



USFQ – Ecuador Visa Information

The latest bylaws to obtain a visa in Ecuador came to effect on July 2022. We are providing two options for incoming students to enter Ecuador lawfully, please review Option 1 and 2.

Additionally, students will need to have their health insurance policy on hand to enter Ecuador as officers at port of entry can ask for proof. The letter has to state dates of coverage, amount of coverage, policy number and contact phone number. Insurance cards will not serve as evidence.

Citizens from the following nationalities **MUST** obtain a visa to enter to Ecuador (no matter the number of days they plan to stay in country): Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Venezuela, Vietnam and Yemen.

Option 1: 180 days Port of Entry or Tourist Visa Extension

Port of entry: If your students are coming for less than 180 days, the recently approved bylaws of the Ecuadorian Mobility Law, article 99, allow students to enter Ecuador with an invitation letter issued by USFQ for a period of less than 180 days – this applies to students that have not been in Ecuador 365 days prior to their arrival for the beginning of their program at USFQ. Nevertheless, Ecuadorian migratory entry points rely on their officers and might not be aware of the bylaw. We suggest that your students present the invitation letter issued by USFQ, ask if they have the 180 days and if the person does not know, ask to speak with the supervisor. In case the supervisor does not grant the 180 days, and/or if the student did not present the invitation letter, USFQ's lawyer will work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to extend their permit of residence in Quito (tourist visa extension).

Tourist visa extension:

The extension permit will be processed as soon as students arrive to Quito. **USFQ lawyer will let the Office of International Programs (OPI) know when all the students have been granted the 180 days.**

The process is very simple and students just need to provide a copy of the passport (part of the online application) and travel information when OPI asks for it.

Option 2: Temporary Residence Visa - Student (obtained in Embassy/Consulate Abroad):

General Considerations:

- This visa is mandatory for students who will stay more than 180 days. Special cases:
 - If you have already been in Ecuador and it has not yet been a full year since you left.
 - If you plan to visit Ecuador (again) in less than 365 days after your program is done.
 - If you plan to do tourism with your family after your program.
- If you **FAIL** to obtain a visa abroad, bring ALL documentation to Ecuador in order to process the Temporary Resident Visa.



Process:

Reach out to your nearest Ecuadorian consulate and apply for the Temporary Resident Visa for Students (Visa de Residente Temporal – Estudiante). You will need to follow these steps:

- a) Apply through the Ecuadorian Consulates or Embassies closer to your place of residence. Call and ask what you need to do <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/2021/05/11/embajadas-y-consulados-en-el-exterior>
- b) You will need
 - 1) Original valid passport
 - 2) **Apostilled Federal & State Background check**

The process to obtain an FBI background check is as follows (find more information about this process [here](#)): PLEASE ask the Embassy or Consulate if they are willing to take one background check ONLY and/or NO apostille. They might do so.

 - FBI background check [form](#)
 - Finger print form ([FD-258](#)) – see locations [here](#) Once this is submitted, the process can take up to 5-7 business days
 - The cost of the FBI report is around **\$40.00 USD**. This process can be expedited through a private company for approximately \$80.00 USD and can be obtained in 2 days.
 - The cost to get the documents **apostilled** is approximately an additional **\$200.00 USD**
- c) Bank certificate under the students' names with at least \$1,500 USD or its equivalent in other currencies of available funds (any of the following is sufficient and **cannot be older than 15 days** prior to obtaining the appointment at the consulate):
 - A letter from the bank stating that they are the account holders (not their parents) and that they have at least \$1,500.00 USD of funds available.
 - A print out of the online bank statement showing their names as the account holders and a minimum balance of \$1,500.00 USD.
 - A letter from their credit card company stating that they are the account holders and the maximum credit card limit.
- d) Admittance letter form USFQ (documents provided by USFQ)
- e) A letter from the international health insurance provider stating their name, coverage period, and benefits. (THE COPY OF THE INSURANCE CARD IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. IT HAS TO BE A LETTER. IT CAN BE FROM THEIR HOST UNIVERSITIES).
- f) Visa application cost: \$150.00* USD (**not including** federal and state background checks or the cost of having the documents apostilled)



Please note that **each Ecuadorian consulate may ask for additional/different documents**; it is extremely important that the students get in touch with their closest Ecuadorian consulate to confirm what documents they will be required to present and be in touch with us in case they have questions.

***Visa costs may vary as it is a percentage of the minimum Ecuadorean wage and this is adjusted every year.**

If students are coming for a full academic year, USFQ recommends that they secure their visas in advance (Option 2).

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: in case students, do not convey information regarding travel dates to International programs, present documents on time and accordingly, or fail to show up to their visa appointment, they will forgo USFQ's visa services and will need to cover ALL EXPENSES involved in their visa process (extension or temporary residence visa) themselves.

Do not hesitate to contact OPI in case there are questions.

Useful links:

My FBI Report: <https://www.nbinformation.com>

FBI Background Check Form: <https://www.nbinformation.com/order.php#forms>

FD-258: <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/standard-fingerprint-form-fd-258-1.pdf/view>

Fingerprinting locations: <https://www.nbinformation.com/locations/>

FBI Report Cost: <https://www.nbinformation.com/faq.php#q130>