

General Hospital



Highlights

- Gaining overseas work experience and seeing the different ways in which medical services are organized in Latin America compared to your home country.
- Providing assistance to the hard working staff and to the patients of a very busy hospital.
- Exploring Quito and its surroundings at the weekends.

About the project

When it comes to health care and social security in Ecuador, there are vast inequalities. You will be based in one of the largest public hospitals in the country, which mainly cares for people who do not have the finances to be able to afford private health care. The hospital is currently offering the following services;

- Maternal and child
- Emergency
- Stomatology
- Oncology and radiotherapy
- Nuerology
- Nephrology
- Urology
- Gastroenterology
- Ophthalmology
- Obstetrics
- Cardiology
- Rehabilitation
- General Surgeries
- Center for high-risk obstetrics
- Committee on infectious diseases



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 is 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 etc.

This programme commences with classes in Spanish medical terminology and, if you choose, you can also learn about the history of medicine and medical processes in Ecuador. The classes consist of an hour theory followed by an hour of practice, often using role-play. These classes will take place in the afternoon as standard Spanish classes take place in the morning which you may be required to join if your Spanish is not to at least a low-intermediate standard all ready.



Once you commence work at the hospital, your first two days will be an orientation. You will go on a tour of the hospital, visiting all the different areas and meeting medical staff. You can then choose in which area(s) you would prefer to work, and initially you will accompany the doctor or nurse just to observe procedures. Depending on experience you can then help with simple tasks such as taking blood pressure and so on, and accompany the doctors during surgery. Normally you will work between 2pm – 5.30pm and you will have weekends off to spend as you wish. Your qualifications, experience and level of Spanish will determine the tasks that you undertake at the hospital.

If you wish to see the difference between private and public medical care in Ecuador you may also visit a private medical clinic with one of the doctors.

Location

The project is in Quito. It's a 30-minute bus journey from the school to the hospital.

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 2 weeks at the project. 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 staff, and fully comprehend all medical work.

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 Español you will have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

Feedback

“Previously I had little knowledge of surgery, now I know what it is really like and how to prepare for surgery as I spent a lot of time in this area, getting hands on experience. I will now be ahead of other students when I return to my course.”

John Hawkins, UK

“Being in the operating room at the hospital has allowed me to see a lot of different surgeries, and I’ve also learnt about how hospitals work. This has been a very, very rewarding experience and will be immensely helpful when applying for medical school.”

Alex Bouwhuis, USA

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

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

Travel Ideas

At the Academia we are fully equipped to help you with weekend travel arrangements, and onwards travel arrangements following your time in Quito. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and reasonable trips. Weekend and day 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!