Vive la Experiencia!

Latin American Language and Culture Program

The Program

This short-term study abroad program is a wonderful mix of culture, language, history, travel, and activity that is ideal for those seeking a first taste of Latin America as well as for those who are already passionate about this unique part of the world. The program combines an in-depth exploration of Ecuadorian history and culture and intensive Spanish language instruction with extensive travel and intercultural learning.

The Latin American Language and Culture Program will suit students looking to improve their language skills while learning more about Latin America (in English) and experiencing its culture. The program takes place over 4 weeks during the month of June.

What is included?

- **Orientation Tour:** 4 days of travel beginning in capital city Quito, and including the famous Otavalo crafts market, visits to Andean communities, and to the Equatorial Line.

- **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 culture and ecology of Ecuador.

- **Cultural Seminar:** Weekly meeting and guest lecture gives students a chance to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Ecuador.

- **Other:** Opportunity to take part in cultural activities such as Latin dance or cooking class.

- **Accommodation:** Homestay with an Ecuadorian family.

- **Full use of the university’s facilities, including sports complex, buses and medical service.**

- **6 Credits:** Spanish language instruction (3) and History of Ecuadorian Culture (3) with English language transcript.

**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.

Ecuador’s diversity is not confined to nature: this small country is home to approximately 20 distinct ethnic groups, and an estimated 23 languages are spoken here.

Guayaquil is Ecuador’s largest city – with a population of 2.5 million – and the 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 Samborondon – 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 studio, and 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 6 credits: 3 credits of Spanish language instruction, and 3 credits of History of Ecuadorian Culture. Students are issued with an international transcript in English at the end of the program.

Ecuador is a country rich in history and cultural diversity. The History of Ecuadorian Culture examines both the pre-Columbian and Hispanic backgrounds, along with religious, political and societal issues, in an attempt to understand how this “typical” Latin American country was formed.

Four levels of Spanish language instruction/practice are available, meaning that students of all abilities are catered for.

Do I need to know Spanish?
No. History of Ecuadorian Culture is taught in English; Spanish language classes cover all levels from beginner to high proficiency.

Will my credits transfer?
Yes. UEES is fully accredited, and students have transferred credits from UEES to a wide range of learning institutions in the US, Europe, Canada, Australia and Asia in the past.

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

How much does it cost?
The one-month program costs US$2,950.00.

How do I sign up?
To apply, go to http://www.ueses.edu.ec/International/application.php. The deadline is one month prior to the start of the program.

Start Dates
Begins in late May/early June

Exact dates are available by emailing: international@uees.edu.ec.

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

Contact us at CEI

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