Message from the Director

When thinking about BCA Quito, it is best to think about it as a journey ... a journey to the middle of the world. Ecuador, as its name suggests, is situated on the equator. Although only the size of Oregon, one will be hard-pressed to find a more diverse country anywhere in the world. The bulk of your journey will be among the marvelous Andes mountains, highlighted by numerous snow-capped volcanoes.

You will study in one of the country’s premier universities, the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, which offers a wide range of courses similar to those of U.S. universities. You will be communicating in Quiteñan Spanish, meaning that you will learn numerous Quichua words, which are part of the daily vernacular. While most of the people you see around you are mestizos (a mix of Spanish and indigenous descent), you will recognize significant human diversity, including varied indigenous cultures, Anglos, Afro-Ecuatorianos, Asians and Arabs.

Everywhere you go you will encounter different cultures, socio-economic situations, traditions and foods. A significant part of the journey is your effort to understand the complexity of the country, city and school where you study. As you travel, whether to other parts of the country, or just on your daily commute to school, you will witness human challenges that most of us normally take for granted. Poverty, segregation and political instability are the norm. It is very likely that you will become frustrated with the unfair distribution of wealth, and this will be complicated even more when you realize that many of your classmates are children of the extreme upper class. It is also likely that you will begin to see your own country in a different light, as you learn about its effect on small developing nations like Ecuador.

Your journey will be a true exploration of our new global society and hopefully your inauguration as a global citizen.

Sincerely,
Daniel Bryan
Resident Director, BCA Ecuador

As a Peace Corps volunteer, Resident Director Daniel Bryan developed educational initiatives in South Quito, home to the city’s most marginal neighborhoods. He founded Quito Eterno, an internationally renowned cultural education program, and later developed the Mestizo Theatre of Quito with the Bolivar Theatre Foundation. Daniel specializes in Theatre for Social Change and Popular Education, teaching at the university level and conducting workshops in both the U.S. and Ecuador.
Local to Global: Connecting to Ideas that Matter

Since 1962, BCA Study Abroad has been committed to helping students understand the complexities of the contemporary world by providing challenging academic programs and cross-cultural learning in locations around the globe.

From this start, BCA focused its educational mission on engaging students with ideas that matter.

As educators, we are convinced that no genuine understanding of global issues can be gained without a strong intellectual grounding in the histories, societies and cultures of the region in which our students pursue their studies. Furthermore, we believe that student learning depends heavily on meaningful direct contact with local people whose lives are entwined with and affected by the issues we aim to understand.

By design, a significant component of BCA’s study abroad programs, both through traditional classroom education and in-field learning, is grasping the historical, social and cultural context of the big questions of the human condition.

Through this model, BCA strives to convey a more comprehensive and precise understanding of the world to the students who participate in our programs.

FIELD LEARNING

Working in second and third grade Spanish and English classes at Colegio Becquerel, Andrea Gibble (Juniata College) first observed educators teaching in English and then applied her observations and language skills in teaching Spanish. To guide her observations, she wrote weekly reflections in collaboration with the Colegio’s faculty, connecting her academic studies with immediate, real-world application.
Each semester, BCA Quito students spend a few days in the Upper Amazon at the Yachana Foundation, which serves the indigenous population in the region. Here students are enjoying an afternoon with local high school students in a mini-Olympics sporting event.
About the Program

Our multifaceted Quito program is a rich combination of challenging university academics, once-in-a-lifetime educational excursions and individualized learning opportunities. Few programs in the world can offer the diversity of experience that BCA Quito does. Each and every semester students have the opportunity to study and experience firsthand the most important themes of our time: social justice through the lenses of human rights, poverty, labor issues, public health, education, environmental sustainability, biodiversity, cultural identity and democratization.
UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO

BCA’s host institution, The University of San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), is one of the best in all of Latin America. With hundreds of available courses and abundant resources, students couldn’t find a better option in Ecuador.

