Created by PRISM (Professional Resources in Science and Mathematics) staff at Montclair State University in 2003, the program's interactive connection joins scientists and educators with classes around the world.

The goal of the project is to motivate and ignite students’ curiosity and interest in ecosystems while they connect with experts in Panama. For 16 years students from places like USA, Panama, Belize, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Australia, Kenya, Madagascar and Honduras, have been able to talk, ask questions, share experiences with experts without leaving their classrooms.

What do I need to connect?

As internet access and video technology improves, we have been able to connect more classes and hundreds of students have been able to experience live conversations with experts for the first time. To connect you will need a computer or a laptop, good internet connection, a webcam, an LCD projector or Smart board to project the images, and a microphone.
What happens during a session?

The sessions are 35-45 minutes long. During the session, researchers present short focused lessons followed by questions from students. Video clips of landscape and native animals enliven topics such as food webs, pollination, and decomposition among others. Students are able to see the experts in Panama and have a conversation with them.

How do I sign up to participate?

The Rainforest Connection takes place at the Smithsonian Research Station on Barro Colorado Island (BCI) in Panama. For 2018 the tentative dates are Feb. 16th through March 2nd.

To schedule a session, email Dot Stradford at stradfordd@montclair.edu or call 973-655-7753.

On the website, you will find vast information on how to prepare your students for this experience. You’ll find resources, pictures, videos, journal entries, feedback from students and teachers and much more.

What is the cost of the sessions?

Each session is $150.