is desired, include the dates of those traveling days on your form and add them to the sum in the total days' column. Even if you choose to waive the GRI insurance, we still request that you submit this form so that we have a record of the individuals in your group.

Health Status Form

All visitors (faculty, students, researchers and family members) to GRI must complete a Health Status Form. Have all persons in your group turn in a Health Status Form at least six weeks prior to arrival at GRI. Completed forms can be turned in during the GRI student orientation or to the GRI main office upon arrival. Health Status Forms are kept in our main office during your visit and submitted to the San Salvador community clinic if there is a medical emergency with one of your group members. Contact us about any health issues immediately after the Health Status Forms are signed by the persons in your group.

Field work on the island is intense and on island medical care is limited. Ensure your prospective students are aware of the challenges of working in this environment. GRI reserves the right to refuse any individual due to health issues. If a student with a detrimental medical issue arrives at GRI, the faculty lead will be responsible for their well-being.

Also, inform us about any special dietary needs of persons in your group at least four weeks before your arrival. While we try to accommodate dietary requirements, food access on the island is limited and some individuals may need to bring additional foods with them to supplement their diets.

Student Contract

All students to GRI must sign the Student Contract. Students must read the “Student Information Packet” before they sign the Student Contract (available online at www.geraceresearchcentre.com/packetsandforms.html or at www.ub.edu.bs). Have prospective students read this packet in its entirety to familiarize themselves with GRI and the island of San Salvador. Student Contracts must be signed six weeks prior to arrival at GRI, but the completed forms can be turned in during the student orientation or into our main office upon your arrival.

All students must sign the Student Contract Form to be allowed on the GRI campus. This contract protects both GRI and faculty members from unruly or unsafe student behaviour. Any student refusing to sign the contract will not be allowed on the GRI campus. Inform prospective students of the risks of conducting field work, the limited medical resources available during their stay, and the required insurance policy that they will be covered under while at GRI. Make sure all students are aware that any violation of GRI rules can result in their immediate dismissal from the GRI campus and removal from the island of San Salvador at their own expense.

Vehicle Use Agreement (Section G)

Any faculty member wishing to drive a GRI vehicle must read and sign the Vehicle Use Agreement. Any violation of the vehicle use rules listed on the form can result in the permanent banning of a faculty member from driving GRI vehicles. Generally, only faculty are allowed to drive GRI vehicles; however, exceptions can be made for graduate students under certain conditions and with express permission from our Executive Director. The Vehicle Use Agreement can be signed upon arrival at GRI.

Payment Policies

You will be billed via e-mail for room and board and insurance upon receipt of your Housing, Travel and Insurance forms. Payment for your room and board and insurance is required two weeks before your arrival. Payment can be made by cheque, bank fund transfer, or credit card (see below). There is an additional fee to conduct a bank fund transfer. Any additional fees incurred while at GRI (dive tanks, air conditioning, boat trips, etc.) can be paid by cheque or cash during your stay. All cheques should be made payable to Gerace Research Institute, Ltd.

Credit Card Payments

GRI can now accept payment by credit card (\$75 minimum purchase required). To pay before your arrival, contact us by phone during business hours with the following information: Credit card number, expiration date, CVV number, and billing zip code. Do not e-mail credit card information! Note that there is an additional 5% fee for any payments made by credit card.

Cancellation Policy

You can cancel or make changes to the number of participants in your course up to two weeks (14 days) before your arrival in San Salvador and receive a complete reimbursement of charges. Any cancellations after that

period will be charged the equivalent of a two-night's stay. If you are late in submitting your Housing Forms, you may have little time left to make changes or cancellations. There are no refunds if a student has to leave San Salvador due to medical or personal reasons except at the discretion of the Executive Director.

Late Fees

Payment for your course is expected to be completed prior to your departure from San Salvador. We understand that the submission of payments can be a lengthy and complex process at some universities and institutions. Therefore, a 30-day grace period from the date of your departure will be provided. Upon the conclusion of the 30-day grace period, any outstanding bill amount will be charged a 1% late fee. An additional 1% cumulative late fee will be charged each additional month after the grace period (~12.68% APY).

