

Living and Learning in Quito, Ecuador

A Semester Abroad
Experience

****Informational Packet for Students**

Living and Learning in Quito, Ecuador Semester Abroad Study Program

Living and Learning in Quito, Ecuador is a study abroad program available to students who desire to continue their college education in an international setting. Living and Learning in Quito will function under the supervision and guidelines of your North American institution. This 13-week semester is designed to combine classroom learning and practical internships in a unique and challenging cross-cultural setting. Along with receiving up to 16 units of college credit, students will live, learn and grow academically, experientially, and spiritually. The men and women who participate in this program will be asked to consider how they can use their gifts and talents to reach the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. While living in Ecuador for 13 weeks students will experience a variety of new cultures, gain a global perspective and understand in a new way the joys and the challenges of serving God in a cross-cultural setting. Students will enjoy the rich interaction with teachers, faculty, and ministry site hosts in a classroom setting, as well as on a one-to-one level. We believe this unique opportunity and setting will lend itself to life long impact.

If you accept this challenge, you will:

- ***LEARN* through Spanish language study and interdisciplinary seminars about Latin culture, history, ecology, politics, economics, and religion.**
- **LEARN through college level courses that apply toward your major**
- ***LIVE* with Ecuadorian families, improving your Spanish and sharing your life with Latin American Christians.**
- ***SERVE* in a hands-on internship opportunity that provides another window into Latin American life and allows you to gain experience in an area of professional interest.**

- ***TRAVEL* through other parts of Ecuador to discover the rich diversity of cultures and peoples in the region.**
- ***BROADEN* your world-view and grapple with God's call upon your life and what it means to live as a global Christian.**

Philip J Payne
Program Director

Semester in Ecuador Program Details:

Purpose: To provide college level education in an international setting that will Challenge students to learn about the world and to make a difference.

Goals: To help capture the excitement of cross-cultural learning. To challenge Individuals to see the world as God sees it. To provide real life opportunities for international ministry.

Course description: Students will live in South America for 13 weeks of educational experience.

During their 13 weeks they will:

- *Live with an Ecuadorian family to learn about culture and relationships
- *Enroll in college level Spanish that will teach them a foreign language.
- *Enroll in college level courses (12 units) to be completed in the 13 weeks
- *Complete Internship for practicum credit.
- *Experience short-term (2 week) ministry trip to put into practice what they are learning.
- **Program will include orientation, debrief, spiritual formation and cultural experience.

Program Dates: The Semester will begin on September 8 and finish on December 8.

Housing and food: Each participant will live with a local Ecuadorian family for part of the time they are in the program. This interaction will provide “life on life” experiences to teach culture, language, and a deeper appreciation for differences in our world.

College level Spanish: Each participant will be enrolled in a Spanish Language Institute during their time in Quito. After introductory testing, each student will be placed in classes that reflect their appropriate level of learning. U.S. College credit will be earned for these courses.

Course work: Professors will offer classroom instruction to participants. Modular type class instruction will be held daily for approx 4 hours and be equal to 3 units. Topics taught and professors will depend on time of year.

Experiential learning: Cultural exposure and learning experiences in Quito and to surrounding cities/areas of Ecuador will offer an alternative to classroom experience. Opportunities to see and be involved in ministry will challenge students to “put into practice” all they are seeing and

learning. Each student will perform an internship with partner ministries in and around Quito. Practicum credit will be earned.

College Credit: It is our desire that this would be a fully accredited program wherein participants will receive credit from their participating College or University. Professors who hold their MA and/or PHD will teach all courses.

Cost of program: Expenses for 13 weeks of Living and Learning in Ecuador will be \$7500.00. This includes all expenses except personal spending money and travel. Participants must show proof of personal insurance.

Courses Offered in Fall of 2008

Course Descriptions

Spanish 3-6 credits

Students come to Ecuador with varying degrees of fluency in Spanish. Consequently, after initial placement testing, students are placed in classes that will correspond to their level of proficiency. Courses will introduce the students to the sounds and structure of the Spanish language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Courses will provide the basis to understand and communicate Spanish effectively. Students will be under the direct instruction of the Andean Study Program.

