

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 Modern Languages for assistance when you have received an Incomplete grade.

Housing

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

Program Options

- Students attending a minimum of two months in South America have the option to take a one week break between months. Precise program dates including breaks will be determined once a student has been approved 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 two months. 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.

(Continued on next pg.)

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, students receive website and contact information for the U.S. State Department, Consulate General of Ecuador, and the Academia Latinoamericana.
 - 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 travel 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 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. 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.