Example Course Cost

If a class is composed of two faculty members and 10 students staying for 7 days, the first faculty member would stay for free and the second faculty member would pay \$51.76 per night (two additional students over 8 would give you a credit of 2 times \$8.62 or -\$17.24 per night). The 10 students would pay \$69 per night (\$690 total per night for all the students). Each person would pay \$1.50 per day for insurance (\$18/day for the whole class). The class would pay \$15 per day in vehicle usage fee if renting a vehicle. The entire class would also pay \$120 in technology fees for the entire trip. If the faculty members get an air conditioning unit in their shared room and another in the course's lab room, that would be an additional \$20 per day (2*\$10). If the class takes a boat trip, that would cost an additional \$240 (12 people times \$20). The total for the entire class would then come to \$5,959.25.



Annex 1: Student Information Packet

(Every visitor to Gerace Research Institute should read this information packet in its entirety)

General Information

San Salvador Island

San Salvador Island is one of the outermost of a chain of some 700 islands sprinkled throughout more than 5,000 square miles of the most beautiful waters of the world. Although San Salvador is similar to the other islands in the Bahamian archipelago, it is unique for its history, ecology, inland lakes and potential for future development.

In 1492, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World at San Salvador. At that time the island was populated by the Lucayans, an Indian population which lived by fishing and agriculture. After befriending these people, the Columbus explored the island, going north from Long Bay where his fleet was anchored and rowing some twenty miles in search of an entrance through the barrier reef. One such canal was found with seven feet of water leading to a deep harbour which Columbus reported 'would hold all the ships of Christendom.' This is now known as Grahams Harbour which remains as it was except for the Gerace Research Institute (GRI) located on the berm of a beach composed of calcareous sands.

Much of the interior of San Salvador is made up of lakes which were utilized in days past for transportation. This unique inner island passage promoted the development of several communities on the perimeter of the interconnected lakes. After trampling in the dense bush which covers the island, one can appreciate why this method of transport was used.

Today, the island's paved perimeter road traverses through several small settlements which reflect a natural unspoiled Bahamian charm. The largest community, Cockburn Town, is the centre of all activities on the island, having the Commissioner's office, Post Office, telecommunication station and electricity generators.

Most descriptions of The Bahamas portray islands

basked continually with a warm breeze, blue skies and long sunny days. This is, for the most part, true. However, it is not uncommon during winter, when a northwestern front arrives, to have as much as a week of rainy, cool weather. These are days when it becomes too cool to swim and sweaters become comfortable in the evening. The rainy season during the later summer permits the propagation of insects on San Salvador to the extent that the nuisance level becomes almost intolerable in September and October. This, along with the potential for hurricane activity, is the predominant reason for not having field projects at GRI at this time of the year. The nuisance level of insects is reduced during the winter and spring dry season.

The waters of The Bahamas are warm and blue with tropical reefs which are well known for their beauty and abundance. Different from northern waters, diving in the sea produces very little comparative air temperature shock. However, many persons require wet suit vests when diving for long periods of time, even in May and June.

Purpose of Gerace Research Institute

GRI, as part of University of The Bahamas, has a continuing agreement with The Bahamas Government to undertake a wide range of environmental research projects in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. San Salvador offers a natural field laboratory for such studies. Four purposes guide our activities. They are to:

1. inquire into the meaning of environmental relationships.
2. develop an understanding of other cultures.
3. instruct students in research methods and techniques.
4. conduct initial surveys and advanced field studies of this tropical island.

The Cross Cultural Experience

San Salvador and GRI, with their cultural setting and geographic location, are not for everyone. Faculty and students will not live in a manner and style to which they have become accustomed at vacation resorts. San Salvador lies well off the coast of Florida, a distance which can be measured in cultural difference as well as miles. The language is English and the people are generally very receptive, but linguistic affinity and friendliness can easily be misinterpreted for cultural similarity. In fact, this island is inhabited by a largely agrarian people who

are very religious and who have a defined value system and world view. One of the attractions of GRI is the cultural difference one finds on the island, but visitors have not always been sensitive to, or respectful of, this difference. It is with good reason that we include 'dress clothing' on the equipment list and insist that participants refrain from forms of personal behaviour which might jeopardize the Institute. We want to continue to be deserving of the welcome that San Salvador and The Bahamas Government have extended to us. A posture of deference to another people's cultural values is the best one to adopt.

Research Institute Facilities

Faculty Housing

Facilities at GRI were built over 40 years ago by the United States Sea Bees. Faculty rooms are on the ground floor and are designed to house two or more persons. Each room has a sink and mirror, two beds or more, a dresser and desk. Most of the rooms have private bathrooms. However, in some cases, two adjoining rooms share a toilet and shower. Each room has a ceiling fan and a number of the rooms can be supplied with window air-conditioning units for an additional fee.

