



Minnesota Studies in  
International Development

# ECUADOR



Fall Semester  
Spring Semester  
Optional Language Pre-Session

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



### TERM

Fall Semester  
Spring Semester  
Optional Language  
Pre-Session



### LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Spanish



### HOST INSTITUTION

Fundación Cimas  
del Ecuador



### HOUSING

Homestay



### ELIGIBILITY

2.5 GPA  
Juniors and seniors  
Minimum four  
semesters college-  
level Spanish



### WEBSITE

[UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/  
americas/msid-ecuador](http://UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/msid-ecuador)



### About MSID Ecuador

Study international development in Ecuador—a country that blends indigenous and Spanish colonial cultures—while improving your Spanish language skills. Broaden your experience through an internship or research project and explore vital issues related to the environment, globalization, public health, and social justice.

### Housing & Meals

Live with a host family during both the classroom phase and the internship/research phase.

A homestay is an integral component of the learning experience and often a highlight for participants. Your family provides not only housing and most meals but is also an important connection to Ecuadorian culture.

### Excursions

Although excursions may change from semester to semester, you can expect to participate in a city tour of Quito as well as several multi-day academic excursions to various regions within Ecuador.

### Learning Outcomes

- Foster an understanding of the global context through classroom and experiential learning
- Cultivate awareness and appreciation for development issues through engagement with diverse communities
- Translate insights gained into enriched perspectives on concepts of social justice and sustainable development
- Strengthen communication skills through acquisition of local languages and cultural awareness
- Gain cross-cultural competencies through extended engagement at a local grassroots organization

Ecuador

Quito



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LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# MSID Ecuador

## COURSEWORK

Delve into hands-on learning in Ecuador. Spend seven weeks engaged in coursework in Quito, followed by six weeks working as an intern or conducting a research project. The semester wraps up with a one-week capstone seminar.

## Intensive Language Pre-Session

An optional four-credit intensive Spanish language course is offered approximately one month prior to the start of each semester.

## Semester Curriculum

Undergraduate credits: 16

Courses:

- *International Development: Critical Perspectives on Theory and Practice*
- *MSID Country Analysis*
- *Spanish Grammar and Writing Workshop or Introduction to Latin American Cultures*
- *Community Engagement in Ecuador*

Select a track that focuses on an area of development and prepares you for your internship/research project. Available tracks include:

- *Arts and Cultural Studies*

- *Education and Literacy*
- *Entrepreneurship and Alternative Economies*
- *Public Health*
- *Social Services*
- *Sustainability and the Environment*

## INTERNSHIPS

An internship with a development agency provides an unparalleled opportunity to understand the local community and the host agency's approach to development. See firsthand how the theory learned during the classroom phase plays out in reality.

## RESEARCH

Students may select a research project at a development agency instead of an internship. Topics are designed in consultation with the agency and finalized after your arrival.

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

Most financial aid may be applied to study abroad. In addition, University of Minnesota students are eligible for \$1.5 million in University of Minnesota study abroad scholarships. For more information about other financial resources, visit the Learning Abroad Center website.

## STUDY ABROAD FITS YOUR DEGREE

Study abroad credits can count toward major, minor, liberal education, and second language requirements. Contact an adviser to find out how this program fits for you.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

"I learned more in this last semester than I have in my entire educational life. I would recommend this program to any student who wants to master a new language, really understand another region of the world, and challenge themselves with new experiences."

— Kayla

## AN EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION ABROAD

Learning through experience is the core of Minnesota Studies in International Development (MSID). This program puts you in direct contact with local communities and their people in order to understand their social and economic realities. Explore the complex nature of international development and intercultural understanding through classes, field study, internships, and research. Students from a variety of disciplines—the social sciences, Latin American studies, agriculture, forestry, environmental studies, business, education, public health, health sciences, and many others—will find MSID academically challenging and personally enriching.

