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**ECUADOR PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK
KALAMAZOO COLLEGE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
2008-2009**

INTRODUCTION TO THE ECUADOR PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK

This guidebook is a collection of suggestions and comments from students who have been to Ecuador in the past through Kalamazoo's study abroad program. The staff of the Center for International Programs has also provided additional program information, as has the staff from our university partner, Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ). The guidebook is intended to answer many practical questions as well as provide an introduction to Quito and the Universidad.

All information in the guidebook was accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. We recognize that there might be some changes in the program made on site and encourage you to use this guidebook accordingly. When you return from your study abroad experience in Ecuador, you will have an opportunity to help the staff of the Center revise and update this guide for the following year's participants.

Ultimately no written materials or any other resource can fully prepare you for what lies ahead of you during your study abroad in Ecuador. The best preparation is to commit yourself to keeping an open mind, remaining flexible, and being patient with yourself and others as you undertake your experience and adjust to your new environment.

The staff of the Center for International Programs appreciates the assistance of former participants and the staff of the Office of International Programs at Universidad San Francisco de Quito for their assistance with this guide.

This document represents the most accurate information available at the time of publication. Statements contained herein are not contractual obligations, and verbal or other representations that are inconsistent with or not contained within the document are not binding. Kalamazoo College reserves the right to change without specific notice programs and the conditions under which they are offered. Please refer to the Kalamazoo College catalogue for complete details.

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INTRODUCTION TO ECUADOR AND QUITO

You will soon travel to one of the most diverse areas in the world. About 70% of the national population refers to itself as *mestizo*, or people of racially mixed heritage, and about 10% of the population is made up of people of primarily Spanish descent. Ecuador's ethnic composition is a rich mixture of indigenous peoples, *mestizos*, whites, blacks, and immigrants from all over the world. The variety of climates, natural resources, and cultures that will surround you during your study abroad experience in Ecuador is breathtaking.

Ecuador can be divided into four distinct regions, three of which run north to south: the coastal zone, the *Sierra*, the habitable valleys that lie between the twin *cordilleras* of the *Andes* mountains and the *Oriente* or rain forest zone. The fourth and perhaps most famous region is the *Galápagos* Islands, located some 600 miles from the coast. A number of Afro-Ecuadorians live in the coastal region, some of whom are descendants of African slaves who were brought to Ecuador in the 18th century to work on the sugar plantations. In the *Oriente*, the culture of the indigenous peoples shows less Spanish influence. They speak a variety of dialects and also exhibit very different patterns of community formation from people living outside of the rain forest.

Your home will be in Quito, the cosmopolitan capital and second largest city in Ecuador (the first being Guayaquil, located on the coast). Located in the *Sierra*, surrounded by mountains and volcanoes, Quito is a beautiful city of approximately two million inhabitants. The colonial *centro* of the city is surrounded by different *barrios* comprised of people from various socioeconomic classes and ethnic groups. In that sense, the city is a microcosm of the larger Ecuadorian society. Quito is a very large city with the population, traffic, activity, and noise you'd expect from a metropolitan area in the United States. Buses, taxis, small trucks, and cars abound in this bustling, dynamic capital.

In Quito you'll find a myriad of educational, cultural, and social activities—theatres, films, art galleries, bars, discos, museums, shops and cafes. Many students and other young people commonly meet on *Avenida Amazonas*, the main commercial street in Quito, and on *Avenida González Suárez*. Nightclubs are located all over the city but are concentrated in the *Mariscal* area, which also has an abundance of Internet cafes. You'll also want to visit *pueblos* outside of the city where you'll find the largest concentration of *Quichua* speakers. One such village, *Otavaló*, is the home of Ecuador's most famous market place, a favorite among Ecuadorians and international visitors alike.

Kalamazoo's study abroad university partner in Quito is the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, a private university located in Cumbayá, a community in the valley below downtown Quito. Tania Ledergerber is Kalamazoo's Resident Director.

PROGRAM CALENDAR 2008-2009

Arrival in Quito	Saturday August 16, 2008
Intensive Spanish course	Monday August 18 – Friday August 22, 2008
Int'l Student Orientation	Monday August 25, 2008
End of Ecology & Liberal Arts	Sunday February 15, 2009
End of Extended Term	Sunday May 17, 2009

All program dates depend entirely upon the program and academic schedule of Universidad San Francisco de Quito and may change on site. Please consult the Resident Director once you are on site before making any travel or guest arrangements according to these calendars.

PREDEPARTURE PREPARATION

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

It is necessary to have a valid passport and visa for your entire stay in Ecuador. You must have both of these documents to board your international flight. You will receive these documents from the Ecuadorian Consulate when they have been processed. Soon after you arrive in Quito, you must apply for a *censo*, or national identification card. Tania and local staff will assist you with this process. You will need to give three passport-size photographs and the visa papers you received from the Consulate of Ecuador to Tania during the orientation program at USFQ. We will return any remaining passport photos you submitted after completing your visa and USFQ credentials. You will need three for the *censo* and one for your USFQ identification card. You can take these with you or have them made fairly easily and cheaply in Quito.

You will need to retain a photocopy of your passport, so be sure to take a couple of copies of this important document with you. It's a good idea to leave a copy of it with your family in the United States, too. You should carry a copy of your passport with you at all times. Carry your actual passport with you only when you need to change money or are traveling outside of the city/country.

The *censo* is a very important document that you must surrender to the Ecuadorian national police upon departure, so please take care not to lose it. If you do lose the card, you will need to purchase a new card at your own expense. The study abroad program does not cover the cost of a second card. If you lose the *censo*, see Tania immediately for instructions on replacing the card. You will also have to provide new passport-size photos at your own expense.

SECURITY MEASURES

The heightened security measures require more time to properly screen travelers. You should contact your airline to find out how early you need to arrive at the airport. You should also double check luggage and carry-on restrictions when you re-confirm your flight. All electronic items, such as laptops and cell phones, may be subjected to additional screening. If you bring a laptop, be prepared to remove it from its travel case so that both can be X-rayed separately. For further information on security measures, see the Federal Aviation Administration website at www.faa.gov

FLIGHT CONNECTIONS

Please take care not to miss your flight connections. Security procedures for international flights have increased significantly in recent years and you must present yourself at the gate a minimum of two hours before departure or you risk not being permitted to board. Should you miss a connection, please note that an airline representative at the airport must reroute you—Carlson Wagonlit cannot assist you, nor can the Center. If your arrival in Quito is altered, you must contact Tania Ledergerber, resident director, to indicate the change in your arrival and to receive arrival instructions. You may reach Tania by calling **011. 593. 2. 2.884.886(home) or 011.593.9.803.1408 (cellular)** from outside of Ecuador.

MONEY

Until fairly recently, the monetary unit of Ecuador was the *sucre*. Beginning in January 2000, Ecuador adopted the US dollar as its currency in an attempt to curb rampant inflation and stabilize its economy. The "dollarization" process has been carried out, and *sucre*s are no longer accepted. You will want to take some personal spending money with you to Quito for personal items, materials required for the program, transportation in the city, the occasional meal out, nightlife, personal travel, and gifts. Former participants recommend taking between \$1500 and \$4000 for the long-term program or about \$500 per month. The amount of money you should bring will depend upon how you intend to live. Past participants from the 07-8 program stated that \$1500-2000 was about the average amount needed, and they also pointed out that it would be possible to spend less than \$1500 and over \$2000, depending on lifestyle choices. Past participants recommend that you keep track of where you spend your money- little things add up quickly. Keep in mind that you may need to purchase books, too. Past participants have also

recommended bringing a lot of \$1 bills and rolls of quarters. It can be difficult to make change in Ecuador, and small bills and coins will be helpful for many things, including riding the bus.

In general, prices in Ecuador are a bit lower than in the United States, though they vary widely and can be greater for imported goods and items purchased in the city. Recent economic conditions have resulted in increased prices generally but most personal items are less expensive than in the US. Students suggest using ATMs for managing money. Some international travelers recommend taking traveler's checks rather than large sums of cash as the best form of back up in case an ATM is unavailable or not working. One past participant said: "It is smart to have a back up plan because I did run into several occasions where I was unable to use an ATM." Typically, students have used a combination of ATM, credit card and cash/traveler's checks while in Ecuador. Traveler's checks aren't especially easy to cash in Ecuador, however, so it's probably best not to plan to use them exclusively or as your main money source.

If you do choose to use traveler's checks, experience recommends that you purchase traveler's checks in small denominations such as \$20 and \$50, rather than in large, so you can change smaller amounts of money as needed. Larger bills can be hard to break in Ecuador, but the big supermarket chain in Quito, *Supermaxi*, can usually break large bills, although you may be expected to purchase something. For bus fare, former participants advise budgeting \$1 a day for local transportation and some suggest bringing a couple rolls of quarters to Ecuador. There is an American Express office in Quito where you can cash AmEx traveler's checks but most banks also cash them provided you show your passport. Credit cards are also widely used throughout Quito. It is a good idea to have photocopies of your credit cards in case they're lost or stolen. This can facilitate canceling them. Quito is a banking center for the country so you'll find banks most everywhere in the city with a wide variety of services.

You will also want to contact your bank and credit card companies BEFORE leaving for Ecuador to inform them that you'll be living in Ecuador for several months, and also to find out about any transaction fees you can expect to pay.

Banco Bolivariano has a bank office at USFQ as well as an ATM. Past participants have been able to cash traveler's checks at a *ProduBanco* across the street from USFQ. The *Plaza Cumbayá* office of *Producambio Casa Paz* in the *ProduBanco* office across the street from USFQ typically offers a special exchange rate for USFQ students. You will need to show your USFQ ID to receive the rate. Keep in mind, though, that traveler's checks can be difficult to cash, and you will also be charged a fee to do so. You'll learn more about this during orientation at USFQ. *Cirrus*, *Plus* and *Star* ATM cards can be used widely, usually with no fee. Please remember that the banking system in Ecuador is not as reliable as in the U.S., and it's best to have a back-up plan (cash or traveler's checks, for example) in case the ATM machines aren't functioning.

A money exchange house, *Producambio Casa Paz*, located on *Calle Amazonas*, will allow you to cash personal checks to certain amounts, provided you bring your checkbook, passport, and *censo*. There are many ATMs in Quito but service and reliability vary. Regardless of how much money you take or in what form, budget carefully and keep your money in a safe, locked place.