Intercultural Practicum 2 credits

An integrative cross-cultural experience designed to help the student understand and form his or her Christian worldview, cross-cultural engagement, and understanding of diverse social and cultural contexts. Field experience sites involving small teams of students will be utilized in this intercultural practicum. Students will perform 7 weeks of internship. Extensive daily journaling of experiences both positive and negative, instructions in learning and observing will be noted. A debriefing process will conclude the practicum.

Spiritual Formation 2 credits

This course will examine the dynamics of personal development in student's lives, focusing on spiritual growth. Biblical principles that govern the character and conduct of Christians will be addressed. Students will employ analytical tools and reflection skills to develop a greater self-awareness. From this foundation they will explore the process of spiritual formation and establish an initial life-plan for the regular practice of spiritual disciplines.

Ecuador 250: History, Politics, and Culture of Ecuador 3 credits

This course provides an overview of the history, politics, and culture of Ecuador, along with the relationship between various factors. The course includes guest speakers from local organizations and visits to community groups, along with lecture and readings. Open only to students who participate in the Ecuador Semester Program.

Worldview and World Religions 2 credits

The goal of this course is to understand the nature of a worldview and the function of faith and reason in developing a worldview. To define and analyze eight basic worldviews (Christian theism, deism, naturalism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern pantheism, New Age spirituality and postmodernism). To explore and critique six major world religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, Taoism & Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. To offer an internal critique of each worldview and an evaluation from the standpoint of historic Christianity.

Grading

Evaluation of your work is based on many factors. These include but are not limited to: participation, written assignments, and examinations. A "C" grade indicates adequate performance, a "B" grade indicates good, competent and complete work, and an "A" grade indicates creative excellence that is integrative and exceeds requirements.

ECUADOR COUNTRY SPECIFICS

Geography

The Republic of Ecuador straddles the Equator and is one of the smallest countries in South America. It covers approximately 109,483 square miles (283,560 km)...about the size of the state of Colorado. Despite its small size, Ecuador is one of the most geographically varied countries in the world.

Its continental territory borders Peru to the south and the east, Colombia to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

The Andes Mountains, which cross the country from north to south, divide continental Ecuador into Costa (Coastal Lowlands), Sierra (Highlands), and Oriente (Amazon Region). The Galapagos Islands constitute the fourth distinctive region. Ecuador is divided into 22 provinces.

The Coastal region extends the length of the coast and offers beautiful unspoiled beaches, some resorts and rich agricultural land.

The Sierra lies between the western and eastern ranges of the Andes Mountains. This valley has been populated for many centuries. Nestled in this valley is Quito, the capital of Ecuador. The Sierra also contains six active volcanoes. The world's highest active volcano is Cotopaxi, which reaches 5897 meters.

The Amazon Region begins on the eastern slopes of the Andes. This region, completely covered by the Amazon rainforest, contains vast animal wildlife and vegetation.

The Galapagos Islands are a group of isolated and protected volcanic islands 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. The vegetation and wildlife have developed in isolation, which makes the Galapagos a fascinating place to visit.

Quito, the capital city, is located in a setting of great natural beauty, overshadowed by the volcano Pichincha. Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city, is also the chief port and commercial center.

Quick Facts

FULL COUNTRY NAME: Republic of Ecuador

AREA: 109,483 sq. miles (about the size of the state of Colorado)

POPULATION: 12,920,092 (Growth rate: 2.04%, Literacy rate: 90.1%, Life Expectancy: 71 yr.)

PEOPLE: 65% mestizo (mixed Spanish/Indian), 25 % Indigenous, 7% Spanish/others, 3% Black

LANGUAGE: Official language is Spanish, which is spoken by 77 % of the population. In addition, 22 indigenous languages including Quichua are spoken. In Quito, English is spoken by a large number of North Americans and some Ecuadorians.

RELIGION: Freedom of religion is enjoyed. 95% are Roman Catholic. 3.8% Evangelical.

GOVERNMENT: Democracy-Presidential Republic

CURRENCY: US Dollar (as of 2000) Ecuadorian coins have been minted in values equal to American coins and are concurrently in circulation. The Sucre has been eliminated.

