

Children's Hospital



Highlights

- Giving assistance to children who are under-going medical treatment, and often living away from home.
- Making a difference by continuing the children's education in-between their medical treatment.
- Exploring Quito and the surrounding areas during you free time.

About The Project

The project is located in a large hospital in central Quito, dedicated to the care of children ages 0 – 18 years. The hospital caters for up to 60% Ecuador's child population, needless to say staff and resources are stretched. The principal services offered at the hospital are; emergency, palliative care, orthopedics, outpatient services, pediatrics, x-ray and burns unit.

Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Quito to get to know the city and learn how to get around and use the public transport system. In the afternoon there's an information session in which you will learn about the Academia, as well as about important issues such as security, do's and don'ts in Quito, accommodation, volunteer work etc. Your volunteer work will start on Tuesday of the first week.

The role of the volunteer will depend upon the needs of the project at the time, but the following is what you can expect of a typical day at the project;

9.30am – 10am: Distributing nappies to the various wards of the hospital.

10am – 11.30am: Visiting different wards and spending time teaching children maths, science and reading and writing. Depending on the age and level of the children, you may also need to teach them things such as numbers, colors, the names of fruits, how to recognize different textures etc.

11.30am – 12.30pm: Checking paperwork and distributing lunch tickets for the mothers of children who are awaiting treatment.





There is also a small house located on the hospital site, which has been especially established for families who are from other Ecuadorian provinces but needing to stay for prolonged periods of time in Quito for medical treatment. Volunteers can help out in the house, assisting with cleaning, meal times, writing medical histories and accompanying the families to the correct wards within the hospital for treatment.

Location

The project is located in Ecuador's capital city – Quito. It is about fifteen minutes by bus from the Academia.

Lying at 2,800 meters above sea level, and about 15 miles south of the equator, Quito is a city of sun and sky surrounded by mountains, with three snow-capped volcanoes in view on a clear day. Its climate has been described by many as eternal spring, due to its high altitude and its location close to the equator. It has a daily average temperature of about 70°F / 16°C.

Quito has plenty to offer in terms of culture and entertainment. The city is brimming with bars, restaurants and clubs, as well as cinemas, shops, museums, art galleries and markets. Nearby there are local attractions such as the 'TeleferiQo' cable car, providing stunning views of the city, and the 'Middle of the World Museum' where you can stand with one foot on the southern hemisphere and one foot on the northern! The area of Quito known as the 'old town' is also a must with incredible colonial architecture. If you enjoy shopping then you'll be pleased to hear that Quito is Ecuador's most important marketing center for the country's artisan products, lying very close to some of the major production areas and indigenous markets!

As the capital city, Quito has good communication and transport links to the rest of the country, as well as other parts of South America. Its location makes it ideal for access to Ecuador's beaches, mountains, cloud forests and of course the Amazon and the Galapagos!

Accommodation

You will stay either at the student residence or with a host family. Host family accommodation includes a private room, breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Singles, married couples and parents with children can all be accommodated. It is also possible to stay at the student residence located within the school grounds itself. Here you will self cater - there is a large supermarket very nearby and a fully equipped kitchen at the residency.

Requirements

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project in order to allow time to build up trusting relationships with the children, teenagers and staff.

All volunteers must hold at least a low intermediate level of spoken Spanish. If your Spanish is at a lower level, you must join our Spanish language school prior to commencing your volunteer work. This is vital in order to allow you to build up a good rapport with the children, teenagers and staff.

When choosing to volunteer in a developing country such as Ecuador, it is important to remain flexible as the needs of the project are constantly evolving. This is what makes volunteering so rewarding – the fact that you are on hand to lend your support when and where it is needed. By choosing Academia Latinoamericana de Espanol you will have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

Feedback

“I liked working with, and talking to the children who were receiving medical attention at the hospital, it was good to be able to bring a smile to their faces and their parents. Working alongside other volunteers to take responsibility for our role was rewarding.”
Kathrin Lang, Germany.

“It was interesting seeing the difference between a hospital in Ecuador and one at home. I spent time playing and drawing with the children, as well as listening to them and understanding what they are going through. Its important just to give your lve to the children and parents and show that you care.”
Noor Hout, Holland

Programme Fee Includes

- Accommodation
- 2 meals per day if staying with a host family
- Project Support
- A donation directly to the project
- Orientation and city tour
- Pre-departure information
- Laundry service if staying with a host family
- 24 hour emergency support

Programme Fee Does Not Include

- International flights
- Transportation from your accommodation to the project
- Meals if staying at the student residence
- Laundry service if staying at the student residence
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

After Your Project – Travel Ideas

We are fully equipped to help you with making weekend travel arrangements, and onwards travel arrangements following your time in Quito. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and competitively priced trips. Some of the most popular trips include:

- Otavalo – a famous Saturday market offering a dazzling array of textiles, crafts and jewellery just a couple of hours from Quito.
- Papallacta - 8 natural hot springs in which to soak away the day! A great day trip from Quito.
- Cotopaxi – you can choose to hike this immense volcano, or take a more moderate tour to see it!
- Banos – great for trekking, mountain biking, rafting and taking a dip in the hot baths! This makes for a nice weekend break from Quito.

- Mindo Cloud Forest – swing in a hammocks, spot exotic birds and animals, bathe in waterfalls, float down the river in inner tubes, trek and horseback ride! All this and near enough to Quito to make it a great weekend excursion.
- The Amazon – A fantastic option for those looking to travel after their volunteer project. Stay in rustic jungle lodges, swim with pink river dolphins, search for anacondas and swing in hammocks!
- The Galapagos! Ecuador's true gem! Experience for yourself the exact places Charles Darwin got his inspiration! Take a cruise around the beautiful islands and spot seals, turtles, sharks, albatross, blue and red footed boobies, iguanas and more as you trek, swim, snorkel and explore! An unforgettable way to end your time in Ecuador!

Apply Now

If you have some further questions about this project, please feel free to contact us at info@latinoschools.ec

If you would like to book this programme, please [click here](#) to complete the booking form. We will be in touch within one week of application to confirm your booking!