CLIMATE

You will most likely enjoy an eternal spring in Quito. Because of the altitude of close to 10,000 feet, mornings and evenings will be quite cool, however, so be sure to bring sweaters and a fleece jacket. Students are often surprised by the low temperatures in Quito, and many past participants have pointed out the importance of bringing a sweater or two, as well as the importance of dressing in layers. You can expect temperatures to rise considerably during the day. Given the altitude, Quito can be cooler than the campus in Cumbayá, which is almost 1000 ft. lower than the city. Typically, the temperature may be 45° F in the mornings and evenings and 63—67° F during the height of the day. While Ecuador experiences much less dramatic seasonal changes than Kalamazoo, there are definite periods of rainfall and brilliant sun. The rainy season in Quito lasts from the end of October through February, with a short break during

December and January. It may rain a bit every day, with the heaviest rainfall in the afternoon, so bring the appropriate gear and a strong umbrella. Field conditions vary widely.

PACKING AND LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

With the significant increase in air travelers, domestic and international air carriers are becoming more and more restrictive in the number, type, and weight of luggage permitted. Though some have not yet enforced new government guidelines, you might be limited to one carry-on and one piece of checked luggage. In the summer of 2008, many airlines will begin to charge extra for more than one piece of checked luggage, and some will charge a fee for one piece of checked luggage. You will want to check directly with your airline or with Carlson Wagonlit to determine the restrictions for your destination. Generally, each piece of checked luggage on international flights cannot weigh more than 50 pounds. The carry-on must fit under the seat in front of you or in the overhead bin. If your luggage does not meet airline requirements, you will be required to pay for excess weight. The program does not cover this expense.

Experienced international travelers pack their luggage and then remove half of the contents, reevaluate, and remove half again—do not take more than you can move or are willing to carry. You'll also want to allow some room for the personal and gift purchases you make during your program. We also recommend that you pack one change of clothes and essential items in your carry-on. Do not pack your passport, money, or valuables in your checked luggage—keep these with you at all times. Leave valuable or sentimental items such as jewelry at home.

You may be surprised by how many students at USFQ dress compared to students in the US. Jeans, sweaters, and nice t-shirts are common but usually a bit neater in appearance than you might be accustomed to in some cases. Shorts and sandals are rarely worn in Quito or at USFQ and are used primarily at the beach. First impressions are important in Ecuadorian society, so be comfortable but avoid appearing sloppy or unkempt. Remember that the temperature is likely to change throughout the day and that you won't have a residence hall room nearby for additions or substitutions—layering is a good bet. Here's a sample packing list suggested by former participants:

- jeans, light-weight pants, long shorts, black pants
- sweaters (but NOT bulky/heavy ones; buy them there instead)
- windbreaker jacket, t-shirts, pullovers
- bathrobe
- if you have big feet, tall rubber boots and other shoes you may need (large sizes are not available in Ecuador)
- skirts—slightly above the knee is generally acceptable
- one or two nice outfits for dinner out—skirt/dress or jacket/shirt/tie
- dressy shoes for going out, comfortable shoes for walking—you'll walk a lot in Quito
- umbrella, rain gear
- bathing suit
- pajamas, house shoes
- toiletries, tampons, condoms, first aid kit, sunscreen—SPF 15 minimum recommended
- over-the-counter medicines that you prefer, as well as Pepto Bismol or equivalent
- contact solutions, glasses—with a copy of the prescription
- sunglasses—necessary for the sun
- prescriptions in original containers—with a copy of the prescription
- underwear, socks
- alarm clock, flashlight, hairdryer—Ecuador uses the same electrical system as the US
- MP3 player with earphones
- ATM/credit cards, traveler's checks, copies of your passport, 4-5 passport photos
- money belt, luggage locks, batteries, Ziploc bags, bags with zippers & zippered pockets inside

- country guide to Ecuador such as The Lonely Planet Guide to Ecuador, however you should also heed the advice given to you by locals such as your host family, classmates, professors, USFQ staff, etc
- Spanish/English dictionary, personal journal, address book, photos of family/friends

BILLING

The Center for International Programs does not handle the billing for the program. As on campus, the Business Office issues your bill for study abroad. You will receive your bills for the program costs at your home address just prior to the beginning of each quarter that you are abroad just as when you are on Kalamazoo's campus.

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING CLASSES

Kalamazoo students will need to register for their spring quarter classes either before they leave campus or while they are in Quito. As soon as the faculty of the College approve the course schedule, it will be available online via the College's website, www.kzoo.edu. Please monitor the College's website regularly for this information. For more specific information about courses and registration while on-site, please email the Office of the Registrar, regist@kzoo.edu.

HOUSING BACK AT K

You will need to arrange to have someone fill out a housing form for you while you're on study abroad (a proxy). If you're interested in Living/Learning Housing when you return, you need to apply before you leave the United States. To apply to existing houses on campus, contact the main representative of the house directly. For specific information and instructions regarding housing, contact the housing coordinator in Student Development by email, housing@kzoo.edu or phone, 269. 337. 7210.

FINANCIAL AID

Those of you receiving financial aid may be required to take care of some items before you leave and while you are in Ecuador. Consult the financial aid pages at the conclusion of this guide for more information concerning your financial aid obligations.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL ISSUES

You need to be up-to-date with your standard immunizations, as well as any specific requirements for Ecuador, in order to be permitted to enter the country. Please refer to the Study Abroad Handbook you received during orientation for specific information or consult the Kalamazoo College Health Center or your primary care physician. It's a good idea to take care of other personal health matters prior to departure, too, such as dental appointments. Be sure to take prescription medications in the original, labeled containers and to take a quantity sufficient for your stay. Some prescription medications are available in Ecuador but often under different names and dosages. A clear copy of any prescription (generic name, brand name, and dosage) is a must for any replacements.

VEGETARIANISM

Our university colleagues at USFQ have requested that all students preparing to study in Ecuador be informed that they may find themselves in situations where they will be expected to eat meat during their stay. Vegetarianism is not common in Ecuador, although former participants report that more and more vegetarian restaurants are appearing in Quito and USFQ's cafeteria offers vegetarian food daily. By refusing to eat meat when it is served to you, however, you risk offending the people with whom you are eating. You cannot expect much support from the program administrators there if you plan to continue your vegetarianism in Ecuador, simply because it is not as commonly practiced in Ecuadorian culture. In fact, it can be considered culturally insensitive to refuse food that has been offered you.

The program administrators have also notified us that no special accommodations will be made for vegetarians during excursions. If you require a vegetarian diet that cannot be provided by USFQ on such occasions, you will be responsible for paying for and providing your own meals at those times. Be very

specific about what you will and will not eat. It is essential for your welfare that no family discovers this after arrival. Any extra expenses incurred because of special dietary needs, including additional food for “big eaters,” will be borne by the student.

ARRIVAL IN QUITO

When you arrive in Quito, you will exit the plane and go through immigration before claiming your luggage. Have your passport, disembarkation card (you’ll receive this on the plane) and visa papers handy for the immigration official. You may be asked a few questions—you should expect to speak Spanish. Once you’ve been permitted to enter the country, you will gather your luggage. You will also need to have your luggage claim ticket (usually stapled inside your airline ticket envelope) available because you will be asked for it before you leave with your luggage. You may not be met inside the arrivals area as this has not always been permitted by the Ecuadorian government. In the case that no one is waiting for you in the lobby, your new Ecuadorian family will meet you outside, as will the Resident Director and possibly other staff from USFQ. You will move into your homestay immediately thereafter. Arrival in Quito is often quite festive, with lots of people waiting for family and friends to return to the city. It may be a bit overwhelming, especially in Spanish, but you’ll certainly be welcomed. Don’t be surprised if you are embraced or even kissed on the cheek by your family or the staff.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

It is not uncommon to experience a period of adjustment to the altitude in Quito for several days after your arrival. At over 9000 feet above sea level, you may experience symptoms of altitude sickness—dizziness, nausea, and shortness of breath are common. It may be a few weeks before you are accustomed to the altitude. Take it easy the first week or so and if symptoms persist, see the program staff. Take care not to become dehydrated—drink plenty of safe water. Both caffeine and alcohol exacerbate the symptoms of altitude sickness.

If at anytime during your program in Ecuador you are bitten by a dog, inform the resident director immediately. There are many dogs on the streets in Quito and elsewhere and rabies is more common than in other countries. A rabies vaccination must be administered very soon after the bite, so it is imperative that you contact the program staff right away. If you are bitten by any animal, please seek medical attention immediately.

If you are considering being sexually active while in Ecuador, take the proper precautions against pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. Take a supply of condoms and/or dental dams with you and make sure you know how to use them properly.

The following information on diarrhea and malaria has been provided by the Kalamazoo College Health Center. For additional information, contact Lisa Ailstock, director, your primary care physician or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DIARRHEA

It is not uncommon for students to experience diarrhea and related symptoms while living in Ecuador. In the past, some students have gotten quite ill and been hospitalized for intestinal infections and other ailments. You will need to be vigilant and take care with what you eat and drink although you will observe Ecuadorians eating many things and not becoming sick. This is normal for Ecuadorians because their systems have adapted to certain bacteria that will be unfamiliar to you. A certain amount of stomach discomfort and diarrhea is to be expected—*turista* is a common complaint from international sojourners throughout the world. Do not be alarmed by this inconvenience as your system adjusts. Common symptoms of *turista* are abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

If diarrhea becomes severe and prolonged, you risk becoming dehydrated. It is imperative that you maintain proper hydration, especially at such altitudes. For periodic diarrhea, drink at least three liters of clear liquid a day—water with a bit of sugar and salt added is good. Avoid drinks containing caffeine,

milk and alcohol. Take anti-diarrheal medications with care—they can sometimes prolong or worsen your symptoms. Before you leave for Ecuador, discuss possible treatments with your primary care physician.

The “BRAT” diet is often recommended by seasoned travelers for helping your system recover from diarrhea—the first day or so, consume only clear liquids (water, soup) and avoid acidic juices. Gradually add bananas, plain rice, apple sauce, and toast. Some infections do not respond well to bananas, so keep in mind that these are suggestions only. Your physician or a local physician may make other recommendations according to your particular case. Yogurt may also be recommended to you, but eat this with care as it may worsen your symptoms if improperly stored or prepared.