EXPORTS: Exports are crude oil, bananas, coffee, cacao, shrimp, cut flowers and wood.

LOCAL TIME: Eastern Standard Time Zone (same as New York City) Ecuador does not observe daylight savings time.

CLIMATE/WEATHER: Ecuador, with its four distinct geographical regions, has a varied climate as well.

- The Sierra, where Quito is located, is mild throughout the year. Although it is on the equator, because of the altitude, temperatures range from 55-78 (average 64) year round. This region claims to have "eternal spring", where a typical day in Quito can be sunny in the morning, cool and cloudy in the early afternoon, rainy in the late afternoon, and cool/cold and clear in the evening/at night. Typically, the rainy season occurs from October to May.
- The Costa is warm and humid during the entire year (76-90, average 83). Rainy season is usually December to May.
- The Oriente is also warm (72-80, average 76), humid and rainy. The rainy season is constant with less rain December to February.

- o The Galapagos Islands enjoy warm and dry weather year round, with an average yearly temperature of 85!

Application for Semester in Ecuador

Personal Information:

Name _____

Permanent Address _____ Good until _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Current Address (if different than permanent) _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

How long will you be at this address? _____

Email address _____ Passport Number _____

Phone number _____ Social Security Number _____

Birth-date _____ Citizenship _____

Occupation/School _____

Parent(s) names _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Health conditions/physical limitations/allergies/special dietary restrictions/prescription drugs _____

Medical Insurance Information

Do you have primary medical insurance (check one) ___ YES ___ NO

(If you checked yes, please complete the questions below)

Policy Provider _____ Policy Number _____

Primary policy holder (you or your parents) _____

Emergency Contact in the United States/Canada

Name _____ Relationship to you _____

Address/City/State or Province/Zip or Postal Code _____

Phone numbers: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email address _____

Please describe (in writing) the following: *While we do not need an exhaustive paper from you, please be thorough with your answers. Your paper should give us a good idea of who you are, your personal walk with Christ, and your ministry ideas and experience. Thank you!*

- **Your birthplace, family, and growing up years.**
- **Your current relationship with your parents and/or family.**
- **How and when did you become a Christian?**
- **Churches that you have attended. If you were involved at that church, please describe how.**
- **What is your ability in Spanish?**
- **Why do you desire to be a part of this program?**

Please provide 2 letters of reference-

Reference letter 1 - must be from a Professor

Reference letter 2 - May be a professor, school official, coach, pastor or advisor

What is **YOUTH WORLD**?

YOUTH WORLD is a ministry of International Teams, exists to identify, teach and equip leaders to impact young people and families to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Based in Quito, Ecuador, YOUTH WORLD was founded in 1994 to impact Latin America and the world by reaching young people with the life-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

YOUTH WORLD accomplishes this goal by:

- *Identifying, training, equipping and networking national youth leaders throughout Latin America (La Red)*
- *Ministering to international students and expatriates in Ecuador (Expat Ministries)*
- *Bringing together ministries within the same region for relationship building, resource sharing, education and networking (International Youth Ministry)*
- *Developing a retreat/training center (300 acre property N. of Quito) which facilitates a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through nature and outdoor adventure (Hacienda El Refugio)*
- *Exposing youth, adults and families to missions, ministry and the world (Short-Term Teams)*

For more information about YOUTH WORLD...go to www.youthworld.org.ec

What is International Teams?

International Teams (IT) is the mission agency, which our YOUTH WORLD team of missionaries serves with and under. IT exists to mobilize international teams to build transforming communities around the world. IT USA is headquartered in Elgin, Illinois. Founded in 1960, IT has over 500 missionaries serving in 36 countries around the globe. Team members originate from 20 different countries, and pursue a variety of specific ministry focuses. YOUTH WORLD is one of those teams!!

For more information about International Teams go to... www.iteams.org

Statement of Faith

YOUTH WORLD International

It is to be noted that no grouping of words can fully express all that might be said as to our convictions and doctrinal position. However, as a general and comprehensive combination of the principal factors for which YOUTH WORLD International stands, the following expresses our statement of faith.

