

All participants are expected to read this Participation Contract in its entirety. Questions should be sent to study.abroad@wku.edu.

PROGRAM LEADERS

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ACCOMMODATIONS

Multi-bedded Hotel Rooms

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary course takes students to the Highland and Amazonian jungle of Ecuador. Explore the history and culture of the Ecuadorian people as well as development issues that face the inhabitants and threaten the ecosystem. Gain an appreciation for the land and climate of Ecuador, the political, religious and cultural issues that affect the agriculture sector and Ecuador's relationship with the global community. Students are exposed to elements of the historical and contemporary dynamic of economic concerns through the Andean Highlands and the Amazonian Jungle.

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

WKU Faculty-Led programs are, first and foremost, academic programs and are intended to support the learning outcomes of the WKU student participant. Non-Credit participants are expected to attend all class meetings and activities while on-site.

1. Students will compare the agriculture production issues from the Highlands of Ecuador to those of the Jungle. In particular, they will study flower production for the local and world markets, potato production, broccoli production, dairy and beef production.
2. Students will compare the infrastructure for agriculture production that exists in the developing country to that existing in the USA today. Issues of disease control, trade and marketing, and public policy will be discussed.
3. Students will experience living in another culture and the challenges of international travel.
4. Students will observe the many diverse ecosystems that exist at the varying elevations the class traverses as we visit the highest point in Quito and proceed down to the lowest elevation in the rain forest near Puyo.
5. Students will adapt the knowledge of this experience to further their appreciation for inter-relationships that exist among ecosystem, political entities, and businesses.
6. Students will interact with producers, scientists, businessmen, and government officials to gather information for their final reports.

PROGRAM DETAILS

LOCATION: Ecuador (Ambato, Puyo, Quito)

ACADEMIC TERM & PROGRAM DATES: Spring 2024- March 14-25, 2024

ITINERARY *(subject to change)*

- March 14:** Travel to Quito via Group Flight; Welcome Dinner
- March 15:** Middle of the World Scientific Experiments; Mitad del Mundo Antiqua Museum; Virgen de El Panecillo
- March 16:** Shop at Otavalo Indian Market & Ibarra Wood Carving Village; Visit w/local Artist at his studio; Group Meal with Local Artist
- March 17:** Exploration of Old Quito; Parque El Ejido, Tour Old Quito and Churches; Travel to Ambato
- March 18:** Meet Jose Martinez, DVM at Livestock Market; Leathertown Market; Group Dinner
- March 19:** Broccoli and Dairy Farm Visits
- March 20:** Visit Flower Market & Indian Open Air Market; Travel to Pillaro; Cobo Family Potato and Dairy Farm; Traditional Andean Fare Lunch
- March 21:** Visit Fresh Cut Flower Facility; Visit Family Farm of Fabian Real (Catalina Real) for Group Lunch
- March 22:** Travel to Puyo; Visit La Casa Del Arbol; Explore Pailon del Diablo; Jungle Night Walk
- March 23:** Visit Jungle Dairy Farm; Visit Wildlife Sanctuary; Visit Pottery Artist and Indian Artist
- March 24:** Return to Quito; Free Afternoon in Quito for Local Market Visits; Farewell Dinner with Local Artist
- March 25:** Morning Preparation for Departure; Tour Jardin Botanico de Quito; Evening Flight back to Nashville

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, the vagaries of weather, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

ELIGIBILITY

- **COVID-19 Vaccines:** All participants on this program are ***strongly*** recommended to be up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination prior to departure. "Up-to-Date" means receiving all primary doses of a CDC, FDA, or WHO authorized vaccine that is accepted in your host location and all boosters recommended for you, when eligible, at least 14 days prior to program departure.
 - COVID-19 vaccine entry & access requirements in your program's location(s) are subject to change. Participants are responsible for meeting vaccine requirements stated by the host destination. Participants who choose not to follow health recommendations or rules may be denied or have restricted access to transportation, events, venues or other essential aspects of participation in this program.
 - WKU has no responsibility for any financial consequences that may result from a participant being denied entry to the program location or denied access to transportation, venue, or other activity associated with the program because they chose not to meet health requirements or recommendations.
- Permission of program leader(s) is required.
- Participants must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure.
- Participants must possess a passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date
- Participants must complete all pre-departure orientations.

