

Ecuador & Peru: Quick Facts

Academics

- *Admissions Requirements*
 - 2.5 minimum GPA
 - Sophomore status +
- *Program Academics*
 - Placement test upon arrival
 - Refer to “Academic Information” form for pre-approved courses.
 - Fulfills “S” course requirement. If dates of attendance run through May, may fulfill “S” course *spring term* requirement. Students must verify with Registrar upon publication of program dates.
 - Alma College allows pass/fail for a course provided it meets guidelines published in the Academic Catalog. Refer to the Pass/Fail Option form (provided with Step 4) for complete instructions. Pass/fail must be requested within nine weeks after the class begins.
 - Incomplete grades must be replaced by letter grades within six weeks from being recorded on the Alma transcript, or they convert to “E”. Contact the Registrar for assistance when you have received and Incomplete grade.

Housing

- Host families less than 20 minute bus ride from school.
- Refunds are not given for meals not taken
- Ecuador:
 - Breakfast & dinner provided by family, lunches are student’s responsibility
- Peru:
 - Three meals per day provided by family
 - Dinner is usually a light snack, such as crackers and tea.

Combined Programs

- Students attending a minimum of two months in South America have the option to split their studies between Ecuador and Peru.
- Alma will provide a Travel Options document to students outlining different travel options.
- Most students prefer to begin their studies in Ecuador, as the arrival logistics are less complicated.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What travel documents do I need to go to Ecuador/Peru?*

- A passport is required and must be valid at least 180 days beyond the last date of the program.
- Ecuador:
 - A visa is required to remain in the country beyond 90 days. An application will be in the acceptance packet if the dates of the program extend past 90 days.
 - The on-site Director should be contacted prior to travel outside Ecuador if a single entry visa has been issued. The staff on-site can answer any visa questions that arise.
- Peru:
 - A visa is required for travel to Peru. An application and instructions will be included in the acceptance packet.
 - The on-site Director should be contacted prior to any travel outside Peru if a single entry visa has been issued. The staff on-site can answer any visa questions that arise.

2. *Can I use my cell phone in Ecuador and/or Peru?*

- Using a U.S. cell phone abroad to make local and/or international calls can be very costly. Check with your service provider for details.
- One option is purchasing phone cards once you arrive in South America. It is not recommended to purchase international calling cards while in the United States because they often will not function once you are abroad.
- Another option is purchasing/renting a mobile phone from a vendor upon arrival in South America. Phones that do not come with plans but instead are on a pay-as-you-go basis are recommended, as the stay is temporary.
- PicCell Wireless and other such companies allow students to rent a phone with a global SIM card and charger appropriate for Ecuador and/or Peru.
- The cheapest option is to set up Skype or QQ, a free internet-based calling service. Look online for details.

3. *Will I have internet access at the school? Should I bring my laptop?*

- Ecuador:
 - The *Academia* provides limited internet and e-mail access. It is recommended that students bring a laptop.
 - There is an Internet café close to the school that costs less than \$1 per hour of use. Students can use their own laptops at most internet cafes.
- Peru:
 - A mandatory final presentation requires computer access. There is only one laptop at the *Academia*. For this reason, it is recommended to bring your own laptop, though its safety is your personal responsibility.
 - The *Academia* has wireless internet available for student use.
 - There may be inexpensive or free internet access at a local Internet Café near the school. An hour of use will typically cost less than \$1.

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4. *What kinds of public transportation options will I have?*
- Public transportation is very inexpensive. Valuables should not be brought on public buses.
 - Both Quito and Cusco have extensive public bus systems.
 - Taxi fares are inexpensive when compared to those in the United States, but exact fare should be agreed upon before riding. Tariff for a city taxi varies from \$1.00- \$4.00. The cost may double at night; however, there are no additional charges for extra passengers.
 - Taxi drivers are required by law to use meters. If a driver states that a meter is not working, agree to a fare beforehand, or do not ride in the taxi.
5. *Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process or general questions about the Ecuador or Peru Programs?*
- Your first point of contact should be the official Academia Latinoamericana website (www.latinoschool.com).
 - If your questions aren't answered by thoroughly checking the website, you can e-mail the Academia at info@latinoschools.ec
 - Off-Campus Studies staff are always available to help answer your questions.