



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What courses are offered?**

A variety of Spanish (EPE- Español Para Extranjeros) classes are offered to exchange students. USFQ also offers its regular courses for national students to exchange students as well. You only need to fulfill the prerequisites to register in them. There are other classes that are only for certain groups of students or Universities that come for specific amounts of time. Students will be notified in which ones they can or cannot register.

### **In what languages are the courses taught?**

The majority of classes are taught in Spanish with reading materials and homework assignments done in Spanish, but some readings can be in English too. More or less 10% of the total amount of classes are taught in English.

### **What grading system is used?**

All the classes utilize the American grading system. Grades are based on performance in class, on quizzes, mid-term exams, projects/term papers, and your final exam and/or final project.

### **How many credits are worth each class?**

The Ecuadorian Government's standardized credit system is based on 4 credit courses (for 45 contact hours). However, for all international students, official transcripts will be issued using the previous system where 3 credits are earned for 45 contact hours. Please be aware that even though you will register for a 4 credit class in the Ecuadorian system, on your transcript the same class will be worth 3 credits (same as the U.S. credit system) except for sports (0 credits) and some labs.

### **Will I be able to transfer the credits I earn abroad?**

We can't guarantee it since it's ultimately up to your home University to decide. We suggest talking with your advisors before you start the registration process so that you can choose the correct courses and avoid being stressed because you have to switch classes last minute. We recommend keeping the syllabi of the classes you take while abroad to show your University after you return.

### **Is there a waiting list for classes that are full?**

There are no waiting lists for classes that are full. You will have to check if someone drops the class to be able to register and/or send an email to the professor to ask for a spot. If nothing works you will have to wait until the beginning of the semester to talk to the professor in person. Usually the first week of classes many students switch classes and you may have a bigger opportunity to register then.

### **Are the courses really tough?**

You will find that the difficulty of courses will vary just like in your home institution. The classes that are offered to the national students as well as exchange students tend to be a little more challenging, due to the fact that lectures are in Spanish.

### **When do the courses meet?**

You set up your own schedule during registration, just as you do in your home institution. Classes meet either on Mondays and Wednesdays or on Tuesdays and Thursdays for an hour and a half. It is possible to drop or add courses at the beginning of the semester.



### **How large at the classes?**

On average, classes are very small ranging from 15-30 students. There are a few more popular classes that have had 50-75 students, but that is the largest amount of students.

### **Will there be Ecuadorian students in my classes?**

If you are taking the EPE courses, you will not have any Ecuadorians in your class, however, in the mainstream classes, yes, you will have Ecuadorians in there. A few good classes to meet Ecuadorians in are the P.E./Gym classes (which offer no credit hours for exchange students) and in their basic study courses, in which you will have the opportunity to meet a lot of Ecuadorians due to the larger class size and organized study groups.

### **What happens when I first arrive in Ecuador?**

Upon arrival, your host family will be waiting to greet you at the airport and you will have to attend a welcome orientation at a later date. The trip to your host family will be by car and will take around 40 minutes to an hour depending on the hour of your arrival.

### **Do I have to arrive until a certain hour to Quito?**

No, it doesn't matter what time you get to the airport, your families will be there waiting for you.

### **Who will support me during my program? What happens if I have a medical emergency?**

USFQ has an extensive network for you while you are in Ecuador, Resident Coordinators, Staff members of the Office of International Programs and host families. Your first level of support will be your host family who will contact your Resident Coordinators and/or the International Programs Office members. For students that don't live with host families the staff members of the OIP will be your first level of support. The OIP has a 24/7 Emergency Phone number (0980834444) available to all International Students.

In case of a Medical Emergency your host families will bring you to the nearest hospital. We will support families as needed. You will have to pay the hospital bill and then ask for reimbursement from your insurance company. We recommend to bring a credit card for emergencies.

### **Are there any scholarships or resources to help me fundraise for my program fee?**

Unfortunately USFQ doesn't have scholarships for Exchange Students but you can search for scholarships offered in your home countries.

### **What's included on the Administrative Fee?**

The Administrative Fee includes a sim card with data and a phone plan. This is very important since it is part of our risk management procedures. It also includes the expenses of our legal team when getting/renewing the Ecuadorian Visa or any other legal help needed.

### **Can I have friends or family visit me?**

If you have friends or family members that want to visit you and your host family offers them a place to stay it is fine for them to do it, otherwise they'll have to stay at a hostel/hotel. It is not mandatory for your host families to offer them lodging.



**Do you provide any additional resources for LGBTQ+ students?**

USFQ welcomes all students to come to any of our programs and will work closely with them if they need any information or help. We have a program called UNIDiversidad that promotes the awareness and sensibilization of all USFQ community towards diversity. If you are interested check this website: (<http://www.usfq.edu.ec/estudiantes/decanato/UNIDiversidad/Paginas/default.aspx>)

**How does USFQ place LBGTQ students with host families?**

The Office of International Programs will find the most suitable host family for LGBTQ students. We encourage you to share information about your identity with us so that we can initiate this process early on. The information you provide will only be used to help us find a welcoming host family for you. We respect your privacy and will disclose this information with your authorization only.

Once in Ecuador, you'll have a support network throughout your exchange. If you have an adjustment issue with your host family, you can contact your Resident and/or USFQ coordinators to help you.