While most of the professors are Ecuadorian, instructors come from all over the world including the United States, Europe, Asia and other countries in Latin America. Nearly 90 percent of the faculty have doctorate degrees and have studied and/or worked outside of Ecuador. As a BCA student, you will take Spanish language classes as well as regular university courses with Ecuadorian students. USFQ offers a variety of courses in many academic disciplines.
Student Learning

If a college professor were to dream up the perfect site for studying the most serious issues confronting our world, one couldn’t do better than imagine the country of Ecuador. Few places provide such a rich array of experiences.

By examining the indigenous and Spanish roots of the local population, combined with the small Afro-Ecuadorian and ever-growing immigrant population, students simply cannot avoid the richness and conflicts associated with living in a multicultural society, not to mention one that has engaged in a controversial movement toward social inclusion.

Each experience is powerful and personal, and when combined with USFQ’s excellent diversity of courses, students begin to make connections between what they learn in class, what they observe in daily life and what impacts them on a personal level. BCA Quito encourages students to think of these experiences as a whole, forming a personal world vision.

Recommended Courses

This is just a sampling of the rich array of courses offered at the University. To view more courses, visit our website at www.BCAstudyabroad.org.

EPE 321: Advanced Conversation (3 credits)

In this course, students must reach the highest level of fluency and comprehension. They must be able to speak fluently and naturally on diverse topics, observing rules of grammatical and syntactical coherence, and using a wide variety of vocabulary and expressions. The classes are actually debates and presentations on everyday topics of economic, social and political aspects. Movies, documentaries and texts of appropriate level are used selectively.

EAI 322: Language and Cinema (3 credits)

This course is designed for students who have obtained an upper intermediate or advanced placement status in the Spanish as a Second Language test. Through the study of South American cinema, the course aims to:

• develop students’ ability to communicate and increase listening comprehension through the discussion of different topics covered in the films.
• help students express themselves with greater accuracy and fluency through the acquisition of vocabulary and expressions drawn from films and discussed topics.
• encourage confidence in students’ ability to speak and understand Spanish.
• establish an atmosphere of dialogue and respect for different views expressed in the class.

Recommended Reading

While reading these books is not a program requirement, we recommend you read one from each category as part of your preparation.

History and Culture

• The Ecuador Reader: History, Culture and Politics edited by Carlos de la Torre
• Portrait of a Nation: Culture and Progress in Ecuador by Osvaldo Hurtado
• Huasipungo (called “The Villagers” in English) or El Chulla Romero y Flores by Jorge Icaza (novels)

Social and Economic Justice

• The Native Leisure Class: Consumption and Cultural Creativity in the Andes by Rudi Colleredo-Mansfield
• Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet by Jeffrey Sachs
• Hot, Flat and Crowded by Thomas Friedman

Environmental Sustainability and Other Issues of Biodiversity

• The World Without Us by Alan Wiseman
• The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv
• Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability and Peace by Vandana Shiva

Personal World Vision and Varied Themes

• Ishmael by Daniel Quinn
• Pathways to Bliss: Mythology and Personal Transformation by Joseph Campbell
• Pedagogy of the Oppressed (Education)
• The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal by Jared Diamond (Evolution)

Recommended for after your arrival in Ecuador

• Los Mestizos Ecuatorianos by Mauela Espinosa Apolo
• Señas Particulares by Jorge Enrique Adoum
• Ecuador: Identidad o Esquizofrenia by Miguel Donoso Pareja

BCA Study Abroad • Quito, Ecuador
CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY

The FEVI Foundation organizes several projects, including a daycare, afterschool program and a soup kitchen. As a volunteer at the afterschool program, Jessica Kissel from Brown University volunteered each week, helping children with their homework and organizing lots of activities to keep them busy such as tag, dance and origami.

“It’s a poor community and the school doesn’t have many resources; it was a good opportunity to see a different environment since USFQ is a very wealthy university. Also, the kids are great! They are always excited to see the volunteers.”