GRI furnishes bed linens and towels for each room, but does not provide a daily laundry service. Each participant must launder his/her own towels and bed linens. Housekeepers clean each room and lavatory daily.

Student Housing

Undergraduate students are housed in dormitories located in the barracks which housed Navy personnel during their stay on the island. They consist of a number of separate rooms housing a maximum of six students each, in single beds, and sharing a common bathroom. Male and female dorms are separate. Undergraduate students are responsible for supplying their own **sheets, pillowcases and towels**.

While these barracks were one of the finest built for military, they in no way compare with dormitories on a home campus. For a field station, however, living conditions are more than adequate for persons who are disciplined in keeping their quarters neat and who can function comfortably with minor inconveniences.

Graduate students are usually housed in ground floor rooms that can accommodate two to five

persons. Each room has at least one dresser and a desk. Most of the rooms have private bathrooms. In one case, two rooms (housing three students each) share one bathroom.

While GRI hires persons to clean the floors and lavatories of the student dorms and rooms, each student is responsible for keeping his/her personal living area neat and clean.

Laboratory Facilities

GRI has 10 modest but adequate laboratory classrooms. A limited number of compound and dissecting microscopes, as well as assorted laboratory glassware, are available for student and faculty use. Our large conference/lecture room has an overhead projector with laptop connectors and slide projectors; VCRs and a speaker system are also available.

We have a wet lab containing aquariums with circulating sea water available for use by students and faculty. GRI also has an analytical lab with equipment for chemical and biological analyses. This lab is available for use by faculty and graduate students only with express permission from GRI's Executive Director.

There are two repositories: one for archaeological materials and one for biological specimens. Each faculty member should submit a list of those items of equipment and library references required to complete his/her research or individual course so that GRI can make preparations.

Dining Facilities

GRI has complete dining facilities for 90 people. All of the food utilized on campus is shipped from Nassau by marine transport. Fresh vegetables and fruits can be limited since we are dependent not only on availability of supplies but also on the supply boat being able to sail from Nassau to deliver produce. As a result, our menu is sometimes limited; however, the kitchen staff provides balanced meals and normally serve a vegetarian alternative.

Special dietary needs. Certain dietary restrictions and allergies, such as 'Gluten Free' or 'Lactose Intolerant', may be difficult to accommodate and should be discussed with the GRI Executive Director **months** prior to booking. Guests are encouraged to bring foods such as protein bars to supplement their diet while at GRI.

Technology

GRI has a Computer Lab that is open 24 hours a day and available to both faculty and students. As of summer 2013, our Internet service has improved greatly. Students may access high-speed Internet service in the computer lab and the library.

All users of GRI will be charged a one-time \$10 technology fee to cover use of the Internet and other technologies. While the Internet speed has improved, limited bandwidth and wireless Internet is available for faculty and researcher use only (this is included with the \$10 technology fee). Projectors are also available to faculty for use in their labs (also included in the technology fee). While the Internet continues to improve, this is still an island and outages can occur for days at a time or longer.

Recreation and Entertainment

GRI has a basketball court, volleyball court, Game Room and Snack Bar. Sports equipment is provided for basketball and volleyball and is available at all times. A few games are available in the Game Room. However, visitors are encouraged to bring their own small games such as cards, chess, etc.

Sodas, candy, snacks, postcards and stamps are available for purchase at the Snack Bar. Paperback literature is available in our library for free time reading. T-shirts, mugs, books and informative dive cards are also available for sale in the library.

Laundry

GRI has coin operated washers for personal laundry (\$1.50/load, U.S. quarters only). Laundry detergent can be purchased on the island; however, as with other imported products, this tends to be costly. There are no clothes drying machines, but clothes lines are scattered around the campus.

Rules and Regulations

Student Contract

Each student must sign the Student Contract at least 6 weeks prior to arrival at GRI (available in the Faculty Course Packet online). Students who do not wish to sign the contract will not be allowed at GRI. Any behaviour deemed a risk to GRI or other visitors will result in dismissal and deportation from the island at the student's expense (Student Contract, Section 2).