If diarrhea persists more than 72 hours or if you have bloody diarrhea, severe abdominal pain, and/or a high fever, contact the resident director immediately for medical assistance. You will receive information about recommended local physicians during orientation at USFQ.

MALARIA

It is essential that you follow your anti-malarial medication and take your medication as scheduled. While malaria is not common in Quito, you will likely travel to areas in Ecuador where it is prevalent, including the coast and the rain forest. Anti-malarial medications must be taken several weeks prior to exposure to prevent malaria, so you cannot expect to be protected if you start and stop the medication depending upon your excursions or travels. Malaria is potentially fatal and over two million people die from it every year around the world.

Malaria is found in Ecuador at altitudes below 1500 meters. You must take your medication if you plan to travel to areas below this altitude. Doxycycline is the drug recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Committee on Immunization Practices, and the American College Health Association. The health organizations mentioned above recommend that you take the Doxycycline consistent with the instructions provided by the Health Center or your primary care physician.

Malaria is rarely acquired if you’ve taken proper precautions but if you become ill and suspect it may be malaria, early treatment is essential. Consider any flu-like illness with fever in a malarial area to be suspect until proven otherwise. See the program staff or recommended local physician immediately. Delay in seeking medical care and delay in diagnosis increases the chances of complications and fatality. Malaria can occur as early as six days after being bitten by an infected mosquito and as late as several months after exposure. Be sure to inform your physician of your recent travel history should you experience symptoms after you return to the US.

PREVENTING MALARIA

You will be more susceptible to malaria if and when you travel outside of Quito to a region where mosquitoes are plentiful, such as the coast and the rain forest. In addition to taking the recommended medication, you should consider taking some simple precautions.

- minimize mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and long pants
- avoid sheer fabrics, sandals, open shoes, shiny jewelry, and perfumed toiletries
- use an insect repellent that contains DEET (30%) on your skin and permethrin on clothing
- remain indoors at dusk and after dark
- choose accommodations with tidy grounds, air conditioning, mosquito netting, or screened windows
- visit rural and low-lying areas during the day

FOOD AND WATER

Tap water in Ecuador is not drinkable. Most likely your family will purify their drinking water by boiling or filtering it or they will buy bottled water. To purify tap water, boil it for at least 20 minutes at a high rolling boil. You may want to boil water that has been filtered if you find that you are having diarrhea or

other stomach problems with some frequency. Drink other bottled beverages and avoid ice. As some stomachs are more sensitive and susceptible than others, be sure to use safe water when brushing your teeth and taking medications.

Though everyone's digestive system differs, you are advised to avoid most street food such as any peeled fruits, vegetables, meats, and fruit juices. Even if you see the food being prepared before your eyes, you won't know how it got there nor will you know if fresh fruits or vegetables were washed with safe water. Avoid all raw or undercooked fish, shellfish, and meat. You should be wary of dairy products (milk, ice cream, cheese, yogurt), which may be unpasteurized or improperly stored.

The best advice is to avoid taking unnecessary risks with your health. You may find yourself in a situation where it would be culturally offensive not to eat something that is offered you. You will have to decide what to do in those situations on an individual basis. There is no one right answer. Remember this credo: cook it, boil it, peel it, or forget it.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

In Quito you'll find that buses are probably the cheapest and most common form of local transport. In recent years, however, bus fare has increased and former participants advise you to count on spending at least \$1 a day and very likely more on local buses. Several students have also advised bringing a couple rolls of quarters to Ecuador as change is sometimes hard to come by. Bus schedules vary considerably and take some experience to use effectively. Ask your host family for recommendations regarding appropriate transportation. If you're out late at night, always take a taxi, know where you are going, and how to get there. Make sure to find out the cost of the ride before you get in if there isn't a meter, although most taxis do have meters. It's likely that you will take a bus to and from USFQ so learn how to navigate the city by bus early in your stay. Look into the *Trole* and *Ecovía* when you are there, two of the many forms of public transportation, but as always in any form of public transportation, be wary of pickpockets.

Bus service outside of Quito will include different types of service—first class, second class, and third class. On a first class bus, you'll be able to travel non-stop to your destination. On other class buses, there will be frequent stops along the way, more crowded conditions, and the journey will thus be quite a bit longer. If you plan to travel significantly within Ecuador, you might consider domestic airfares, which are often reasonably priced.

TRAVEL AND VACATIONS

When you travel in or out of the country, please inform Tania Ledergerber and your host family, indicating where you are going and approximately when you will return. You must also leave addresses where you can be contacted at approximately 48-hour intervals so that you may be reached in the event of an emergency. This is a policy for all students on study abroad. Students who are American Express card members can use AmEx offices as contact addresses. Be sure to check in at the addresses you've given, with the director, or with someone at home during your travels. Please remember that you will cause great distress to your family in the US if they do not know your whereabouts, and that we cannot assist them or you if we don't know where you are.

When traveling, we strongly discourage you from traveling alone. If you plan on leaving Ecuador to travel, you must have permission from the Ecuadorian government to do so. You must have a *permiso de salida* from the *Policía de Migración* in order to leave and reenter the country to continue your studies. The *permiso* is available for a small fee and is good for one year. You'll need to take your passport and *censo*. Please see Tania Ledergerber or the International Programs office at USFQ for more information. Please also note that you must pay an airport tax of \$41 US cash each time you leave the country by plane. You will also have to pay a departure tax if you depart the country by bus, though this tax varies. You will pay in US dollars.

TRAVELING IN POLITICALLY-TURBULENT AREAS

Choose with care the routes on which you travel, especially outside of Ecuador. The US Embassy communicates regularly with the international programs staff at USFQ. Avoid any area that the US Embassy, USFQ, or the program staff indicate you should not visit, any guerrilla strongholds, and volatile zones, including the *frontera* between Perú and Ecuador and parts of Colombia. If you find yourself in a situation where there is political trouble and/or violence, please do the following:

- remember that as an international visitor, the situation does not welcome your participation
- lay low and stay inside
- contact the nearest US Embassy or other international representative and follow instructions
- contact your family and/or the Center for International Programs as soon as possible
- keep these numbers handy—CIP 1. 269. 337. 7133 or Campus Security 1. 269.337. 7321—Security will attempt to contact us if it is after normal business hours.

TIPS ON INDEPENDENT TRAVEL IN ECUADOR AND ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA

- avoid traveling alone and whenever possible, travel to a place where you know someone
- make sure you really know how to get there—false or vague directions are common
- take some type of pouch for documents, tickets, and money—never remove it
- keep your documents with you at all times—don't pack them in luggage or a carry-on
- on buses, try to get a seat where you can watch what happens to your luggage and preferably on the aisle
- plan an itinerary and leave it with the Resident Director or send it home
- call home and/or your homestay frequently and regularly, especially if your itinerary changes
- if you plan to be in a country more than a couple of days, register with the US Embassy
 - allow plenty of time before scheduled departures—at least two hours minimum at the airport, buy tickets early, and arrive at the departure area early to claim your seat
- be sure you're on the right flight/bus for your destination and that you know when to get off
- reconfirm your flights in person at the airline office or by phone 72 hours before you are due to leave—this is critical unless you don't mind being denied a seat—having a ticket is not enough—you MUST reconfirm your flights
- be wary of complete strangers who approach you and offer you rides—never accept a ride from a stranger when you are alone and remember that hitchhiking is not only dangerous—it is grounds for dismissal from the study abroad program

DRUG ADVISORY

Possessing, selling, and using drugs is illegal in Ecuador and those found guilty face significant penalties, including mandatory prison terms. If you are arrested, detained, or incarcerated, laws of the Republic of Ecuador will be applied, and no one in the United States will be able to assist you, including the US government.

SAFETY

As a large, cosmopolitan city, Quito will require you to be cautious with regard to your personal safety, just as you would expect to be in Chicago, Detroit, or New York. While Quito has the reputation of being one of the safer cities in Latin America and is possibly safer than some US cities, you will need to be cautious and street-smart. Given the economic and political instability of the country, its capital city is often the lightning rod for discontent. Strikes and demonstrations, known as *huelgas*, *paros* and *manifestaciones*, are common and increasing, though rarely violent. Most strikes occur in the colonial center of the city and participants are strongly encouraged to avoid these and other areas where strikes are taking place, common, or anticipated. Your presence is not likely to help and may even cause you harm, unlikely though it may be. Stay away.

Former participants report an increase in pick-pocketing and petty robbery in recent years. Avoid unlighted areas at night when you are walking around the city and do not walk or take buses alone at night—especially women. Even during the day, some areas should be avoided. Do not take any unnecessary risks. You'll learn more about getting around the city, as well as areas to avoid, during orientation at USFQ. Local advice may seem especially cautious but it's best to abide by it if you are unfamiliar with the city, the language, and the customs.

As with most large cities, there are known areas best avoided in Quito. Local wisdom indicates that *Parque Carolina* is especially dangerous after 4:00 p.m. and throughout the night. The neighborhood of *La Mariscal* is generally considered dangerous due to the large number of people who frequent the restaurants and bars—crime has increased in this area in recent years. The bus station in Quito is also considered less than secure. Do NOT hike or walk on the mountain *Pichincha*, located on the western side of Quito, alone or in groups. The newly-constructed *teleférico* park on *Pichincha*, however, seems well-staffed and relatively safe. If you visit the *teleférico*, though, do NOT venture away from the park on any of the paths that lead out onto the surrounding mountain side. There have been reports of several assaults in these areas. Ask program staff and your host family before venturing onto *Pichincha*. The staff at USFQ recommends that students always move in groups around the city and avoid all parks at dusk and after dark. Keep in mind that because of its position on the equator, it is dark in Ecuador by 7pm.

If you do have to return home alone for whatever reason, take a taxi. While you may not want to rely on taxis as your primary source of transportation everyday, they are your best option at night and are not especially expensive. Even while in a taxi, however, be alert at all times. We recommend that if you take a taxi at night alone, have a friend see you to the door of the car and tell you that she or he is expecting a phone call when you arrive home. You should also know exactly where you are going and generally how to get there to be most secure. Do not sit in the front seat, and do not get into a taxi if there are any people other than the driver inside.

