

## Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

**Program Title:** Ecuadorian Ecosystems: Andes, Amazon, and Galápagos

**Locations: Ecuador** – Including Quito, Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Papallacta, San Cristobal Island, Santa Cruz Island, and Isabela Island

**Dates:** May 11-26, 2024

**Program Description:** This program explores the ecology and biodiversity of three ecosystems in Ecuador: the Andes Mountains (including cloud forests and the Páramo), the Amazon River basin, and the Galápagos archipelago. Participants will observe the marine and terrestrial organisms endemic to this region (including hummingbirds, parrots, primates, sea turtles, sea lions, penguins, and marine iguanas) and will learn about and participate in conservation programs. The action-packed itinerary includes hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing, snorkeling, and wildlife viewing. Proficiency with Spanish is not required or expected.

### Academic, Environmental, Physical & Health Expectations for Participation

Below is a list of academic, environmental and physical expectations and requirements for participation in this study away program. The list captures most, but not all, requirements. If you have questions about the expectations and requirements, please check with the study away office or the program directors. Students requiring a physical or academic accommodation should contact the Student Office for Accessibility Resources (SOAR) no less than 4 months prior to the start date of the program.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Course work in a foreign language	Never
Course work in English	Always
Laptop Required	Optional
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Recommended
Traditional Classroom	Never
Group Work	Sometimes
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	Journals, field log, paper
Interactions with local residents	Sometimes
Field Work/Research	Field Work-always

STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Foreign Language Environment	Spanish
Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	All
Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Urban, Rural and Remote
Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	All (Cold weather to hot weather gear)
Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	Malaria preventative recommended for the Amazon
Is tap water safe to drink	Not recommended
Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Students must adhere to safety protocols throughout the program. The group will not travel to provinces deemed unsafe by the State Department.
Cultural Dress Code	Modest attire recommended
Curfew	Reasonable curfews may be imposed as necessary for safety reasons

Internship/ Volunteer Work	Never
Other	

Motion Sickness	Transportation by bus, motor boat, canoe, kayak, bicycle and foot. Participants prone to motion sickness should bring
Other	Efficient packing recommended; additional vaccines recommended for yellow fever and typhoid.

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Always
Carrying equipment or program supplies	Carrying field guides
Standing 60+ minutes	Sometimes
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Sometimes
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	Easy to moderate hiking several times
Walking 3+ miles per day	Always
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Some boat transportation
Other	

HEALTH & DIET	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Can accommodate
Food Allergy Accommodations	Can accommodate
Group Meals	Always
Cooking for oneself	Never
Host family prepares meals	Never
Healthcare easily accessible	Most of the time
Quality of Healthcare	Good
Other	

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Host Family	Never
Roommate	Always
Shared Apartment	Never
Dormitory	Never
Cabin	Conservation Lodge
Hotel	Sometimes
Cell phone signal available	Often but not always
Internet signal available	Often but not always
Refrigerator Access	Available
Air Conditioning	

WATER ACTIVITIES	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Swimming	Class activity
Snorkeling	Class activity
SCUBA	Never
Boat, canoes or other water activities	Frequently
Sea sickness	Possibly
Other	

Center for Disease Control Recommendations:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/ecuador>

Other	
-------	--