Health Status Form

Every visitor must complete the Health Status Form (available in the Faculty Course Packet online). These forms allow GRI to prepare for any medical concerns and to provide complete health information to medical practitioners in the event of a medical emergency. Participants are encouraged to be honest and to disclose fully any health/medical concern. They should not conceal any relevant issue as it could put their life and health at risk.

Student Rules

- Absolutely no alcohol is allowed on campus for any student.
- Stay out of restricted areas (garage, workshop, pump house, etc.).
- Males may not enter the female dorm hall; females may not enter the male dorm hall.
- Do not walk the roads at night without a light.
- Do not accept rides from anyone.
- Stay in the room to which you have been assigned.
- Do not enter unoccupied rooms.
- Do not invite guests back to the campus or bring guests to your room.
- Do not climb over, under, or through the fences.
- Do not climb the trees or tear down the coconuts.
- Do not sunbathe on the grounds.
- Do not smoke inside rooms or buildings.
- Do not bring dogs or other wild animals back to the campus (not including research specimens).
- Do not touch any scientific equipment encountered in the field.

Personal Conduct

GRI and its guests are on San Salvador at the invitation of the people and Government of The Bahamas. As such, we are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful of local sensitivities, customs and laws. Any violations of Bahamian law will be prosecuted in The Bahamas with no recourse to U.S. laws and attorneys. **Any conduct that reflects negatively on GRI will be grounds for immediate deportation at the expense of those involved.**

Property Damage Bond

Personal conduct on San Salvador must not jeopardize GRI or cause undue property damage. Therefore, each student is required to post a \$10.00 property damage bond upon arrival on San

Salvador. This fee will be refunded in full before departure from the island if no damage is incurred by the student or the students' group.

Dress Code

The Bahamian dress code is more formal than those of other countries. For instance, islanders feel insulted if visitors attend church in working clothes (i.e., jeans). In respect for the Bahamian sensitivity regarding dress, it is necessary to require that shoes, shirts and bathing suit cover-ups are worn in all public and semi-public places, and in the GRI cafeteria and office.

Bahamas Immigration and Customs

A valid passport is required for U.S. and foreign citizens visiting The Bahamas. Birth certificates are no longer accepted for re-entry into the U.S.

As is Bahamian law, upon arrival in The Bahamas, customs officials subject incoming residents, visitors and their luggage to a rigorous search. It is illegal to bring illicit drugs (including marijuana), spear guns, or obscene literature (this includes 'Playboy' and similar publications) into The Bahamas. Prescription and non-prescription medications are allowed. The Bahamas Government will prosecute, to the fullest extent of the law, any person found to possess illegal drugs. Bahamian law is much more stringent than U.S. law regarding the possession, use, or sale of drugs and marijuana.

SCUBA Diving Regulations

1. All students who wish to use SCUBA gear from GRI during their course of study must be certified, card carrying members of PADI, NAUI, CMAS, BSAC, YMCA, SSI or any other internationally recognized SCUBA certification organization.
2. Prior to any diving on San Salvador, each diver must complete a diving application form which includes certification type and number, dive history and a signed statement confirming recognition of hazards and a hold harmless agreement (available in the GRI main office). At this same time, GRI will photocopy the certification card for our files.
3. Supervision of any SCUBA diving must be conducted by a faculty member who is him/herself a trained diver. **The depth limit for any research dive is 25feet.** Deeper diving can be arranged with the local dive companies on the island, but are not allowed through GRI. Absolutely no recreational dives can be conducted unless the faculty member holds master diver status.
4. Persons involved in SCUBA diving should bring their own equipment (regulators, BCs, etc.) with the exception of weights and tanks. The rental price for a full tank is \$15.00 per dive.
5. Use of GRI boats, when available, is limited to Grahams Harbour, Fernandez Bay and the inland lakes. Any SCUBA or snorkeling in other areas must be from shore.

Visitor Information

Things to Bring

- a. Sun screen & sun hat
 - b. Insect repellent and anti-itch cream for bites*
 - c. Sun glasses, spare glasses, contact lenses (if applicable)
 - d. Band aids and antiseptic, prescription medication, other necessary sundries such as aspirin, feminine hygiene products, etc.*
 - e. Flash light and extra batteries*
 - f. Spiral note book, pencils, pens*
 - g. Light washable clothing to include at least the following: rain jacket, sweater and/or sweatshirt (winter months), one set of dress clothing (if you plan to attend church), long sleeve shirt, jeans, shorts, T-shirts, etc.
 - h. Sturdy walking shoes and old sneakers, dive boots, or water shoes to wear in the water
 - i. Swim suits, plus snorkel, mask & fins
 - j. Cosmetic items and laundry detergent*
 - k. Light snacks such as protein bars, etc.
 - l. Valid passport
 - m. Undergraduate students should bring 2 sheets, 1 pillowcase, 1 blanket, and 2 towels
 - n. Watch and/or travel alarm clock (if you have trouble waking up in the mornings)
 - o. Water bottle
- (*Usually available on the island, but costly.)

