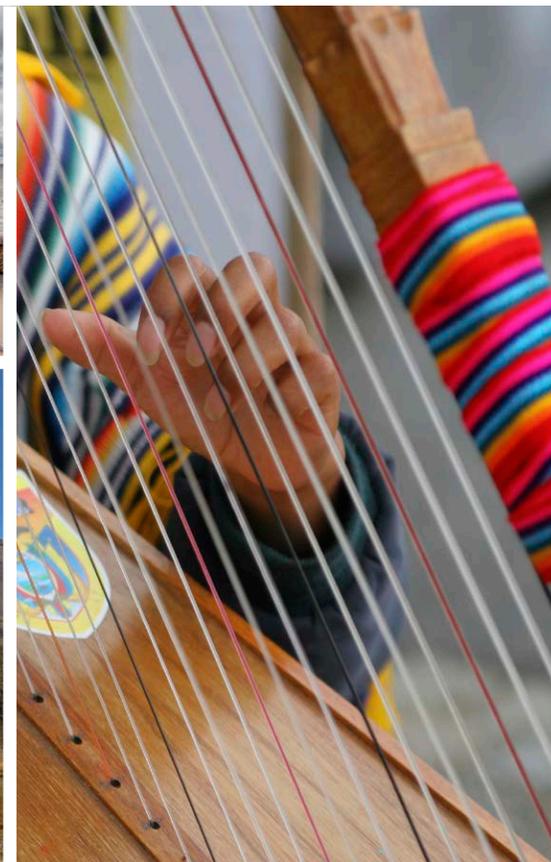




Ecuador: Unequaled



Push your limits—learn Spanish as a high school exchange student in one of the world's most beautiful countries!

Semester and full-year programs available: pax.org/us-students

CULTURE

Picture This!

República del Ecuador ("Republic of the Equator") enjoys a rich past and unequalled biodiversity.

With a history that dates back thousands of years to indigenous civilizations, Ecuador later spent centuries fighting for its independence from Spain and struggled over land with Gran Colombia and Peru.

Ecuador is a bit smaller than the state of Nevada but boasts a variety of terrain: Amazonian jungles, coastal regions, Andean highlands, and the Galápagos Islands.



FUN FACTS

Did You Know?

Thanks to its equatorial positioning, Ecuador's days and nights are each 12 hours long, 365 days a year.

Hablas español? Speaking Spanish here is a must, and depending on where your host family lives, you'll get accustomed to a specific variant, which may include regional idioms.

One of 17 megadiverse countries, Ecuador is the world's most biodiverse per square kilometer. The Galápagos Islands alone are home to a large number of endemic species, including the largest living tortoise species, found on seven of the islands.

On a clear day, you can see the summit of Chimborazo from 85 miles away. This inactive volcano is the point on the planet's surface that is farthest from the Earth's center.

FAMILY **Live it Up** LIFE

You'll find that daily life here moves along at a slower pace with a strong focus on family. The day usually starts early for students, businesses, and homemakers alike. People of all classes work hard to provide for their families and care for their communities, and everyone—even you—can contribute!

Lunch time is especially important, and most families eat together if possible, even coming home from work to spend time together for the meal. Fish, beans, and plantains are popular on the coast while mountain dwellers have more meat, potatoes, and rice.



SCHOOL **Keep Learning**

The Ecuadorian school year differs from that in the U.S. and can even differ from region to region! Depending on where you're hosted, the school year will likely begin in early September and run through late June or July. The school day typically runs from 7:15 a.m. to 2:15 p. m.

The Ministry of Education has been promoting a shift to bilingual (Spanish-English) education. Schools engaged in this effort teach nearly half of all subjects in English. In addition, a recent emphasis on technology may mean you'll be given a tablet to aid in your studies. And while there's a strong sense of discipline in schools, don't hesitate to approach teachers if you need guidance—they want you to succeed!

Stick around after classes to experience extracurricular opportunities, including sports, and a variety of clubs such as art and theatre.

ALL THE FACTS

A Closer Look

Dates and Costs

- Duration:
 - 10 months (academic year)
 - 5 months (semester)
- Start dates:
 - August
 - January (spring semester)
- Cost:
 - \$8,500 (academic year)
 - \$7,000 (semester)

Terms of Participation

- Between the ages of 15 and 18
- Currently enrolled in a U.S. high school
- GPA of C+ or better
- Two years of Spanish recommended

Application Deadline

- April 1: fall semester or academic year
- September 1: spring semester

Apply Now to become a high school exchange student in Ecuador or one of our other exciting program countries! Everything you need can be found at pax.org/us-students. Questions? Call us at **800.555.6211**.

What's Included?

- Student selection interview
- Guidance through visa process
- Selection and preparation of host family
- High school enrollment
- U.S. pre-departure orientation
- Medical insurance
- Local support and progress reports
- 24-hour emergency support

What's Not Included?

- International and local airfare
- Visa application fees
- School fees (textbooks, lunch, etc.)
- Personal expenses, souvenirs, incidentals
- Transportation to and from school
- Phone cards or cell phone

How Does It Work?

- Visit pax.org/us-students for details on compiling application packet
- After application materials received and reviewed, student interview arranged
- Application packet sent abroad for final acceptance by partner organization
- Student matched with host family and school
- Student guided through visa process
- Details of exact host family, school, and community shared with student
- Correspondence between student and host family begins
- Pre-departure orientation session in the U.S.