In general, avoid any behavior that will call attention to you—avoid flashing jewelry, watches, or wallets. It's always a good idea to wear your money on your person, especially when traveling. Take care with your camera, too—keeping it in a sturdy camera bag is preferable to wearing it around your neck though this does not guarantee it won't be taken. Another precaution you can take to promote your safety and well-being while abroad is to avoid consuming alcoholic beverages in excess. If you are noticeably drunk you are much more vulnerable to potential safety hazards than when you're sober. Enjoy yourself in moderation if you choose to drink.

Though women travelers often have additional concerns for safety, both men and women should be aware of their safety at all times. In the past, men have been just as susceptible to potential risks. Your presence will attract additional interest, whether positive or negative. Be aware of your surroundings at all times, listen to your instincts, and use common sense. If you are the victim of physical or sexual assault, contact the Resident immediately for assistance. Please also review the “Responding to Physical or Sexual Assault While on Study Abroad” section in your *Handbook* to be better prepared in the event that you or a friend experience such a situation. You will also receive a business card from the CIP with emergency information.

MAIL

Regular mail between the US and Ecuador can take anywhere from 10 to 20 days to arrive by airmail. For quicker service, mail your letters from the Central Post Office in downtown Quito. Avoid using certified mail as it takes longer than airmail. When you need to receive or send something in a hurry, you can use an express service such as DHL or Federal Express (FedEx) or a fax. These sources are more expensive but sometimes necessary depending upon the document. We recommend that you not have packages sent to you from home as customs officials often impose hefty fees on them. Do not send

money. Also tell your family and friends to declare a relatively low value and maybe even insure the package, if it's necessary to send one at all.

Your mailing address in Quito will be at the Universidad. Your mailing address is:

Your Name
c/o *Programas Internacionales*—Kalamazoo
Universidad San Francisco de Quito
Campus Cumbaya
PO Box 17-12-841
Quito, ECUADOR

EMERGENCIAS

In case of an emergency, you should first contact Tania Ledergerber. She will notify the appropriate people on site. In case there is an emergency that requires you to contact us in the Center for International Programs, call one of the following:

Center for International Programs (voice)	269. 337. 7133
Center for International Programs (fax)	269. 337. 7400
Joe Brockington, Director (cell)	269. 267. 2599
Angela Gross, Assistant Director (home)*	269. 353. 1976
*Program Manager for Ecuador	
Narda McClendon, Assistant Director (home)	269. 402. 0071
Margaret Wiedenhoeft, Associate Director (home)	269. 344. 7209

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

PROGRAM STAFF

Tania Ledergerber is the resident director for the Kalamazoo programs at USFQ. Once you arrive in Quito, Tania will be your primary resource and will oversee all other aspects of your study abroad program.

Maricarmen Paz y Miño is the director of *Programas Internacionales* at USFQ. Her office staff will assist you with your course selection as well as your orientation program on campus. Srta. Maricarmen Paz y Miño and the rest of the staff in the *Programas Internacionales* office will also be a resource for you and other international students at USFQ. You will meet these people soon after arriving in Quito. You will find that many of the professors and administrators at USFQ have extensive international experience and are very familiar with US culture. While many are bilingual and several trilingual, you are expected to speak Spanish with them at all times. If a professor speaks to you in English, feel free to politely ask that s/he switch to Spanish to help you learn.

ON-SITE ORIENTATION

Soon after your arrival in Quito, you will complete a short Spanish review and attend a special orientation session for students who have just arrived at the *Universidad San Francisco de Quito*. Your participation in this program is required and will be valuable to you as you begin to learn about your new campus. You will receive a considerable amount of information about the *Universidad*, apply for your USFQ ID card, and learn more about navigating Ecuadorian culture during this program.

UNIVERSITY SETTING

You will be enrolled as a “visiting international student” at the *Universidad San Francisco de Quito* (USFQ). USFQ is a private university of approximately 2500 students, founded in 1988 as the first liberal arts university in Ecuador. Since its founding, the Universidad has grown by leaps and bounds,

outgrowing its original campus. The campus is located about 15 minutes or so outside of Quito in the valley of Cumbayá. Modeled after the US university system, USFQ offers a liberal arts and sciences curriculum, as well as a number of professional and postgraduate programs. The majority of students attending USFQ are from a middle-class to upper-middle class background. Many have been to the US before and many can speak and understand some English. It is most courteous, however, to speak Spanish, even among yourselves, while you are at the *Universidad* and in public places, and to expect to be spoken to in Spanish.

Past participants have said that it can be difficult to become involved in clubs or student organizations at USFQ, but there are many opportunities to volunteer in Quito. Students advise that you ask professors, family members or anyone else, and look at your guidebooks. Also, by taking the initiative at USFQ, you will be able to meet Ecuadorian students. Don't wait for them to come to you.

GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

For the 07-8 program in Ecuador, program participants registered for classes on line before traveling to Ecuador. They also took a Spanish placement exam on line. This is likely to be the case for your group as well.

The format of classes includes a mix of lecture and classroom discussion. Most classes meet four days a week for one hour at a time. As in Kalamazoo, you'll buy books at the campus bookstore—USFQ suggests you budget a minimum of \$300 for books for the long-term program. Many classes also have reserved readings, which you can copy at the copy center located in the university. Participants in the extended-term program should plan for additional expenses. Please note—you must purchase your books with cash or a Diner's Card as the bookstore does not accept traveler's checks or other credit cards. Used books may be available but are not guaranteed. Students are given syllabi and reading lists at the beginning of the semester and should expect homework right away. Most additional materials are available in the *Universidad* library or from professors. Be sure to keep your syllabi in the event there are questions about material you covered once you return to K.

Other than USFQ's library, another library recommended by USFQ is at the *Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales* (FLASCO) office, located at *Avenida América* 4000. You will find a substantial collection of readings addressing development and social science issues in Latin America. You may also be able to use other university libraries in Quito, including those at the *Universidad Central* and the *Universidad Católica*. There are also several public libraries and collections in the city, including *Biblioteca Lincoln* in the Fulbright Commission.

EMAIL

You will have access to electronic mail at USFQ with restrictions. There are a few small computer labs with both PC and Mac equipment. The system is not as reliable as that in the US. You may open an account at USFQ during orientation at USFQ or locate an Internet café in Quito. As of this printing, the *Universidad* does not charge a fee for email accounts but requires a USFQ ID card to access and use the facilities. In the past some Kalamazoo students have permitted non-USFQ friends to use their email accounts, which is not permitted by the *Universidad*. Please remember that you are required to abide by USFQ's regulations or you may lose email privileges or have them discontinued for all Kalamazoo students. USFQ does not have as many computers as you may be accustomed to having on campus and many more students, so please be courteous and avoid monopolizing the computers by using email for extended periods of time or you will risk losing this privilege. If you want more access than what is available to students at the *Universidad*, you should explore opening an account through one of the local cyber cafés at your own expense (usually .60-\$1 per hour). Other accounts are sometimes accessible, including "K" e-mail via the web page.

CLASSES AND CREDITS

Credit earned on study abroad can be used to satisfy major, minor, or concentration requirements at the discretion of the department and other graduation requirements at the discretion of the Registrar. Students

must earn the equivalent of a “C” in the local grading system to receive credit for coursework completed abroad. Grades from all study abroad courses will appear on the Kalamazoo transcript but are not included in the Kalamazoo grade point average. The transcript will list the title of the course, the appropriate discipline, and a translation of the local grade into the Kalamazoo “A, B, C” grading system.

Students in the long-term program must enroll for the equivalent of 6 K units. Students in the extended-term program must enroll for the equivalent of 9 K units. Participants in the liberal arts program should plan on enrolling in Andean Anthropology and Latin American Issues, provided there is space available. Students in the ecology program will enroll in Spanish, Tropical Ecology (taught in English), Ecoanthropology, plus a 3-credit course in the biology department and an elective of the student’s choosing. The Tiputini and GAIAS field project will count as one K-unit of credit. Students may not overload or underload. To be counted as a K unit, a course must have 40-45 contact hours of instruction. All course work, including the ICRP and Ecology field work, must be completed and turned in before the end of the academic program or no credit will be given.

INTEGRATIVE CULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT

If you are participating in the long-term liberal arts program, you will conduct an ICRP. If you are participating in the extended-term program, you will conduct your ICRP during the second semester while taking classes. This project will provide you with an opportunity to explore an aspect of the local culture in a more direct, experiential manner. We encourage you to begin thinking about your ICRP soon after you arrive and to talk with the staff about your ideas. You will need to begin making connections and arrangements in the fall soon after you arrive. Program staff will assist you in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the project. Do not delay in discussing your ideas or in soliciting ideas from them—you’ll have lots of details needing your attention if your project is to be productive. At the end of your project, you must submit a final paper of 8—10 pages written in Spanish as indicated in the program calendar. You will also submit a one-page abstract of your project in English for distribution on campus in Kalamazoo.

If you are participating in the ecology program, you will conduct a field study at the Tiputini Biodiversity Research Station in the rainforest as well as at USFQ’s campus in the Galápagos, GAIAS. For more specific information regarding the ecology program, please see pages 24-25.

LIVING IN QUITO

THE HOMESTAY EXPERIENCE

K students are typically housed individually with Ecuadorian families. Most of the homes will be middle-to upper-middle class, but the "homestay" experiences may be radically different from each other. Some families may have hosted exchange students in the past, others not. Some "families" may consist of two parents and small children, or an older couple with college-aged children, or an elderly widow with no children at home. Whatever your family structure is, it will be your first introduction to Ecuadorian society and culture. You have the potential to improve your Spanish as you interact daily with your new family.

In Ecuador, the family unit is more extended than typically found in the US. Ecuadorians tend to have close relationships and live in the same city with their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. In general, children in Ecuador grow up within a broader family structure than we do here in the US. Not surprisingly, then, a high value is placed on the family and on sustaining those relationships.

ADJUSTING TO YOUR FAMILY

There may be some new issues for you as you adjust to living with an Ecuadorian family. Some things may be very different than what you’re accustomed to here in the US. As you will no longer be living the independent life of the residence halls in the US where you can come and go as you please, be prepared to give up a little of that freedom in Ecuador so you can better integrate with your family. They may worry

if you stay out late, so early on in the program, have a conversation about what time they expect you to be home. Your family will most likely want you to accompany them on certain visits, activities, or excursions. Take advantage of such cultural opportunities as they provide an ideal way to get to know the different aspects of the culture first-hand. As with most aspects of family life, you may not have advance notice about these opportunities.