Jessica Kissel, Brown University
BCA Signature Courses

BCA’s Signature Courses focus student learning on intellectual development, cross-cultural awareness and trans-disciplinary study, both through traditional classroom learning and in-field experience. Much of this learning depends heavily on meaningful direct contact with local people whose lives are entwined with and affected by the issues we explore.

Required Courses

Ecuador: Language and Culture (4 credits, Fall Semester)

This course combines Spanish language acquisition with a survey of Ecuadorian society and culture. Language instructors reflect on the content of each culture session in the following Spanish class, engaging students in dialogue about the material. Cultural site visits to an anthropology museum, art museum and indigenous ruins are organized outside regular class hours and include guided tours in Spanish.

Throughout the semester, the BCA Director leads bimonthly, small-group sessions to more fully examine specific cultural topics.

Topics Covered in the Culture Component:
- Introduction to Ecuador: Physical, Geography, Ethnology, Economic and Political Geography, Social Situation of Ecuador
- History of Ecuador
- Economic History of Ecuador
- Indigenous Cultures and Cosmovision
- Indigenous Political Movements
- Gender Issues
- Minorities and Power Structures
- The Current Political Situation
- Ecuador-US Relations and Ecuador’s Place in a Globalized World
- Issues of Identity
- Environmental Justice

Ecuador: Culture and Justice (1 credit, Spring Semester)

This seminar-style survey class uses small-group sessions to explore social justice through the lens of Ecuadorian culture. Each student chooses his or her topics of interest, attends numerous sessions throughout the semester and presents a creative-reflective project at the end. Our varied themes include:

- History’s Effect on Present: Cultural Identity in Ecuador; Preserving Cultural Heritage; Mestizaje
- Indigenous Issues: Andean Spirituality; Indigenous Politics and Revolution; Comoditizing Culture Politics and Economy; The People’s Revolution in Ecuador; Ecuador-U.S. Relations; World Food Crises and the Developing World; Minority Politics; Transitional Economies
- Globalization: International Conflict (Ecuador and Latin America Focus); Big Business in Ecuador
- Modernization versus Traditional Practices
- Environmental: Oil and the Amazon; Water Politics in Ecuador; Destruction of the Environment as a Response to Poverty
- Culture: Ecuadorian Gastronomy; Artistic Expression

EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING AND INTERNSHIPS:

Since BCA believes that students can learn both in and beyond the classroom, our Quito staff has established dozens of partnerships with NGO’s and governmental institutions to ensure professional volunteer and internship experiences that complement academic study.

- Fundación Tierra Nueva
  Public Health and Education
  www.fundaciontierranueva.org.ec
- Fundación Quito Eterno
  Cultural Education and Arts
  www.quitoeterno.org
- Fundación Azúcar
  Afro-Ecuadorian cultural organization
  www.azucarafroe.com
- Clínica La Primavera
  Medical clinic with specialty in water-births
  www.clinicalaprimavera.org
- Rehabilitation Center Virgilio Guerrero
  www.tercarioscapuchinosecuador.org/virgilio.htm
- Fundación ABEI
  Work with patients both young and geriatric who have special needs or incurable diseases
  http://www.fundacionabei.org/
- Fundación Yachana
  Amazon Education organization
  www.yachana.org.ec
One of BCA Quito’s founding principles is using local resources to support the economic base of the community and to protect the natural environment. Students learn that even small actions such as hiring local guides and using privately-owned businesses or buying locally-produced food and materials have a large impact on the community in which they are living.
Living in Quito

The capital of Ecuador, Quito lies at 9,000 feet above sea level in a high valley at the base of Mount Pichincha. With a climate referred to as “eternal spring,” Quito is a city of sun and sky, surrounded by mountains and three snow-capped volcanoes.

