- Political system: Democracy-No Army
- Area: 51.100 km² continental
  589.000 km² water
- Population: 4.401.849
- GDP (Per capita): US$ 5031,4
- GNP ~ 19,900 millions US $
- Life expectancy: 79,11 years
- Education: 6% national budget
### Costa Rica’s Evolving Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human development index</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>2.276</td>
<td>3.943</td>
<td>4.325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor homes</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>9.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNP per capita</td>
<td>US $ 702</td>
<td>2.022</td>
<td>4.028</td>
<td>4.628</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: ND indicates that data is not available.
Global Competitiveness Index Rankings 2006-2007 (Ranks out of 125 economies), World Economic Forum,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Economy</th>
<th>GCI 06-07 Rank</th>
<th>GCI 06-07 Score</th>
<th>GCI 05-06 Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.81</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.76</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.74</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.70</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.63</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.60</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.58</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.56</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.54</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.46</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5.42</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>4.25</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3: The Global Competitiveness Index and higher education and training

World Economic Forum, Global Competitiveness Report 2006-07
Historical overview:

- 1814 - “House of Learning”
- 1843 - University of St. Thomas
- 1888 - Closure of the University (a number of colleges continued to function)
- 1940 - Creation of the University of Costa Rica by National Law
### Top Mexican, Central American and Caribbean universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>LAC</th>
<th>World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>UNAM (Mexico)</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Tecnológico de Monterrey</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>University of Guadalajara</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>University of Puerto Rico</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>University of Costa Rica</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infrastructure

- 4,811,740 m² total area / 284,238 m² constructed areas
- 5 Vice-Presidencies
- 13 Colleges
- 15 libraries and documentation centers
- 8 experimental stations
- 5 regional campuses
- 4 branch campuses
- 2 radio stations
- 1 t.v. channel
- 1 weekly newspaper
Academic area

- 6 academic areas
- 126 “licenciatura” programs
- 138 Bachelor’s programs
- 32,153 regular students
- 4,389 faculty members
• University extension
  (Outreach activities)
  • 400 extension programs and projects
  • 103 university community service projects
  • 84 cultural extension projects
  • 1 program aimed at elderly people
Research:

• 57 research units (institutes, centers, specialized laboratories)
• 983 ongoing research projects (42,5% applied, 39% basic, 5,9% technological)
• 947 researchers
• 3 supporting research units
Graduate Programs

- 7 Ph.D. programs
- 119 professional master’s programs
- 84 academic master’s programs
- 69 professional specialization programs (Medicine, Microbiology, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Law, Engineering)
The University of Costa Rica has organized her academic function in Colleges, schools, centers and institutes of investigation (research). Likewise, 5 exist Vice-Presidencies that define the general policies for each of her fields: Teaching, Investigation (Research), Social Action, Students Life and Administration.
Program of Customs Administration and International Trade
The Program in Customs Administration and Foreign Trade, is located in the School of Public Administration, which belongs to the Faculty of Economic Sciences, which likewise is departs from the Area of Social Sciences.
• Year of Creation: 1977 academic, 2006 Masters

• Degree:
  – Graduate in Customs Administration
  – Baccalaureate and in Customs Administration and Foreign Trade
  – Licentiate in Customs Administration and Foreign Trade.

• Masters Degree:
  – Master in Public Administration Emphasis in Customs Administration and International Trade
Degree

- For the Graduate: six school cycles (of 16 weeks each one approximately).
- For the Baccalaureate: eight school cycles (of 16 weeks each one approximately).
- For the Licentiate: ten school cycles (of 16 weeks each one approximately), plus the elaboration of the Final Work of Graduation (two or three more cycles, according to the modality).
Masters Degree

- The Mastery in Customs Administration and International Trade
  is a Professional Mastery. This means that to graduate a thesis is
  not elaborated. There is done a final work of graduation (it is an
  research practically applied).

- Four matters register for school cycle divided in blocks of two
  matters with a duration of ten weeks each one and a whole of 40
  effective hours of class.

- The persons who do not come from the area of economic
  sciences must deal 3 additional courses.

- The title is granted by the University of Costa Rica and the
  graduated receives a MAGISTER’s diploma IN PUBLIC
  ADMINISTRATION EMPHATICALLY IN CUSTOMS
  ADMINISTRATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE.
• **Mission:**
  
  – Form excellent professionals in Customs Administration and Foreign Trade with knowledge and aptitude to administrate and develop the State, his institutions and the organizations of public interest, in conformity with the requirements of the society and the present world processes.
Aims of the Program:

• To propitiate the ethical fundamental values for the public responsibility coherent with the obligations of the international agreements.

• To offer a multidisciplinary formation to the student in order that he or she is capable of being inserted on the labor market.

• To stimulate the development of the customs national system in order to satisfy the requirements of the state, of the private sector and the national and regional entities.
Process of Autoevaluation:

• Why
• Constant evolution
• The countries members of the WTO must be capable of adapting his(her,your) administrative organizations and his(her,your) customs policies to the new context of the International Trade
• Functions of the Customs Sector
Accreditation SINAES (National System of Accreditation of Top Studies):

• Distribution of the topics of Foreign Trade
• Languages
• Update of the Study Plan
• National and International Relations
Profile and Proposal

- Workshops and meetings with:
  - Teachers, students, employers, graduates and representatives of different linked organizations
Check of the structure of the Proposal

Requirements and Essentials

Legal
- Legal Aspects of Int. Trade
- Legal Aspects of the Adm. Proc.
- 3
- 4

Customs
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Foreign Trade
- 1
- 2
- 3
Check of the contents of the courses

- Assurances
- Transport
- Legal Aspects of Int. Trade
- 6
- 5
- 3
- 4
Program Structure

- Is constructed in areas that shape the knowledge, skills, aptitudes and values that the student must possess as a future professional.
- The areas of study are: Legislation, logic and inference, management of operating systems, human aspects, theoretical base and administration of the production, customs management, management of the foreign trade, humanities and research.
Process
International Relations

- WCO
  - PICARD
- WTO
  - Capacity Building Program
- SIECA
- Centralamerican Universities
- SICA
- EU
Process

- Presentation and Promotion of PICARD in the UCR
- Request of support to the UCR
- Translations of the Memorandum of Understanding UCR-WCO
- Negotiation and adjustments to the MOU
- Analysis of the commitments PICARD
Professional Standards

Knowledge Requirements

Masters level

- Skill requirements
- Behavioural/attitudinal requirements

- Masters level
knowledge Requirements

NATIONAL AND INTERN. POLICY/POLITICS
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY/POLITICS

key players at governmental and international level

International Economics
Gaps
Gaps

• Masters level
  – 15 % of PICARD Professionnal Standards

• Operational level
  – 10 % of PICARD Professionnal Standards
Status Today
Status Today

• Signature of the agreement of Cooperation
• Identify in what areas we can join the lacking parts
• Incorporation of the lacking parts for the second semester of 2008
Future
Future

• Define the programs of work
• Define the scopes of cooperation
• Define criteria of accreditation
• Define methods of evaluation and follow-up