Adapting to a different family lifestyle will take some time. There will most likely be instances in which you are aware that your family does not understand why you act the way you do, and vice versa. Listen and observe closely; often, messages are given in a non-verbal manner. Also, pay attention to how your Ecuadorian peers act and relate to others and follow their model.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR A POSITIVE FAMILY EXPERIENCE

- Keep your expectations minimal.
- Communicate with your family about everything!
- Always check and double-check when the family expects you to be home: at night, for meals, for family outings.
- Speak Spanish at all times, even when talking with other US friends, unless you are speaking in a private place.
- Don't hesitate to tell them if you don't understand, and ask them to be patient as you try to improve your Spanish.
- Respect the rules and customs of your family (schedules, opinions, religious beliefs, etc.)
- Ask your *señora* for permission to have friends over. When you do have guests, entertain them in the same way that your family entertains theirs.
- Expect to make your own bed, keep your room clean, and offer to help out, as you would in the US when visiting relatives.
- Inform the Resident Director immediately of any problems relating to your safety and well-being.
- Finally, at the end of your homestay experience and after you return to the US, write your family a letter letting them know that you arrived home safely and that you appreciate their sharing their home with you during your stay. Not to do so would be considered very rude by Ecuadorian standards. In the past, families have refused to take another US student because of hurt feelings.

In some cases, if you are doing something that is regarded as culturally offensive by your family, you will most likely not be directly told by the person who objects to your behavior. Unlike current US culture, direct, confrontational communication is not common in Ecuador. If you're aware that you may be doing something culturally insensitive, simply ask your family. If you're not comfortable doing that, ask an Ecuadorian friend in the university what he or she suggests you do, or ask Tania Ledergerber or another staff member at the university. You can save yourself a lot of heartache if you do what you can to help clear up any unintentional cultural misunderstandings when they first occur.

You'll find that different expectations exist of your role as a guest and family member, ones that are quite different than what you're used to in your own living situation in the US. Women may be expected to be home at a certain hour, or simply to arrive earlier than their male peers. Men may be expected to escort female friends home after an evening out. There may be different rules regarding use of the bathroom and shower, and you will be expected to be home for meals. Many families will have maids or other employees working in the home. These will all be new things which will require some adjustments on your part.

When you're not sure about what your family expects from you, ask, ask, and ask again. Keep the communication lines open, even if it means fumbling around in Spanish. If your family and friends know you're trying to learn the social norms, they will be happy to help you along. If you should have serious difficulties with your family, don't hesitate to talk with Tania Ledergerber. If a move needs to be made, she will help arrange that.

USFQ EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN HOMESTAYS

As a visiting international student at USFQ, you are expected to accept the following commitments during your stay with the local family—

- to accept and respect the norms of living with a family
- to participate in activities with the family
- to respect the religious beliefs of the family
- to speak with the family about your dietary preferences and respect those of the family
- to speak Spanish with members of the family
- to inform the family when you plan to return late to the home or to miss a meal
- to advise the family where you will be when you plan to travel outside the city
- to respect the family's customs when you want to invite a guest to visit you
- to advise the family if you would like to cook
- to respect the family's norms of security with regard to doors and windows
- to guard the keys to the house, to inform them if you lose the keys, and to return the keys at the conclusion of your stay
- to discuss the use of the family's telephone, to make local calls in moderation, and to use a calling card or collect service when calling internationally
- to use hot water for showers or baths in moderation
- to respect the established relationship between the family and any household employees
- to wash your own underclothes unless otherwise directed by the family

USFQ expects host families to abide by a similar statement of commitment to provide accommodation and meals, to assist and orient the student in being a part of the family, to speak Spanish with the student, and to respect the student's beliefs and customs. Host families are compensated for the accommodation and meals as is customary and in keeping with local arrangements.

MEALS

On weekdays, you will eat breakfast and a light supper with your family, and lunch at the university. Your lunches at the university will be pre-paid by the Kalamazoo College program. On weekends you will eat all meals at your homestay.

People in Ecuador generally eat three meals a day. *Desayuno* will be lighter than most breakfasts in the US and can often be coffee, milk, bread and butter, or sweet rolls. *Comida* or *almuerzo* is the main meal of the day and includes at least two courses. You might start with a soup, continue with rice and meat, fish, or chicken, served with vegetables, and then dessert. There might be a light snack of coffee, cheese, and bread in the late afternoon, followed by a light supper at around 8 or 9 p.m. *Cena* might be as simple as coffee and bread. When you first arrive, ask your family what their customary meal schedule is.

The Ecuadorian cuisine includes influences of both Spanish and indigenous cooking. The staples of the Ecuadorian diet are starches, especially rice and potatoes, and you'll find that various legumes, stews, and soups are common. Seafood from the coast is also plentiful. Be sure and try the *empanadas* and *llapingachos* (potato pancakes).

MAIDS

It's extremely likely that your family will employ a maid to cook, clean the house, and perhaps take care of the children. Most of you will not be accustomed to having a maid in the house, so you may be surprised at the role she will play in your new home.

There have been students in the past who have been uncomfortable with the way the family treated the maid in their house. For example, some have heard members of the family yell at the maid for dropping something at the table. If such a situation occurs in your house, you may feel uncomfortable, especially if you witness the scene. There may be other circumstances that prove to be more disturbing, and at some point, you may feel like intervening, whether that means speaking to your host parents or personally comforting the maid. However, please don't put yourself in the middle of a situation between the maid

and your family. To do so would be highly inappropriate culturally and would either jeopardize your relationship with your family or jeopardize the position of the maid in the household. While some behaviors may seem incomprehensible to you, they may be the standard in Ecuador. If you have a question about a specific situation in your home, ask Tania Ledergerber or one of your Ecuadorian friends for assistance.

GIFTS

It is customary to bring a gift to your host family. As you will not know the exact composition of your Ecuadorian family, you might consider bring group gifts. Children and adults alike often appreciate chocolates, for example. Some good ideas include:

- T-shirts, sweatshirts, or other items with Kalamazoo College logos
- Cookbooks/American recipes
- Chocolates or other candy
- Candle holders with candles for a dining room table
- American artwork- posters are good
- Saltwater taffy
- Cassettes or CDs of American music (jazz, blues, etc.)
- Blueberry or cherry items

Show your pictures of home and ask to see theirs. Talk about your country and ask questions about Ecuador. You will probably find that Ecuadorians are proud of their country and willing to give you a lot of historical information. Other good topics of conversation include politics, cuisine, and religion. Avoid talking negatively about any aspect of Ecuadorian life.

LAUNDRY

Laundry will vary from family to family. Sometimes, a maid may handle most washing and ironing though you may be required to wash your own undergarments. Otherwise your host mother may do it. Keep in mind that most families will not have a dryer, so it will take longer to get your clothes back than it does at a laundromat. Also, if you have nicer clothing that needs to be dry-cleaned, you will have to pay for that. If you have items of clothing that must be washed gently, plan on doing that yourself.

TELEPHONE USE

In Ecuador, there are charges made on all local calls. As they can be expensive, please limit the time you spend making phone calls. The telephone bill is not itemized, so it is most appropriate for you to keep a record of your calls (including the length of time you spent per call) and offer to pay the family for calls made. For making long-distance calls, it is best to arrange to call the US collect or charge it with an international calling card (AT&T, for example). Let your family know what you are doing before making a call. Keep in mind that it is usually cheaper for someone in the US to call you in Ecuador than it is for you to call him or her. Check with your US long-distance carrier to verify rates or special international plans. Phone cards, such as those offered by AT&T, often offer very reasonable rates as well. When in Ecuador, you can reach an AT&T operator by dialing 1.999-119. It is recommended that you arrange a day and time for your family or friends back home to call you in Quito. If you want to make calls from a public phone, go to the *Andinatel* office and you can be charged for direct calls on an individual basis. When making local calls, there are several accessible payphones that are operated by calling cards. These cards can be purchased cheaply at many drugstores, corner stores, etc. Also, it is important to know that it is far more expensive to call a cell phone than it is to call someone's home. Keep this in mind when using your family's phone. In recent years program participants have leased or bought cell phones in Ecuador to use during the duration of the program and this has become the main form of communication.

LEAVING YOUR HOMESTAY AND DESIGNATED VACATION PERIODS

Room and board is covered only while the academic program is in session. During extended vacation breaks such as the December holiday or spring break, no board costs are paid to the families, so you will be expected to find accommodation elsewhere. You must vacate your homestay as indicated in the

program calendar at the end of the academic program. If you violate this policy and stay on during vacations or after the end of the program, you must pay the appropriate fee determined by the Center for International Programs.

ADAPTING TO ECUADORIAN CULTURE

Over the period of your stay in Ecuador, you will probably learn the most from daily living in a different culture. For in the day-to-day experiences—the morning bus ride, a trip to the market, a meal with your family—lie the real challenges, frustrations, and joys of living in a new cultural environment. Many former participants have said that a primary reason for choosing to study abroad was the desire to live in and learn about a new culture.

DOING WITHOUT

In addition to adjusting to the conditions mentioned above, there are things you will have to give up to live in Ecuador—and this may be hard at first. Eventually, though, you may realize that you don't necessarily “need” what you thought you did. Not everyone misses the same things and different people react differently to the sacrifices they must make. For some people, not having their own car may prove frustrating since possibilities for travel will be limited. For others it might be the unavailability of certain foods (brown rice or herbal tea, for example), or not being able to maintain a vegetarian diet. For some people it's hard to find clothes or shoes that fit or suit their taste. Large shoes are extremely difficult to find.

You will also have to adapt to a new city and a new community. This means using a map to learn where things are and making use of public transportation. In a new community where you don't know anyone, your usual support systems will not be available. It's important to consider beforehand how you will cope in such circumstances. Your routine will be different. During the homestay, you may spend evenings and weekends with your family instead of going out. You will be required to give up some of the freedom and flexibility to which you are accustomed. You may find structure where you don't want it and none where you do. This is a normal part of cross-cultural learning and adaptation.