Life in Quito offers a mix of Spanish and indigenous traditions with modern international influences, providing a rich and multifaceted backdrop for the study of historical Ecuador. Although Quito is an ever-growing city, currently with 2 million people, its neighborhoods retain their small city atmosphere. As one of the most cultural cities in the world, Quito has plenty to offer, including a beautiful historical center, dozens of museums, a theater, symphonic concerts, multi-screen movie centers, state-of-the-art shopping centers, numerous parks and recreation centers, and food of all kinds.

Quito is also a city of contrasts, a product of numerous cultural influences and stratified economic conditions. Students will witness such diversity through the disparity between colonial and modern architecture and rich and poor neighborhoods.

Your Home at the Middle of the World

Your journey will be based in family life, as you will live with an Ecuadorian family during your stay. While it may seem odd at first to go from dorm life back to living at home, the journey wouldn’t be the same without it. After all, family life is a critical part of the Latin American experience, and you wouldn’t want it any other way. Whether it is life with your Ecua-family, the great cultural opportunities all around you, volunteering in the community, or just hanging out with Ecuadorian classmates, Quito quickly becomes “home.” And just as you felt after leaving your home in the U.S. for the first time, you will feel homesick after leaving Ecuador.

Local Transportation

In Quito, public transportation is inexpensive and reliable. Passes are not available, so you’ll pay the fare with coins each time you ride the bus. At night, students are advised to take taxis and travel in groups whenever possible.

Sports Facilities

Students have access to the numerous sports activities at the university, including soccer, fencing, mountain climbing, hiking, yoga, basketball, volleyball, track, and tai chi. You may also take advantage of the public parks that are open for jogging, basketball, soccer and ultimate frisbee. There are many gyms throughout the city and students can easily become members.

EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Your journey to the “land closest to the sun” will take you to the country’s diverse geographical regions, including:

- **Galapagos Islands**: Each semester, students go to the Galapagos for a five-day excursion to observe the amazing wildlife, learn about the islands’ natural and cultural history, and meet the people who live there.
- **Amazon**: Each semester, students journey to the Amazon for four days to participate in workshops and activities with indigenous students.
- **Otavalo**: Each semester, students will visit the indigenous town of Otavalo and its wonderful market.
- **Various day trips**: Students visit sites such as the Historical Center, the cloud forest and a hike around a volcanic lake.
- **Papallacta Hot Springs** in the Andes.
Mission Statement
Rooted in the values of peace and justice, BCA Study Abroad promotes international understanding, awareness of global citizenship and academic scholarship through educational exchange.

BCA Quito Quick Facts
Dates of Study:
• Fall Semester: Late July through mid-December
• Spring Semester: Early January through late May

Application Deadlines:
• Fall Semester: April 15
• Spring Semester: October 15

Language of Instruction: Spanish. Completion of two semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent) is required.

Host University: Universidad de San Francisco de Quito
Housing: Host families

BCA Study Abroad
50 Alpha Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Phone: 1-866-222-6188
Fax: 717-361-6619
Email: inquiry@BCAstudyabroad.org

BCA's Comprehensive Fee covers:
• Tuition
• Housing
• Meals
• Excursions
• On-Site Resident Director
• Seminars and Guest Lectures
• Signature Courses

• University Services
• Academic Advising
• Cultural and University Orientation
• Intensive Language (where applicable)
• Academic Transcript
• On Call International Travel Assistance

BCA Study Abroad Programs: 2012-2013
Austria: Vienna
Belgium: Brussels
China: Dalian, Shanghai
Ecuador: Quito, Upper Amazon
England: Cheltenham
Germany: Marburg
Greece: Athens
India: Chennai
Ireland: Dublin/Derry
Italy: Rome
Japan: Sapporo
Mexico: Xalapa
Morocco: Tetouan
Netherlands: The Hague
New Zealand: Dunedin
Palestine: Birzeit
Spain: Valladolid, Barcelona

www.BCAstudyabroad.org