

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.
 - Fall, Winter, and Summer Terms fulfill “S” course requirement. If dates of attendance run through May, this may fulfill “S” course *spring term* requirement. Students must verify with Registrar upon publication of program dates.

Housing

- Housing options include homestay with meals and student residence with or without meals.
 - Most host families are less than a 20-minute bus ride from school. For most host family placements, the host family provides two meals a day and lunch is the student’s responsibility. Refunds are not given for meals not taken. In Peru, dinner is usually a light meal.
- Student residence housing fills quickly.

Program Options

- Students attending a minimum of eight weeks with the Academia have the option to take a one-week break from school following the end of a four-week course. The housing fee for an extra week is added to the program cost if this option is chosen. Precise program dates including breaks will be determined once a student receives approval to study off campus.
- A popular option for this school is for students to split studies between Ecuador and Peru. Students attend one site in four-week increments; a split can only occur if attending for a minimum of eight weeks. This split needs to be in consultation with Modern Languages for academic planning purposes.
- Alma College can provide a document that outlines travel options for a split program; students are strongly encouraged to contact a travel agent for advice.
- For split programs, 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 and Peru:
 - Once accepted to the program, the program will provide immigration information but ultimately the student is responsible for determining what immigration documents are required to legally enter and remain in the country to study abroad.
 - The on-site Program Director should be contacted prior to traveling throughout the country. The staff on-site can answer immigration/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 another free internet-based calling service. Look online for details.

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

- The *Academia* provides wireless access at no charge; it is recommended that students bring a laptop.
- Email/Internet Service is available for a small fee.
- There are reasonable priced Internet cafés close to the school and through the city. Students can use their own laptops at most internet cafes.
- In Peru, a mandatory final presentation requires computer access. There are limited computers at the *Academia*; for this reason it is recommended to bring your own laptop, though its safety at any location is your personal responsibility

4. *What kinds of public transportation options will I have?*

- Both Quito and Cusco have extensive public bus systems.
- Public transportation is very inexpensive. Valuables should not be brought on public buses.
- 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- \$5.00. 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 are not answered by thoroughly checking the website, you can e-mail the *Academia* staff. For the Ecuador school, contact patty@latinoschools.com; for the Peru program contact sandra@latinoschools.com.
- Off-Campus Studies staff are always available to help answer your questions.