Finally, you will have to give up some control over your health. Sickness—especially that which you've never experienced before (like food poisoning)—is inevitable. It's quite common for one's digestive system to have a negative reaction to a completely new environment—new food, new water, etc. It's not uncommon for people to have at least one bout of food poisoning, which typically involves vomiting and diarrhea. You might also find yourself more susceptible to other kinds of infections. A balanced diet and plenty of sleep will help you to maintain your health.

ECUADOR THE SECOND CULTURE

In addition to adapting to Ecuador as a country, you will be learning to adjust to a second culture. Learning to live in a new culture requires a great deal more than a list of do's and don'ts, or a brief description of the cultural traits of a society. For one thing, any culture is much too complex to narrow down to a definitive description. Descriptions can describe general characteristics, but they will not explain each specific encounter. Secondly, and more importantly, adaptation has as much to do with understanding oneself and one's own culture as it does with understanding a different culture.

As individuals, we are cultural beings with ways of behaving and perceiving which we do not always identify as springing from our culture. It is when we attempt to understand, or become a part of, another culture that we come to see that many of our values, beliefs and behaviors stem from our own cultural background. Interaction in a new cultural environment can cause conflict both within oneself and between oneself and the new culture. Some of this conflict is inevitable. However, by understanding yourself as a product of your own culture and of your own personal background, you will have a much easier time observing your interactions and learning to adapt to a new set of behavioral ground rules.

The task of culture learning requires a high tolerance for ambiguity and a patient willingness to work through culture shock in a constructive manner. Students must be willing to learn from situations where they may have miscommunicated or failed at communication. They will be expected to examine how their own cultural expectations may have interfered with interpretation, to use their observation skills to pick up on other clues as to what may be happening, and to reserve judgment while remaining tolerant of ambiguity until they reach understanding. Keeping your sense of humor is also key.

Learning a second culture not only affords students an understanding of the new culture derived from first-hand experience, it, at the same time, gives them an awareness of their own culture than they never have had before. With familiar surroundings and friends taken away, students are led to examine not only their culture, but themselves as well. One student participating in an intensive study abroad program wrote, "I'm learning to enjoy being with myself, independent and alone from lifelong cultural props. It's great!"

Such awareness of one's own culture and self ultimately allows students to live more responsibly as members of the global community.

GETTING TO KNOW ECUADOR

One of the best ways to start preparing for your experience is to do some background reading and research on Ecuador. Familiarize yourself with the current political situation and educational systems, historical background, current events, customs, and cultural norms. It's important to know, for example, that Ecuador and Perú recently signed a peace agreement for their common border after years of conflict, how the volcano *Pichincha* is behaving, or recent developments in the economic and political situation of the country.

Go to your library or ask to talk to a faculty or staff member who has had experience in Ecuador. Or arrange to talk with one of the students who have been there in the past or an Ecuadorian student on campus. They know what it's like to be in your shoes as you try to imagine what in the world the next six or so months will hold. In case you don't personally know any former participants, contact the Center for International Programs.

Other sources of information include written resources and websites. *El Comercio*, the national daily newspaper in Quito, is accessible in Spanish on the web at www.elcomercio.com. Other sites include the newspaper, *Hoy*, www.hoy.net and the Embassy of Ecuador in Washington, DC, www.ecuador.org. Information from the US government regarding Ecuador is available from the American Embassy in Quito, www.usis.org.ec.

Recommended things to do and see in Quito (ask about appropriate and safe times of day to visit these sites):

- Panecillo (Do not visit the Panecillo alone or at night!)
- Mitad del Mundo
- Museo de Guayasamín
- Centro Histórico
- Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana
- Teleférico (Do not stray from the teleférico park on any of the nearby paths that lead out onto the surrounding mountain side!)

KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE US

Some people have had the embarrassing experience of learning that people abroad seem to know more about US history and politics than they themselves do. You can expect to be asked your opinion about current events and US politics. You can also expect to hear the opinions of others, and not all of them will be complimentary of the US. Should such a situation arise, the best advice is to remain respectful,

even when disagreeing, and to resist the temptation to criticize Ecuador, as you are a guest. Start paying attention to current events and continue to do so while you're in Ecuador.

SPEAKING SPANISH

Probably all of you are feeling Spanish-language anxiety—relax! It will be okay if you walk off the plane and don't understand a word your host family says to you. Everyone who has been abroad where another language is spoken has lived through that experience. There are, however, some great opportunities to practice your Spanish here before you go. Some ideas for practicing Spanish include: renting Spanish and Latin American movies, listening to Spanish and Latin American music, and practicing your Spanish with the Spanish and Latin American students on campus.

ECUADORIAN SPANISH

You'll find Ecuadorian Spanish has its own particular nuances and vocabulary. It may take a while for your ear to adjust to the accent. Ecuadorian Spanish contains influences of Quichua, a language spoken by indigenous peoples in the *Pichincha* region, which includes Quito. For example, a baby or child is referred to as a *guagua*, which is a Quichua word. Another word often used by Ecuadorians is *¡Chévere!*, which generally means “great” or “cool.”

Ecuadorians tend to use the diminutive often, saying “*cafecito*” instead of “*café*”, for example.

With respect to the use of *tú* in Ecuador, be careful of the tendency to *tutear*, or automatically address people who you don't know intimately with *tú*. As a general rule, address everyone you meet, except children and fellow students, by *usted*. While the *tú* form is used among close friends and family, using it inappropriately can be taken as an insult.

Avoid speaking English in the presence of Spanish-speakers. If you're in a public place or in a group of people that includes at least one person who doesn't speak English, use Spanish. Speaking a language that's not understood by people in the group is culturally offensive and potentially very isolating. If you do have to communicate in English, for whatever reason, in front of a non-English speaker, ask permission first. Also, while in public places, including local transportation, speak Spanish when at all possible, unless you want to be taken for a tourist.

GENDER RELATIONS

You'll most likely observe different gender dynamics in Ecuador. While men may be dominant in the workplace, it will be women who have control in the home. Depending on the context, relationships between young men and women (even those in college) can be more formal than here in the US. Dating patterns differ between Ecuador and the US, and to go out as a couple in Ecuador is oftentimes a much more serious step in a relationship than it is here in the US. Most young people go out in groups, rather than in pairs, to clubs, discos, and cafes. Also keep in mind that it is generally inappropriate to invite someone of the opposite gender to your room, even if he or she is a good friend.

Women should be prepared for numerous comments, *piropos*, made by strangers on the street. They can take the form of whistling, hissing, other noises, or direct comments, but they are almost always non-threatening, and the best advice for dealing with them is to simply ignore them, as do Ecuadorian women. Nevertheless, men may also be the target of uninvited attention while walking around Quito or when traveling.

PREPARING FOR YOUR RETURN TO THE US

As the end of your program approaches, you will likely experience a wide range of emotions and reactions. Just as you needed to prepare for your stay in Quito before leaving the United States, you will also need to take care of many important details as your program in Quito comes to an end. As you are preparing to leave, please remember the following:

1. confirm your return flight 72 hours in advance at the airline office or by phone in Quito

2. leave behind any agricultural products or items made of animal hides—you will not be able to pass through US customs.
3. plan to pay the airport exit tax of US\$25—you must pay in cash in US dollars
4. set aside some cash for the trip home
5. acknowledge the hospitality of your host family by sending them a thank you letter once you arrive home.

WHEN YOU'RE HOME . . .YOUR HEALTH

One of the first things you should do when you return home is to immediately schedule an appointment to see your physician. Arrange to have blood, urine, and stool tests run. Many students have experienced prolonged illness beyond their return. Unfortunately, you're not home free when you step off the plane. Just like you had to do in Ecuador, you'll have to re-adjust to the food, water, and different microbes. Your system needs to restabilize itself. Be sure to let your physician know where you've been and any medications you've been taking.

RETURNING HOME

Contrary to popular belief, returning from an extended period abroad can be equally or even more stressful and challenging than beginning your study abroad experience. You may have changed in several ways during your experience. Coming home can be difficult. Just as when you were struggling to adapt to Ecuadorian culture, it is wise to give yourself some time to adjust when you return. Intercultural transition research suggests you allow yourself the same amount of time back home as you had away in order to adjust. Each of the staff members of the Center for International Programs has experienced similar challenges and we encourage you to talk with us or someone in the Counseling Center if you have significant troubles adjusting when you return to campus.

In the first week of the spring quarter back on campus, we will invite you to attend a reentry celebration, where faculty, administrative staff, and international students gather to welcome you back. We provide many additional opportunities for you to continue your study abroad experience through activities and functions on campus. You'll want to be sure to add study abroad to your Portfolio, too. We welcome your participation and look forward to your return.

READJUSTMENT

Going home is usually a very exciting prospect. Most students look forward to seeing family and friends they have missed, eating food you haven't had for so long and enjoying activities that may not have been possible during study abroad.

Remember that returning home is also a transition very similar to your arrival in Ecuador. Just like your arrival, you can expect to feel frustration, anxiety and confusion at home, on your campus and with your friends. Craig Storti puts it this way in *The Art of Crossing Cultures*:

“The problem is this word *home*. It suggests a place and a life all set up and waiting for us; all we have to do is “move-in.” But home isn't a place we merely inhabit; it's a lifestyle we construct (wherever we go), a pattern of routines, habits and behaviors associated with certain people, places and objects—all confined to a limited area or neighborhood. We can certainly construct a home back in our own culture—just as we did abroad—but there won't be one waiting for us when we arrive...In other words, no one *goes home*; rather we return to our native country and in due course we create a home.”

At the foundation of this transition is the task of determining what to do with the changes that have occurred while you were away and the changes that have taken place within you as a result of your time in Ecuador. Life for your family, friends and teachers probably will not be the same as when you departed, but you were not there to gradually adjust to those changes with them. And they have not been able to get used to the things that are different about you.

Hardly anyone avoids the discomfort of this period of growth, but the good news is you will eventually find a way to include your new ideas, skills and outlook in your life back in the U.S. Here are a few questions to consider before your return. Your answers may help you recognize the changes that have occurred during your sojourn.