1. **THE TRINITY:** We believe in one God, existing in a trinity of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (John 15:26), who are eternal and of equal dignity and power (Matthew 3:16-17).
2. **JESUS CHRIST:** We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit was born of the virgin Mary, was true God and true man existing in one person and was without sin. We believe in His representative and substitutionary sacrifice, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the Father, His present life as Lord of all, High Priest and Advocate, and His personal return in power and glory.
3. **HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells and gives life to believers, enables them to understand and apply the Scriptures, empowers them for godly living and equips them for service and witness.
4. **THE BIBLE:** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, verbally inspired and without error as originally written, and that it is the only infallible rule of faith and practice for the Christian (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).
5. **THE PLAN OF SALVATION:** We believe in Jesus Christ, conceived of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20) born of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:35), whose death on the cross for the redemption of sinners provided a sufficient and complete propitiation for their guilt (Ephesians 1:7), and who rose again for our justification (Romans 4:25), ascended into heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding for all those who come unto God by Him (Hebrews 7:25). We wait for the "blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13), and we believe that all things shall finally be subjected to God through Him (1 Corinthians 15:25-28). We believe that each member of the human race is fallen, sinful and lost; that the shed blood of Jesus Christ provides the only ground for forgiveness of sins and justification to all who receive Him by faith; and that only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can they become children of God.

6. **THE CHURCH:** We believe that the true church, which is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:23), is formed by the work of the Holy Spirit in all those who trust Christ as their Savior (Ephesians 2:22, 1 Corinthians 12:13). We believe the one, holy, universal Church is the body of Christ, composed of all regenerate people. This redeemed community worships God and seeks to proclaim the Good News to all people.
7. **THE CHRISTIAN'S MINISTRY:** In view of Christ's last command (Matthew 28:19, 20) and recognizing the lost condition of all those who fail to accept the gospel message (John 3:18, 36), we believe in the urgency of every Christian's responding to the Great Commission of Christ. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Mt. 28:19,20) "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
8. **RESSURECTION:** We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

Frequently Asked Questions....

Do I need a Passport?

Yes you do. It must be valid and not have an expiration date within 6 months of your travel.

Do I need a Visa for Ecuador?

No, you do not

What are the dates of the Semester?

September 8 – December 8. We would ask you to be in Ecuador by September 6...and plan on leaving after December 8.

Where are we staying? How will we get around?

You will be staying in a clean and safe Hostal in Quito for most of your time. This Hostal is well known to us and will be properly supervised by our staff. Home stays will be in homes of Ecuadorians that we know and trust. We will have buses for transportation. Quito also has a good public transportation system. Taxis are also available and reasonable.

Is Ecuador Safe?

Absolutely. 100%. We have lived here for the last 10 years. Although the government changes and volcanoes make the news... we are 100% safe here in Quito.

What airline should I fly? What airport do I fly into?

Our recommendation is to find a good fare. American and Continental will connect in the United States...(Miami and Houston)...LACSA will connect in Central America. All of them are good options. You will fly into Mariscal Sucre Airport in Quito (uio is the airport code)

Who will pick me up at the Airport?

A leader from Living and Learning and/or Youthworld will be there to get you. The airport is easy and organized. You will land, go through immigration where they will stamp your passport and then claim your luggage and leave.

Do I need to get any immunizations?

You will need a current tetanus shot, Hepatitis A & B, and Yellow fever.

Will the classes be in English?

Yes...all classes (except Spanish class) will be taught in English. Some of the travel and trip options will be in Spanish...but even these we will provide translators into English.

How much spending money do I need?

Obviously this depends on what you plan to buy???? All of your semester costs will be covered (food/lodging/transportation) But \$50.00 a week will go along ways for incidentals and souvenirs.

What is the food like?

Typical Ecuadorian is rice, lentils, chicken and/ or beef. However, there are many different kinds of restaurants here and the food is excellent.

What if I get sick?

Medical care is readily available and there is a large HCJB missionary hospital within 10-15 minutes of anywhere you will be in Quito.

Who is the semester for?

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What if I have more questions not covered here?

Check out the website at www.quitosemester.com or write Phil Payne at philipjpayne@gmail.com