

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

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Spanish for the Health Professions Field Experience

Over 400 million people worldwide speak Spanish as their native language, and Hispanic population is found all over the world. For the health and human service professionals of the 21st Century, Spanish is an essential tool of the trade.

This short-term study abroad program combines intensive Spanish for the Health Professions language instruction, travel and intercultural learning with field experience in a healthcare environment in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador. The Spanish for the Health Professions Field Experience Program takes place over 5 weeks during the months of July/August.

What is included?

1. *Supervised* placement in a healthcare setting.
2. *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.
3. *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.
4. *Cultural Seminar*: Weekly debrief and guest lecture gives students a chance to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Ecuador.
5. *Donation* to the healthcare site.
6. *Other*: Cultural activity such as Latin dance or cooking/volunteer project.
7. *Homestay* with an Ecuadorian family.
8. *Full use of the university's facilities*, including sports complex, buses and doctor's surgery.
9. *Course in Spanish* for the Health Professions (40+ hours/3 credits).



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Q&A

Who should apply?

The program is aimed at (but not confined to) both students and professionals in the following disciplines: Medicine and Pre-Med; Nursing; Physicians Assistants; Dentistry; Psychology; Nutrition; EMTs; Physical Therapy, Exercise Science; and more.

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 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 healthcare and 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 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?

Participants take 3 credits of [Spanish for the Health Professions](#), which will complement the field experience element of the program. In particular, students will gain proficiency in general healthcare vocabulary, including anatomical terms, symptoms, common treatments, patient interaction, along with increased fluency.

Participants will learn about Ecuador's healthcare system as part of the wider culture so as to deepen their understanding. The support component of the placement includes a weekly reflection session which involves writing about the experience. Students are issued with an international transcript in English at the end of the program.

Where will I obtain field experience?

Participants are placed in a variety of healthcare environments in the community, such as public health centres, hospitals, clinics and foundations that work with physically and mentally disadvantaged members of society. Placements will be made according to skill sets, academic background, and Spanish language level.



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○ Do I need to speak Spanish?

Yes. The program requires an Intermediate level of Spanish as a minimum.

○ 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 program costs US\$2,700.00 for 3 credits.

○ How do I sign up?

To apply, go to <http://www.uees.edu.ec/cei/apply.php>
The deadline for applications is one month prior to the start of the program.



○ 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
- Healthcare placement in the community
- Cultural and social activities
- Assistance with travel arrangements in Ecuador

contact us CEI



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