- ⊙ What have I learned about Ecuador's culture that I did not know previously? In what ways has this changed my view of Ecuador?
- ⊙ By being abroad and able to compare my culture with a different culture, what have I learned about the history, values and traditions that make up my home culture?
- ⊙ While I was away, what significant events have occurred in my country, my family, in my hometown, among my friends and on campus?
- ⊙ How have my personal values changed because of my study abroad experience?
- ⊙ In what ways have my stereotypes or biases changed?
- ⊙ What new skills have I developed (e.g. adaptation skills, second language proficiency, sensitivity, etc) and how might I maintain them?
- ⊙ How can I express these changes to my friends, family and teachers?
- ⊙ What might I do to continue to deepen my understanding of Ecuador?

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

US Embassy in Quito

Tel: 011. 593. 2. 2.562 890 (last seven digits only when calling in Quito)

Fax: 011. 593. 2. 2.502 052

Tania Ledergerber

Resident Director of the Kalamazoo College Program

Universidad San Francisco de Quito

P.O. Box 17-12-841

Quito, Ecuador

Home 011. 593. 2. 2.884.886

Cellular 011.593.9.803.1408

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Email tledergerber@usfq.edu.ec

Oficina de *Programas Internacionales*

Universidad San Francisco de Quito

P.O. Box 17-21-841

Quito, Ecuador

Phone 011. 593. 2.2971.755 (office)

011.593.2.2971.757 (office)

Fax 011. 593. 2. 289.0070 (office)

Email maria@usfq.edu.ec

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY PROGRAM

You'll need specific materials for participating in the field study experiences during the Environment and Ecology of Ecuador program. The *Ciencias Ambientales* department staff at USFQ requires that you be prepared for field study by bringing some items with you from the States and by purchasing other equipment while in Quito.

Absolute-Must Items to Bring from the United States:

- 2 pair pants for field work—light weight pants that dry fast are best
- dri-fit shirts
- water sandals (like Tevas)
- long, thick socks for rubber boots, which you will wear a lot
- 2-3 old, long-sleeved, lightweight shirts or t-shirts
- polar fleece
- minimal supply of underclothes (non-cotton is best)
- flashlight or headlamp with replacement bulbs
- 3 sets alkaline batteries for flashlight
- Swiss Army-type knife
- Digital camera or camera with film for use in dark, damp conditions (if you prefer disposable cameras, they are much cheaper in the US)
- variety of sizes of Ziplock or comparable self-sealing bags (especially large ones)
- small highpower binoculars (REQUIRED)
- flip flops
- small quick-dry towel
- rain poncho or light-weight waterproof jacket

Optional Items to Bring from the United States:

- pants that zip off into shorts
- compass and altimeter
- laptop computer—convenient but not necessary—do so at your own risk and insure it
- sleeping pad and bag (cost approximately \$4/day to rent a sleeping bag in Quito)
- magnifying glass with at least four powers
- Nalgene or other sturdy water bottle (better to purchase in the US)

Items to Purchase in Quito:

- rubber boots (if you wear smaller than a size 10 ½ mens—if larger, purchase in the States)
- insect repellent (non-DEET difficult to find)
- spiral-bound field notebook with graph paper, 3 #2 pencils and one indelible marker, like Sharpie®
- canteen or water bottle (Nalgene not easy to find in Ecuador)
- small backpack or fanny pack
- toilet paper
- baby powder

GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The format of classes includes a mix of lecture and classroom discussion. Most classes meet four days a week for one hour at a time. Two texts are required for the Environment and Ecology program and should be purchased in the United States or in Quito at the *Libri Mundi* bookstore—they are not available through the USFQ bookstore:

Jackson, Michael H., *Galápagos—A Natural History*, Second Edition, Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 1993. Available in English or Spanish text.

Kricher, John, *A Neotropical Companion*, Second Edition, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997. English text.

CLASSES AND CREDITS

Students in the Environment and Ecology of Ecuador program must enroll for the equivalent of 6 K units. All course work, including the Tiputini Biodiversity Station Field Research Project paper and possible work completed at GAIAS in the Galápagos Islands, must be completed and turned in before the end of the academic program or no credit will be given. Please see the program description at the end of this guidebook for a detailed explanation of the academic program and requirements, as well as the courses you are required to take in the program.

Credit earned on study abroad can be used to satisfy major, minor, or concentration requirements at the discretion of the department and other graduation requirements at the discretion of the Registrar. Students must earn the equivalent of a “C” in the local grading system to receive credit for coursework completed abroad. Grades from all study abroad courses will appear on the Kalamazoo transcript but are not included in the Kalamazoo grade point average. The transcript will list the title of the course, the appropriate discipline, and a translation of the local grade into the Kalamazoo “A, B, C” grading system.

TIPUTINI BIODIVERSITY STATION and GAIAS FIELD RESEARCH PROJECT

At the conclusion of the semester, you will participate in a required field research project at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station (TBS) in the tropical rainforest of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Situated on the Tiputini River, TBS is a collaboration of *Universidad San Francisco de Quito* and Boston University bordering the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, a national reserve of Ecuador. An extraordinary scientific resource, TBS was highlighted in the February 1999 edition of *National Geographic Magazine* and is the site of considerable ecological research and international interest.

It is also, however, self-contained and extremely isolated, as a rainforest research facility should be. You should be prepared to show your yellow *World Health Organization* vaccination “yellow” card to gain entry to the area and expect to adjust to a considerably-different visual and audible environment. While at the station, you must follow very specific rules for your behavior (such as “signing out” when you leave the base station and reporting for all meals) designed to ensure your safety and other regulations in place to protect the fragile environmental resource.

You will complete intensive field research at the station under the direction and guidance of Kalamazoo program staff and TBS personnel. At the conclusion of the field research project, you will return to Quito to write a paper in Spanish on the topic of your investigation. You will also submit a one-page abstract of your project, written in English, which will be shared with the Biology department in Kalamazoo. More information about TBS and research options will be provided by Tania Ledergerber and program staff in Quito. The inclusion of field work conducted at USFQ’s station in the Galápagos Islands, GAIAS, will be discussed after you arrive in Quito.

Long Term/Extended Term Study Abroad and Financial Aid

You should have turned in all financial aid forms by 3/1/08 for the 2008-09 academic year. We may need to request additional information, such as 2007 taxes for yourself or your parent(s). If you have all forms turned in by mid-April, you can expect to receive your financial aid award in your campus mailbox by the end of May.

Work study for the quarter(s) you are abroad will be removed from your financial aid. You may be eligible for additional loans to help make up for this loss.

All loans must be processed **before** you leave for your study abroad program. Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Stafford Loan will be included in your financial aid award. If you are in need of an additional alternative loan please see us before you leave campus.

You will need to have a reliable person open your mail. Mailings will be sent in the student's name, clearly marked with Financial Aid and generally will need to be dealt with in a timely manner. Make sure your permanent address is not your campus mailbox.

If you have questions, email me at jclark@kzoo.edu or stop in to see us. We will be available by appointment, email or phone all summer. Don't put off asking questions, it often takes time to get information, fill out forms, and get them to the people who need them. If you wait to ask questions it may delay your financial aid award and funds may be limited or unavailable.

Applying for Financial Aid for 2009-10

If you applied for aid for 2008-09 an application packet will be sent to your home address in winter term. **Make sure your parent(s) watch for this packet.** A renewal FASFA will be e-mailed by US Dept of Education. If you did not apply for aid in 2008-09 but your situation has changed; a sibling will start college, loss of a parent's job, or divorce and you want to apply for aid in 2009-10 just send an email to jclark@kzoo.edu to get the appropriate forms mailed to your parent(s).

The deadline for FASFA is **3/1**. If you will not return prior to this deadline, make sure your parent(s) have access to all your financial information to file on time. They will need your savings and checking information, your 2008 W2's and tax information and any other FAFSA related documentation. Don't miss the FAFSA deadline, especially if you qualify for Michigan Competitive Scholarship or Tuition Grant as the state budget funding of these programs continues to be limited.

Enjoy your time abroad!

Office of Financial Aid
269-337-7192
800-632-5760
jclark@kzoo.edu

Kalamazoo College Center for International Programs
Study Abroad Program Description

Name	ECUADOR: Liberal Arts	
Location	Quito, Ecuador	
Sponsoring Institutions	Kalamazoo College & Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ)	
Approved for Transfer	Kalamazoo Financial Assistance/Scholarships & Academic Credit	
Tentative Dates	LONG TERM: mid August to mid-February EXTENDED TERM: mid August to late May Extended-Term program only available to declared foreign language majors with endorsement/approval of department. See CIP for details.	
Language of Instruction	Spanish	
Eligibility Requirements	Class Standing:	Junior Standing (17 units)
	GPA:	2.7 minimum
	Language:	Minimum: Spanish 202
	Enrollment:	18
Application Due Date	January 15	
Selection	Students meeting the College's and any program-specific eligibility requirements are selected for participation in the Study Abroad program on the basis of such items as their cumulative grade point average, their grades in the appropriate foreign language (where applicable), the strength of the required essay(s), faculty letters of recommendation, an evaluation of the transcript, and other information provided in their application and their College records.	
Orientation	Kalamazoo College students must attend all mandatory study abroad orientation meetings on the Kalamazoo campus. Presentations as well as question-answer sessions conducted by CIP staff members and study abroad returnees help students prepare to make the most of their time abroad.	
Academic Program	The long-term program at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) is designed for students who wish to have experience living and studying in a vibrant South American capital city. USFQ is one of Ecuador's leading private universities and offers a rigorous program in the liberal arts and sciences. The program also requires students to complete an Integrative Cultural Research Project (ICRP).	

