

NKU Academic Exchange in Quito, Ecuador



<https://www.cia.gov>

Spend a semester or academic year studying at
The University of San Francisco
in Quito!

A brief introduction...



Office of Education Abroad
(859) 572-6908

NKU Academic Exchanges

The Office of Education Abroad offers academic exchanges as a study abroad option for independent and mature NKU students interested in a semester or year-long immersion experience in another country. The information in this packet is meant to provide an overview of the experience available through an academic exchange in Quito, Ecuador. However, please keep in mind that this information, especially those regarding visa requirements, is subject to change. It is the responsibility of each NKU student participating in an exchange to take the initiative in the pre-departure process with regards to visa application, application to the exchange university, air travel arrangements, housing arrangements, and pre-approval of courses. Before and after departure for an academic exchange, the Office of Education Abroad will remain a resource and guide for participating exchange students.

Ecuador

Ecuador, the smallest country in the South American highlands, is an unforgettable destination with a mix of Spanish and pre-Colombian culture set in a landscape consisting of rainforests, volcanoes, and mountain ranges. Due to its high elevation and close proximity to the equator the country has two distinct seasons, the dry season (June to September) and the rainy season (October to May). Due to its location, Ecuador has become a prime location for commercial and cultural exchanges. The oil business has carried Ecuador's economy into the 21st century, however the vast amount of their income still comes from agriculture and tourism.

Quito

High in the Andes Mountains, Quito is the center for cultural and political activity in Ecuador. The city is nestled in a picturesque valley on the banks of the Machangara River and serves as the center for Ecuadorian government. Home to over a million people, the city is full of museums, festivals, and history as well as a maze of cathedrals, colonial mansions, and cobblestone streets. Short day trips from the city can be made for everything from extreme sports to archeological tours.

The University of San Francisco in Quito

Located in Cumbayá, a suburb of Quito, which is roughly 20 minutes by bus from the center of the city, the USFQ is a private, liberal arts campus. The university is home to just over 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students with approximately 1,000 international students in attendance every year. Academically, the university ranks as one of the eleven top universities in the most recent published rankings of Ecuadorian universities. It is the only university in the world that owns a campus on the Galapagos Islands and a campus on the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve, one of Earth's most bio-diverse areas. Take note that the university does not offer courses taught in English, and all curriculum is taught in Spanish.

Housing

Host families are chosen for participants based on mutual interests. Students will be asked to fill out home stay questionnaires prior to departure to indicate preferences and other special needs. Also, students who chose to stay for an entire academic year have the option to live independently after the first term.

Transportation

The Aeropuerto Internacional Mariscal Sucre is located approximately 5 miles from Quito's center and is the main and best way to get into the city. Students will need to commute on public transportation from their home stay to the university. Public buses are inexpensive, approximately 25 cents (USD) for a single ride. Bike rentals are also available.

Visas and Health Insurance

Student visas require a valid passport with a validity of no less than 6 months after the date of exit from the United States, a police record check, a negative AIDS test, proof of sufficient funds from your bank, 2 Passport photos, proof of registration in an Ecuadorian institute or university, yellow fever vaccine slip, and \$130 fee.

Useful Links

CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov>

U.S. Department of State information: <http://travel.state.gov/>

General Living Expenses

The University of San Francisco in Quito, Ecuador

Semester Estimated Expenses

Please use the following budget only as a general guide for expenses for one semester. Also note that expenses are estimated and subject to fluctuate according to currency rates* and general economic inflation.

Tuition	\$4236	(undergraduate, in-state tuition, 12-16 hours)
Passport and Visa	\$247	
Administrative Fee	\$200	
Housing Fee	\$100	
Room and Board	\$2,167	
Round-trip Airfare	\$1,200	
Local transportation	\$150	
Health insurance	\$185	
Personal spending	<u>\$1,500</u>	
Total	\$9,685	

*July 2014 currency rate: 1 US Dollar = 1 US Dollar (Ecuador uses the USD)