Experience Ecuador
Semester in Ecuador Program

The Program

This study abroad semester is for students of any discipline that are interested in other cultures and languages, and who wish to have a deeper learning and life experience. The program combines intensive Spanish language instruction, travel and intercultural learning with a wide range of courses in both English and Spanish, and service learning placements in the community. The program is based in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

What is included?

■ Orientation Tour:
  6 days of travel beginning in capital city Quito, and including the famous Otavalo crafts market, visits to Andean communities, the Equatorial Line and Chimborazo National Park.

■ Field Trips:
  A weekend trip to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Cuenca, Cajas National Park, and the Ingapirca Inca ruins; and a chance to experience the coastal ecology of Ecuador.

■ Cultural Seminar:
  Weekly debrief and guest lecture gives students a chance to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Ecuador.

■ Other:
  Cultural activities like Latin dance or Ecuadorian cooking classes, as well as a language exchange with a local student.

■ Accomodations:
  Homestay with an Ecuadorian family.

■ Full use of the university’s facilities, including sports complex, buses and doctor’s surgery.

■ Up to 15 Credits with an international transcript in English.

Where is the program located?
The program is based at the Universidad Espiritu Santo in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador. Possibly the most diverse and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful countries in the world, Ecuador offers unspoiled coastline, snow-capped mountains, indigenous cultures, colonial architecture, and the planet’s two greatest natural wonders: the Amazon Rainforest and the Galapagos Islands.

Guayaquil is Ecuador’s largest city – with a population of over 2.5 million – and commercial hub. However, like other Latin American mega-cities, it suffers social problems that provide opportunities for students interested in service and in learning about the realities of urban life in the tropics.

The Universidad Espiritu Santo – located in the district of Samborondón – is ranked as one of the country’s top universities. UEES’ modern campus has a sports complex and pool, fleet of buses, doctor’s surgery, music and TV studios, and a student-run restaurant. We also have iguanas wandering around the main plaza.

Where will I stay?
Participants live with an Ecuadorian host family. Life with a host family provides students with a rich intercultural experience, language practice, and 3 meals a day.
What will I study?
Students take up to 15 credits in a variety of ways: Spanish language instruction (maximum 6 credits); courses taught in English on a variety of subjects; courses taught in Spanish on a variety of subjects (provided student has demonstrated a sufficiently advanced level of Spanish ability); and/or service learning or professional internship (3-6 credits).

Do I need to know Spanish?
No prior knowledge of Spanish is required.

Will my credits transfer?
Yes. Our credits are recognized in universities and colleges across Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia. Students have transferred credits from UEES to a wide range of learning institutions in the past.

Where can I serve?
Students can choose to be placed in a variety of community organisations that work at addressing the pressing social needs in Guayaquil, such as health, nutrition, education, shelter and housing, and environmental protection, or working with the physically and mentally disabled, street children, and other marginalized members of society. Students are placed according to their skill set and Spanish language level.

What about travel arrangements?
We can assist with further travel, such as trips to the Galápagos Islands and Amazon Rainforest, along with hotel reservations in Quito before the program begins.

How much does it cost?
The cost of the program is US$7,500.00.

How do I sign up?
To apply, go to http://www.uees.edu.ec/cei/apply.php
The deadline for Spring is the beginning of November, and for Fall is beginning of July.

Why choose UEES?
- Experienced, friendly, bilingual staff on call 24 hours a day
- Accommodation with Ecuadorian host family
- Extensive travel and field trips
- Cultural and social activities
- Weekly Cultural Seminar
- Opportunity to serve in the community
- Cultural and social activities
- Assistance with travel arrangements in Ecuador
- Study at one of Ecuador’s premiere universities

Contact us at CEI

Web page http://www.uees.edu.ec/
E-mail: international@uees.edu.ec
Facebook http://www.facebook.com/centro.internacionales
Flickr http://www.flickr.com/photos/41137311@N05/

"I will always carry my experiences in Guayaquil with me, and hopefully I will have a chance to return soon. Ecuador is an extremely diverse country, and has a lot to offer to anyone willing to venture with an open mind and heart, and to experience something new. I would encourage anyone to check it out."

Jesse MacArthur (Central Lakes College)