Personal Funds

Visitors must bring personal funds to purchase sodas, snacks, drinks, post cards, stamps, souvenirs and cover snorkeling or SCUBA equipment rentals. **Personal spending money must be in cash in small denominations.** The Bahamian dollar is equivalent to the U.S. dollar; they are used interchangeably on

the island. Traveler's cheques will be accepted. Previous experience indicates that GRI visitors spend as much as \$20 to \$150 in a week on the above mentioned incidentals. A safe is available on campus for safe keeping of funds, passports and airline tickets.

Credit cards are not accepted at GRI or most other locations on the island. There are exceptions such as ClubMed or Riding Rock Dive Resort. However, visitors are encouraged to bring the cash they will need.

Medical Care

Persons who choose to participate in activities at GRI must be aware that medical facilities and personnel on San Salvador are very limited and can in no way be compared with standards found in cosmopolitan cities. Thus, one must assume a certain amount of risk in the event of serious or emergency medical situations. It is for this reason that GRI requires individuals to procure our accident and sickness insurance policy which, in the case of an emergency, will cover the costs of a flying ambulance for evacuation to hospital facilities.

Minor medical care on San Salvador is provided by a resident doctor and nurse in a modest government clinic. A nominal fee, usually \$75 or less, is charged for treatment and medicine at the clinic. Participants should be prepared to pay such fees if they require medical treatment.

Special inoculations are not required, although a tetanus shot is strongly recommended.

GRI reserves the right to refuse accommodations to any individual for medical reasons.

Insurance Coverage

Every student must purchase health insurance coverage for a fee of \$1.50 per person per day, including the day of arrival and departure. Additional travel days can also be insured.

Flight Information

Travel has to be personally arranged to the island of San Salvador. Most groups travel via BahamasAir, the official commercial carrier flying between Nassau and San Salvador, which has one flight daily from Nassau to the island. It may be possible to travel from your home institution to San Salvador in one day depending upon flight schedules; however, it is best to leave a 4-hour layover between flights

in the event of delays.

More recently, direct flights have become available from the U.S. to San Salvador on certain days of the week, although these flights are more expensive.

Flight schedules vary considerably depending on the time of year. Persons are encouraged to contact the airline to confirm schedules and make group arrangements.

Bahamas Air: 242-377-5505

www.bahamasair.com

GRI **no** longer arranges chartered flights. There are a number of charter companies working out of South Florida and Nassau which are happy to work with organizations should you decide to charter one or more planes for your group.

Hotels in Nassau

As it is likely you will have to spend at least one night in Nassau on your trip to San Salvador, we suggest staying at the Orange Hill which provides reasonably priced rooms and is located near the airport. Their information is as follows:

Orange Hill Beach Inn
P.O. Box N 8583
West Bay Street
Nassau, Bahamas
Phone: (242) 327-7157
FAX: (242) 327-5186
E-mail: info@orangehill.com

Transportation

A GRI staff member will pick you and your class up at the San Salvador airport upon your arrival. There is no regular bus, taxi, or shuttle service available on the island. Transportation for daily classes is provided in vehicles rented through GRI.

GRI's vehicles are not allowed out after 5:15 PM except under extraordinary circumstances and with express permission of the Executive Director. In the evening after classes, most visitors find it enjoyable to walk to the several night spots located within one to two miles of the campus.

A faculty member from the group will be responsible for driving the class to the field sites each day in a rented GRI vehicle. A Vehicle Use Agreement form must be signed by every faculty member wishing to drive. The cost of repair of any damage done to a vehicle **as a result of negligence and/or misuse** will

be paid by the faculty member who was driving at the time.

Payment

Once the GRI Housing Form has been submitted, an electronic invoice will be sent. Upon receipt, faculty are encouraged to review this carefully and advise us of any discrepancies as soon as possible. **Payment is requested at least 2 weeks in advance of your stay.** GRI does not accept cheques from students.