- Full payment is due prior to date of departure.
- Participants must complete the Global Learning & International Affairs application process.

By applying, you also acknowledge that the full cost is due before the program departure date.

BASE PACKAGE

Estimated Cost: \$3600-\$3800 (final cost dependent upon final logistical costs)

Included in Base Package

- Round-Trip Flights between Nashville and Quito
- Entrance fees for all required excursions
- Lodging for duration of program
 - See exceptions below concerning medical quarantines
- Daily Breakfast
- Designated group meals
- Course-related ground transportation
- Insurance that covers accidents, medical treatment, trip interruption, security evacuation, and repatriation of remains

Excluded from Base Package

- [Travel Cancellation Insurance](#)- highly recommended
 - Most travel cancellation insurance policies require that insurance is purchased within a specific timeline after making a program deposit payment. See individual plan policies for more information.
- Medical costs not covered by WKU travel insurance and/or participant's personal insurance
 - Participants are responsible for additional costs related to COVID-19 or other illness, such as required COVID testing prior to, during, and after travel; costs related to mandatory quarantines while on-site that are in addition to the program cost, such as additional lodging, meals, and/or transportation costs caused by the quarantine or illness
- Items not explicitly listed as included
- Transportation between your departure airport and your home
- Independent travel expenses (voluntary travel not required for course completion)
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone service, and Internet access
- Tips for guides and drivers not included in program-related activity
- Meals, services, and beverages not mentioned as designated group meals
- Baggage fees and costs associated with flights

Faculty-Led Program courses are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts.

GLIA does its best to include all anticipated costs and contingencies in this Participation Contract. On occasion, the terms of this contract may change due to significant changes in programming or pricing.

LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Passport/Travel ID Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date which is 6 months beyond the last date of the program. **Please begin application process no later than 4 months prior to departure.**
- **Physical Requirements**- This program involves a large amount of walking at varying levels of elevation. Those with breathing issues may find it difficult at the higher elevations. Appropriate shoes for hiking and rain gear are a must.
- **COVID-19 Social Distancing Requirements**-

- Participants should expect social distancing measures and regulations, including the wearing of masks, to be in place for the duration of their program. All participants must follow social distancing regulations put into place by the program, host locations, and/or airports/airlines.
- It is highly encouraged for all program participants to practice social distancing measures for at least a week prior to program departure to limit the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. This includes wearing masks and where possible, staying at home.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

<p>Payment Schedule:</p> <p>December 1, 2023 – Application Deadline & Payment of \$1000 non-refundable deposit</p> <p>February 1, 2024 – Final payment deadline</p> <p>Drop-Off or Mail checks to (preferred method of payment):</p> <p>WKU Global Learning & International Affairs HCIC 1014 1906 College Heights BLVD Bowling Green, KY 42101</p> <p>Payments can also be made via credit/debit card by using the link found within the application.</p>	<p>Penalty for Withdrawal or Non-payment:</p> <p>Deposit Non-Refundable</p> <p>After December 1: 50% of program cost billable to participant After January 1: 75% of program cost billable to participant After February 1: 100% of program cost billable to participant/(No refund)</p> <p>If a balance remains after the payment due date, the participant may be dropped from the program.</p> <p>Withdrawal Process: The participant must inform Global Learning & International Affairs directly and in writing (email accepted, study.abroad@wku.edu) if he or she chooses to withdraw from a program. No other statements of withdrawal will be considered as notification of withdrawal, therefore, the participant will still be considered a program participant until this written notification is received. Withdrawal penalties will be based on the notification date as listed in the Payment Terms and Conditions section of this Participation Contract (see above) and are in effect regardless of when program deposit is paid.</p>
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LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight or weather delays, negligence, or default of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to Acts of Nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package