



QUITO, ECUADOR

Duke in the Andes



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An interdisciplinary program featuring Latin American and Andean studies in Quito, Ecuador, hosted by the Universidad Salesiana del Ecuador and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Duke in the Andes program in Quito, Ecuador features the following:

- Four course credits per semester with Duke grades and Duke curriculum codes
- Interdisciplinary core seminar focusing on globalization and colonial legacies in the Andean region
- Courses in cultural anthropology, Spanish literature, history, art history, political science, public policy, international comparative studies, and other disciplines
- All Spanish instruction
- Emphasis on community service
- Housing with local families
- Excursions to Ecuador's four regions — the highlands near Otavalo, the jungle communities of the Ecuadorian Amazon, and afro-Ecuadorian communities in the northern provinces, and the Galapagos Islands
- Experienced on-site staff



STUDENT VOICES

"Duke in the Andes is a dynamic approach to study abroad. Students do more than take classes. They get the opportunity to compare and contrast between the different regions of Ecuador, and they have the opportunity to get involved in programs and projects that help to develop a better understanding of Ecuadorian culture and society."

LOCATION

Quito, the capital of Ecuador, is located at an altitude of approximately 2,850 m (9,350 ft), making it one of the highest capital cities in the world. The city center is just over 25 km from the equator. With a population of over 1.5 million, Quito is surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes and verdant highlands.

Ecuador is a multicultural society comprised of 13 distinct indigenous nations, who along with African descendants, make up approximately one third of the population. The remaining Ecuadorians are *mestizo* or white. This mixture of indigenous, millenarian cultures and colonial heritage gives the Ecuadorian people a unique and fascinating diversity of knowledge and identities.

Geographically, Ecuador is divided by the Andean mountain range, separating the tropical Pacific coastal region from the Amazon region in the east. Along with the Galápagos Islands, the four regions constitute one of the most ecologically and biologically diverse areas of the world.

ACADEMIC COURSES & CREDITS

Program students enroll in a full semester or academic year of Duke credits. All students enroll in the core seminar and choose three additional courses from a select list offered by the program or our host institutions, the Universidad Politécnica Salesiana and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO). All courses appear with graded credit on a Duke University transcript.

Duke participants will earn credit towards graduation, major and minor, and curriculum requirements, including areas of knowledge and modes of inquiry. Duke departmental approvals and curriculum codes for approved courses are listed on the program website. For information about how courses may be counted towards majors or minors at Duke, please consult the director of undergraduate studies of the relevant departments.

HOST INSTITUTIONS IN QUITO

Universidad Politécnica Salesiana: The Universidad Politécnica Salesiana was founded in 1994, with a focus on providing an education grounded in social consciousness and justice, civic responsibility, humanitarian principles, and a profound sense of duty to those less fortunate in society.

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO): Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales is an educational institute established in 1974, and recognized by the Ecuadorian government as part of the country's university system. The mission of FLACSO is to expand knowledge of the social sciences through quality research and teaching, as well as to promote social justice and foster intellectual development in Latin America.



<http://global.duke.edu/geo/>



EXCURSIONS

Each semester, the program organizes excursions to four distinct regions of Ecuador to complement the core class curriculum. Previous semester excursions include visits to the following: indigenous communities in the Andean highlands of the Imbabura Province; Afro-Ecuadorian communities in the northern coastal and valley areas; indigenous communities and businesses in the Amazon basin; and the unique ecosystems of the Galápagos Islands, 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Weekly community service is required by the Duke in the Andes core course. Students receive information about service possibilities after arrival in Quito. In previous semesters, students have served local schools, environmental and human rights NGO's, senior citizen centers, medical clinics, and radio stations. Community service exposes students to aspects of Ecuadorian society and culture impossible to replicate in a classroom environment.

HOUSING

Participants are housed in carefully selected Ecuadorian homes in Quito and its suburbs. Homes are chosen on the bases of safety, comfort, and the willingness of family members to create a warm, welcoming environment for program students.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Resident Director Juan Aulestia is a native of Quito and a graduate of George Williams College, the School for International Training, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He is well-versed in Ecuadorian and U.S. cultures.

Dr. Aulestia and his staff maintain offices in downtown Quito and are available to assist students with both academic and personal needs.

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION

Applicants must be university students in good academic standing, with sophomore status or above, and an overall B average. Applicants must have completed at least two years of college level Spanish (Duke Spanish 76) or have achieved the equivalent proficiency in Spanish. A strong interest in Latin America is highly recommended.

An online application, transcript, purpose statement, and two letters of recommendation are required for admissions considerations. To apply, please click on "MyGlobalEd" on the program website.

Fall application deadline: March 1

Spring application deadline: October 1