Cancellation Policy

Lead faculty can cancel or make changes to the number of course participants up to 2 weeks (14 days) before arrival in San Salvador and receive a complete reimbursement of charges. Any cancellations after that period will be charged the equivalent of a two- night's stay.

There are no provisions for any refunds if a student has to leave San Salvador due to medical or personal reasons except at the discretion of the GRI Executive Director.

Insects

Like most tropical places, San Salvador has insects. The island has palmetto bugs, flies and roaches which are not usually considered a nuisance to our participants. However, of the several hundred species of mosquitoes, San Salvador can boast of twelve. During the rainy season, the nuisance level builds to intolerable levels. However, relief can be obtained in screened quarters, especially during twilight hours. Throughout the year, most participants should not experience mosquito bites during the heat of the day in unshaded cleared areas.

The biggest offender of the insect world on San Salvador is the 'no-see-um.' You may know them by the name of sand fly, punky, gnat, or nit. They can get through standard mosquito mesh and can sometimes crawl under covers to deliver a painful bite. Some people are more tormented by these insects than others. Two people sleeping next to each other may find one bothered by bites while the other experiences no discomfort at all. After the first two weeks on the island people either get used to the nuisance or develop an immunity to bites. Insect sprays and baby oil are useful in the control of these tropical nuisances and anti-itch creams bring relief from bite irritation. Occasional spraying for insects has begun around most settlements on the island, including GRI. This has helped to keep the nuisance

level of both mosquitoes and no-see-ums down as compared to previous years.

Other insects which at times can give a great deal of concern are wasps and bees. On San Salvador there are bees which can give painful stings. To date there have been no ill effects experienced even by those normally allergic to bee stings.

Electricity

Electricity on San Salvador is provided by diesel powered generators operated by Bahamas Power & Light. Similar to the U.S.A., the electricity is 120 volts, 60 cycles, and utilizes U.S.-style outlets. While the electrical grid has improved, there are outages that can last for days or longer.

Time

The time zone for San Salvador is the same as the Eastern Time Zone in the U.S.A., including both standard and daylight savings time.

Churches

Catholic, Baptist, Anglican, Church of God of Prophecy (COGOP) and Seventh Day Adventist worship services are available on San Salvador. They welcome anyone who would like to attend their services. It is important that visitors follow custom and wear dress clothing, e.g., dress shirt and slacks for men and dress or skirt and blouse for women. Transportation can be arranged with your faculty member using a GRI vehicle or through GRI. Some churches will also arrange for pick-up and drop-off at GRI.

Telephone Service

GRI's telephone number on San Salvador is (242)-331-2520/2521; our Fax number is (242)-331-2524. **These are business numbers and should be utilized for business/emergency calls only.** There are no phones available on campus for general use. Phone calls can be made in town at the Bahamas Telecommunication Corporation (BTC). U.S. cell phones may work on San Salvador, though at a considerable cost with international fees and data.

In the event of an emergency, an individual attempting to telephone a student or faculty member should call GRI's number between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. We will arrange for the student or the faculty member to return the call.

Students, faculty and GRI staff have e-mail access

as long as the Internet is functioning.

Mail

Packages, letters, or parcels of any kind should **not** be sent to students or faculty. All packages are fully inspected and a rather high import duty is placed on most items, not to mention the fact that they will, in all likelihood, arrive long after the participant leaves San Salvador. Mail sent through the Bahamian postal service can take up to 4 weeks to reach the island from the U.S. and vice versa.

All mail from The Bahamas must have Bahamian postage. U.S. postage stamps cannot be used. Post cards and Bahamian stamps are available for purchase at GRI. Students often find it entertaining to send a postcard from GRI and then see how long it takes to arrive back home (hint: it will take longer to get home than you will).

Summary

Now that you have read the preceding description of the Gerace Research Institute and environment, it becomes **your decision** whether you can adapt to this field situation. We recommend our facility for those who truly enjoy working and living with people from different places, who are especially open and sensitive to a people and culture different from their own, and who view scholarly field work as being especially appropriate to their personal goals. For those who have unique medical requirements, require special diets, have problems in adjusting to a completely new situation and different culture, or have difficulty in living with and meeting a variety of people, we strongly recommend that you consider this programme with reservation. To those who feel they can adapt, the San Salvador experience may well be one of the highlights of your life.