<p>Courses</p>	<p>The University program begins with a one-week intensive Spanish review. During the fall semester, students enroll in five units of course work. Students must enroll in one Spanish Conversation and Composition course to be determined by a placement exam on site. Additionally, students must enroll in the “Human Impact on the Galapagos” seminar and field study and should consider at least two of the following courses: Andean Anthropology (ANTH), Latin American Issues (POLS), Andean History (HIST), Latin American History (HIST), History of the Republic of Ecuador (HIST), Language and Civilization (SPA/ SOC SCI), Art of Colonial Quito (ART), Modern Ecuadorian Art (ART), Latin American Cinema (ART), US/Latin American Relations (POLS), Ecuadorian Politics and Its Thinking (POLS). The following literature classes require an advanced level of Spanish: El Boom Latinoamericano, El Cuento Ecuatoriano, El Cuento Hispanoamericano, El Cuento Fantástico, Literatura Femenina, El Pos-Boom, Literatura Indigenista. Students must complete all the requirements of the Galapagos seminar to participate in the field study. All students complete an Integrative Cultural Research Project (ICRP) from January to mid-February (long-term program) in the city of Quito. Participants select the remaining two units from a list of regular university offerings provided space is available and students meet prerequisites determined by the Universidad San Francisco. Students with higher levels of Spanish proficiency are likely to have greater selection in approved courses. Students on the extended-term program complete the above requirements. During the USFQ’s second semester extended-term students must earn the equivalent of three K-units and complete the ICRP during their second semester coursework.</p>
	<p>Cultures Credit: The following courses have been pre-approved as fulfilling the "cultures" requirement: Andean Anthropology; Latin American Issues. Please see the Study Abroad Handbook regarding instructions for petitioning for "cultures" credit for other courses.</p>
<p>ICRP</p>	<p>The Integrative Cultural Research Project can be either a research project or an unpaid internship that explores global issues and the local circumstances, approaches and solutions while enhancing students' local language skills. Internship placements are typically with international agencies, women's groups, small businesses, or Non-Governmental Organizations. The program staff assists students with project design, internship placement or both. All ICRPs are conducted in the Quito area. The research or internship will result in a major paper (10-15 pages) in Spanish. The paper is due and must be turned in to the Resident Director before the end of the academic program or no credit will be awarded.</p>

Credits	Participants are eligible to earn 6 K units of credit for the long-term program-five from university courses and the ICRP, and 9 K units of credit for the Extended-Term program-eight from university courses and the ICRP. The distribution of the units depends upon the courses taken. Students are urged to consult with their academic advisers concerning course selection. To receive Kalamazoo credit, courses must be within the liberal arts tradition. In order to be counted as one K unit, a course must have 40-45 contact hours of instruction. In cases where students must combine courses to achieve the minimum number of contact hours for a unit of credit, both courses must be from the same discipline-i.e. art history with art history. Grades from all study abroad courses will appear on the Kalamazoo transcript but are not included in the Kalamazoo grade point average. The transcript will list the title of the course, the appropriate discipline, and a translation of the local grade into the Kalamazoo "A, B, C" grading system. Students must earn the equivalent of a "C" in the local grading system to receive credit for course work completed abroad. Consult the Study Abroad Handbook and the college catalogue for additional information.
Housing and Meals	Students live in homestays with Ecuadorian families selected by Kalamazoo College's Resident Director.
Co-Curricular Opportunities	Students are eligible to participate in all activities sponsored by the University and are encouraged to join local clubs and organizations, such as a mountain climbing club, soccer, tennis, student government, student newspaper, and film club.
Location	Located on the west coast of South America, Ecuador is approximately the size of the state of Colorado, bordered on the north by Colombia, on the south and east by Peru. It is named for the fact that the location of the equator was established there in the 18 th century. Its capital, Quito, the second largest city, with a population of approximately 2 million, is located in a high Andean valley at an elevation of nearly 9,000 feet.
Contingency Protocol	In the event that the academic program at the host institution should be disrupted for a significant period of time, Kalamazoo College, in collaboration with local program staff, will organize appropriate educational experiences and tutorials.
Program Fee (for 2006-07, information available at time of printing)	\$22,646 Long-term \$33,969 Extended-term Fee includes: tuition and fees, food and housing while classes are in session, round-trip international airfare from the designated point of departure, typically New York, and some excursions. Not included: books, personal spending money, food or housing during vacation periods or after classes have ended, and independent travel.
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Revision Date	08-16-05

Kalamazoo College Center for International Programs
Study Abroad Program Description

Name	ECUADOR: Environment and Ecology--Long Term	
Location	Quito, Ecuador	
Sponsoring Institutions	Kalamazoo College & Universidad San Francisco de Quito (U.S.F.Q)	
Approved for	Kalamazoo Financial Assistance/Scholarships & Academic Credit	
Tentative Dates	LONG TERM: mid August to late February	
Language of Instruction	Spanish	
Eligibility Requirements	Class Standing:	Junior Standing (17 units)
	Prerequisites:	Previous course work in Biology (2 courses with labs) is required, Botany strongly recommended.
	GPA:	2.7 minimum
	Language:	Minimum: Spanish 202
	Enrollment:	18
Application Due Date	January 15	
Selection	Students meeting the College's and any program-specific eligibility requirements are selected for participation in the Study Abroad program on the basis of such items as their cumulative grade point average, their grades in the appropriate foreign language (where applicable), the strength of the required essay(s), faculty letters of recommendation, an evaluation of the transcript, and other information provided in their application and their College records.	
Orientation	Kalamazoo College students must attend all mandatory study abroad orientation meetings on the Kalamazoo campus. Presentations as well as question-answer sessions conducted by CIP staff members and study abroad returnees help students prepare to make the most of their time abroad.	

<p>Academic Program</p>	<p>This program is intended for students with a strong background in Biology who are interested in pursuing interdisciplinary course work in ecology, and who are able to enroll in a regularly-offered program of study in the College of Environmental Sciences at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito.</p>
<p>Courses</p>	<p>All courses, except for Tropical Ecology, are taught entirely in Spanish. Students will be enrolled in four required courses, one elective, and a required field research experience at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station and GAIAS, USFQ's campus in the Galapagos.</p> <p>Spanish: Español Como Segunda Lengua II (3): Catalogue description reads as follows: "Desarrollo de la capacidad de escribir, leer, escuchar y hablar español por intermedio de la literatura y discusión de temas, eventos y actualidades. Nivel intermedio," or Spanish: Español Como Segunda Lengua III (3). Catalogue description reads as follows: "Lectura, análisis y descripción de obras de ficción. Sintaxis y gramática avanzada. Nivel avanzado." Students will be tested by the Spanish department for placement.</p> <p>Tropical Ecology (3): Taught in English. Catalogue description reads as follows: "Introduction to ecological principles applied to the functioning of tropical rain forest superimposed on the natural history of the ecosystem. Emphasis is concentrated on the Neotropics. Conservation and management issues are discussed. This course is complemented with a visit to Tiputini Biodiversity Station in which students will carry out a project. It includes oral presentations of the research proposal and a topic of research related to the rainforest. Also a written report of the research project that includes statistical analysis."</p> <p>Anthropology: Eco-Antropologia (3): Catalogue description reads as follows: "Global vision on the main technological and cultural changes registered in Andean society and the impact these have had on the environment, ethics and cosmovision of a contemporary developing society. Special attention is given to the existing relationship between knowledge and popular lore, beliefs and technology, and the effects of development processes on social change in the neotropics." This course has been designed for international exchange students, for U.S.F.Q. students minoring in Environmental Sciences and for students in other majors interested in greater knowledge of the great biodiversity of Ecuador.</p>

	Biology (3): Students choose a three-credit total from within the biology curriculum.
	Tiputini Field Research Project and Galapagos field course (3): one Unit in Biology/Environmental Studies. In addition to enrollment in required university courses during the university's fall semester, students will participate in several required field study trips designed to give them exposure to a variety of Ecuadoran ecosystems. Following the completion of courses, participants will complete a directed Environmental Field Study project at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station and at USFQ's campus in the Galapagos, GAIAS. A final paper is required at the completion of the field study, to be written in Spanish and a one-page abstract in English. NOTE: All participants in the Environment and Ecology in Ecuador program are required to complete the Field Research Project at Tiputini & GAIAS.
	<p>University Course work: Students must enroll in one additional 3-credit course of their choice. Courses that are less than 3-hours must be combined with another course in that discipline to receive credit. A catalogue of USFQ courses is available in the Center for International Programs.</p> <p>Cultures Credit: The following courses have been pre-approved as fulfilling the "cultures" requirement: Eco-Anthropology; Latin American Issues. Please see the Study Abroad Handbook regarding instructions for petitioning for "cultures" credit for other courses.</p>
ICRP	The ICRP is not a component of this program.
Credits	Participants are eligible to earn 6 K units of credit for the long-term program-five from university courses and the Tiputini Field Research Project. The distribution of the units depends upon the courses taken. Students are urged to consult with their academic advisers concerning course selection. To receive Kalamazoo credit, courses must be within the liberal arts tradition. In order to be counted as one K unit, a course must have 40-45 contact hours of instruction. In cases where students must combine courses to achieve the minimum number of contact hours for a unit of credit, both courses must be from the same discipline, i.e. art history with art history. Grades from all study abroad courses will appear on the Kalamazoo transcript but are not included in the Kalamazoo grade point average. The transcript will list the title of the course, the appropriate discipline, and a translation of the local grade into the Kalamazoo "A, B, C" grading system. Students must earn the equivalent of a "C" in the local grading system to receive credit for course work completed abroad. Credit earned on Study Abroad can be used to satisfy major, minor, or concentration requirements at the discretion of the Registrar. Consult the Study Abroad Handbook and the college catalogue for additional information.
Housing and Meals	While in Quito, students will live and eat with Ecuadorian families selected by Kalamazoo College's Resident Director. The program will provide housing during field-study trips and the field research project.
Co-Curricular Opportunities	Students are eligible to participate in all activities sponsored by USFQ and are encouraged to join local clubs and organizations, such as a mountain climbing club, soccer, tennis, student government, student newspaper, and film club.

Location	Located on the west coast of South America, Ecuador is approximately the size of the state of Colorado, bordered on the north by Colombia, on the south and east by Peru. It is named for the fact that the location of the equator was established there in the 18 th century. Its capital, Quito, the second largest city, with a population of approximately 2 million, is located in a high Andean valley at an elevation of nearly 9,000 feet.
Contingency Protocol	In the event that the academic program at the host institution should be disrupted for a significant period of time, Kalamazoo College, in collaboration with local program staff, will organize appropriate educational experiences and tutorials.
Program Fee (for 2006-07, information available at time of printing)	\$22,646 Long-term Fee includes: tuition and fees, food and housing while classes are in session, round-trip international airfare from the designated point of departure, typically New York, and some excursions. Not included: books, personal spending money, food or housing during vacation periods or after classes have ended, and independent travel.
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Revision Date	08-11-05

Kalamazoo College

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