

study abroad

Quito Tropical Ecology Program

The Ecuador Tropical Ecology Program offers students of Biology and Environmental Science an intensive, field-based scientific investigation of Ecuador's vast and diverse ecosystem, from the Galápagos Islands, to the Andean highlands, to the Amazon basin.

Upon successful completion of the program, students earn 18 Boston University credits.

Courses

Ecology courses are taught in English by faculty from the Universidad San Francisco de Quito and Boston University; however, many of the local naturalists and guides who work for the program speak only Spanish.

Tropical Montane Ecology, 4 cr.
Tropical Coastal Ecology, 4 cr.
Tropical Rainforest Ecology, 4 cr.
Studies in Tropical Ecology, 4 cr. (capstone course)
Intensive Spanish, 2 cr.
Total: 18 cr.

Host Institution

Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), a modern private, non-denominational liberal arts university located in a lush valley 20 minutes from downtown Quito, is the home base for the program. It houses classrooms, laboratories, a library, offices, and recreational facilities.

Program Administration

Housing

Students live with Ecuadorian families in Quito (meals seven days a week and laundry services included in housing cost). In the Galápagos Islands, they live on a fully equipped cruise vessel. Safe, rustic housing is provided at other sites. Meals are provided to the students at all locations.

Admissions

- Minimum 3.0 GPA (in major and overall)
- One year of college Spanish (or equivalent), one year of introductory Biology and one course in Ecology.
- Students must be able to engage in fieldwork in hot temperatures for significant periods of time.



Field Work Locations

Montane: Day and overnight trips from Quito into the central cordillera of the Andes.

Coastal: A guided, ship-based scientific expedition to the Galápagos Islands, followed by a two-week project at Los Piqueros, near Machalilla National Park on the Pacific Coast.

Tropical Rainforest: A four-week stay at the BU/USFQ Tiputini Biodiversity Research Station in the Amazon rain forest.

Program Dates

Fall Semester: late August-late-December

Spring Semester: early January-mid-May

Application Deadlines

Fall Semester: March 15

Spring Semester: October 15

Program Cost

2009/2010 Tuition and Fees: \$24,879 per semester

Cost includes tuition, housing, board, all travel and excursions, including the Galápagos Islands and the Amazon rain forest, textbooks, round-trip airfare from a designated US city, emergency evacuation insurance, reimbursement for selected cultural activities, and emergency travel assistance coverage. Financial aid is available.