Arkana Peru is a transdisciplinary creative research institute and centre for situated learning based in the Upper Amazon of Peru. We offer creative residencies and study experiences through partnerships between local and international organizations, institutions, and schools. We believe that creative collaboration and knowledge exchange between visiting, local, and indigenous students can result in not only transformative learning but in real world solutions to today’s most pressing issues.

Our pedagogy is guided by indigenous epistemologies that value direct experience, visionary thinking, and sustainable relationships with the planet and its people.
Our programmes follow the mandate and philosophy of Arkana Arts (Artes Arkana), our non profit, whose mission is to support conservation and local and indigenous arts and culture in Pucallpa and the surrounding region and facilitate important opportunities for intercultural participation between the indigenous, local, and international creative community.
Our Programme

Our programmes launch from "red city" of Pucallpa in the Ucayali province of Peru. Bordering Brazil and some of the most biodiverse rainforest on the planet, the Ucayali river region is a treasure trove of culture and ecology, possessing more than ten distinct indigenous communities including the Shipibo Conibo, Ashanika, Cashibo, Yanesha, all famed for their unique traditions and cultural practices.

Students will gain a grounded perspective into the social, political, and cultural dynamics of this rich and contradictory region and the challenges it faces. They will visit local organizations and indigenous communities, immerse themselves in transformative environments of the Arkana rainforest field school, and collaborate with local and visiting students that will challenge and hone their perspective of the world.
Central to our programme is immersion in Arkana's "field school," a land-based educational project located in the Arkana conservation site four hours outside of Pucallpa. Situated on a natural geological wonder, a boiling river unconnected to any volcanic system, students explore and experience the creative inspiration of the surrounding prehistoric rainforest and this unique site while developing their projects.
During this time, students will also have the fascinating experience of staying at the Santuario Amazonian Plant Medicine Centre (Santuario Huishtin). There they will learn about the magical traditions of “vegetalismo” (mestizo shamanism) including identifying medicinal plants and trees, preparing traditions remedies, and attending sacred ceremonies.
Arkana's Field School and its architecture is currently in its development phase and being designed through Toronto architectural school SBDU, Situated Design Build University.

This August, SBDU will come to Peru and the field site with architectural students from Fanshawe College to collaborate on Arkana’s site plan and several principal buildings with students from the Architecture and Urbanism programme at the PUCP (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú) in Lima.
Arkana’s site plan involves an ecological “green design” building plan integrating traditional Amazonian and modern design that is sustainable and uniquely suited to its environment. It will also involve “biophilic” principles that consider that therapeutic influence of both nature and design on wellbeing and creativity. Arkana is also responsible for an intensive conservation initiative to regenerate the surrounding rainforest and repopulate it will rare and endangered species of flora and fauna.
SANTA CLARA

Returning to Pucallpa, students will also spend time with one of our most important partners, the Santa Clara Shipibo revitalization project, on the Ucayali river, where they will learn about indigenous practices such as pottery, fishing, and permaculture that been unchanged for millennia.
Finally, students will gather at Pucallpa’s school of arts, Escuela Superior de Formación Artística Publica - Eduardo Meza Saravia, to connect with local arts students and gave a presentation of their work to the community.
Arkana 2019 Study Abroad Initiative
Ecology and Culture: Biophilia

December 28th - January 9th, 2020

Arkana Peru’s inaugural learning abroad programme begins this January, 2019, offering an exciting two week study plan dedicated to the ecology and culture of the region. This programme is ideally suited as an independent study integrated with seminars and workshops and opportunities to consult and work with local and visiting mentors students across cultures and disciplines.

Focus will be on developing a unique proposal idea or “creative proposition,” integrating issues and topics covered in the study programme. The 2019 theme “biophilia” will consider human/non human relations and the future of our life on the planet.

Find out more here and apply!
www.arkanaperu.org