
PROGRAM LEADERS

Professor Roger Dennis
Clinical Assistant Professor- Agriculture
Roger.dennis@wku.edu

Professor Jill Brown
Assistant Professor- Geography & Geology
Jill.brown@wku.edu

COURSES

AGRI 475/AGRI 675- Agriculture at the Equator

GEOG 452- Geography at the Equator (Applied Geoscience Experience)

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotels

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students will gain an appreciation for the geography and agriculture of Ecuador, the political, religious, and cultural issues that affect Ecuador and its relationship with the global community. Students are exposed to elements of the historical and contemporary dynamics of economic development, oil, politics, ethnic identity, and social and environmental concerns throughout the Andean Highlands and the Amazonian jungle. Students will start at the highest elevation in Quito, then work their way down toward the jungle. The program will spend time in Ambato, Pillaro, Banos, and Puyo, experiencing flower farms, the cattle market, leather town, the Equator, mountains, and rainforest.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

AGRI 475/675

- 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.
- Students will compare the infrastructure for agriculture production that exists in developing country to that existing in the USA today. Issues of disease control, trade and marketing, and public policy will be discussed.
- Students will experience living in another culture and the challenges of international travel.
- 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 rainforest near Puyo.
- Students will adapt the knowledge from this experience to further their appreciation for the inter-relationships that exist amongst ecosystem, political entities, and businesses.
- Students will interact with producers, scientists, businessmen, and government officials to gather information for their final reports.

GEOG 452

- Demonstrate critical thinking skills related to the five main themes of geography at local, region, and global scales
- Evaluate local systems, particularly the cultural and/or physical landscape, to understand their position and influence in the global context
- Describe how geographic analysis and principles allow for a deeper understanding of the evolution of a place in an effort to better understand and predict future changes to the cultural and or physical landscapes of a location

- Describe and analyze the relationship between the five themes of geography to evaluate how local practices can affect these themes on global and local scales
- Compare the local physical landscape formation and change within its position in the global physical landscapes
- Investigate how locations fit together, with surrounding locations, in an established mosaic understanding how they contribute and connect with the others
- Observe the local ideology and or physical landscape of a place to draw comparisons of these observations to the learner's sense of place
- Describe the impact of globalization, particularly the movement of people, goods, and ideas, on the cultural and/or physical landscape
- Understand how people make decisions in their local environment and how those decisions impact their connection to the larger global system
- Analyze how global decision-making can impact smaller, local systems

PROGRAM DETAILS

LOCATION: Ecuador (Quito, Otavala, Ambato, Pillaro, Puyo)

ACADEMIC TERM: Spring 2019: February 28th-March 11, 2019

ITINERARY (*subject to change*) for full itinerary see syllabus

February 28: Leave US from Nashville Airport; Arrive in Quito

March 1: Apply varnish at local school; Otavalo Indian Market & Ibarra Wood Carving Village; Jardin Botancio de Quito

March 2: Middle of the World Scientific Experiments (Equator); Mitad del Mundo Antiqua Museum; Virgen de El Panecillo; Visit local and World renowned Local Artist Enrique Estuardo Alvarez at his studio and dinner

March 3: Art Show at the Parque El Ejido; Depart for Ambato; Explore churches and Old Quito; Visit Ice Cream Town, Salcedo

March 4: Livestock Market; Leather town Market

March 5: Investigate marketing systems; local flower market and Indian open air market in Ambato; Travel to Pillaro, visit Cobo family farm on a potato and dairy farm, return to Ambato

March 6: Visit broccoli farm and dairy farm

March 7: Visit fresh cut flower facility

March 8: Travel to Puyo; Stop in Banos, visit La Casa del Arbol; Ride cable trolley over valley to Pailon del Diablo (Throat of the Devil waterfall); Meet with Authentic Native Headhunter Pascual and his wife Norma over dinner

March 9: Buy boots in Puyo; Jungle Dairy Farm; Wildlife Sanctuary; Visit Pottery Artist and Indian Artist

March 10: Depart for Quito; Explore time in Quito

March 11: Return flight to Nashville (possibly landing early March 12)

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

- Permission of instructor(s) is required.
- Student must be in good academic standing. Undergraduate catalog - <https://www.wku.edu/undergraduatedcatalog/index.php>
- Current WKU student eligible to register for WKU courses may apply. Students from outside WKU may participate as [visiting students](#).
- Students must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure. Participants under the age of 18 will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- Students must possess passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date.
- Students must be free of active disciplinary sanctions as verified by the Office of Student Conduct.
 - Students who become ineligible to attend the program after applying due to disciplinary sanctions will be subject to standard program cost penalty rates. Students are responsible for notifying the Office of Study Away when they become aware of this ineligibility.
- Students must complete all pre-departure orientations.
- Full payment prior to departure is required.
- Students must complete the [Study Abroad & Global Learning application process](#) prior to being registered in this course. We suggest you start this application process immediately and respond to all emails promptly.

By applying, you also acknowledge that the full cost is due before the program departure date, and you are reminded and encouraged to complete the FAFSA even if you have not received financial aid in the past.

If a student completes a program without full payment prior to the departure, the student should receive an incomplete until the obligation is paid. The Office of Study Away will inform faculty leaders if a student is in this situation prior to the Study Away term grade deadline.

BASE PACKAGE

Estimated Cost: \$2599*

Included in Base Package

- Round-trip flight between Nashville, TN and Quito, Ecuador
- All lodging accommodations during program in Ecuador
- Entrance fees for all program related excursions
- Designated group meals
- Course-related ground transportation
- International medical insurance

Excluded from Base Package

- Items not explicitly stated as included
- Transportation between your departure airport and your home.
- Independent travel (non-program travel).
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone service, and Internet access.
- Tips for guides and drivers not included in program-related activity.
- Travel cancellation/interruption insurance. *Highly recommended.*
- Meals, services, and beverages not mentioned in the program, see syllabus
- Baggage fees and costs associated with flight / program changes
- SAGL Study Abroad Application fee of \$150.00
- Please see "Logistical Considerations" for more information regarding tuition and fees for this Spring Semester program.

Study Abroad courses are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts.
***Final program fee subject to change due to travel arrangements.**

Green Sheet subject to change due to adjustment in program or pricing.

LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Passport Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date, which is 6 months beyond the last date of the program.
- **Program participants must have the ability to walk 3 – 6 miles per day at the rate of 3 miles per hour. This program may require walking as much as one mile without stopping at any one time.**
- The credit hours for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in Spring or Fall Semester Faculty-Led Study Abroad or Study Away programs will count as regular semester hours; therefore, students who are part-time or are enrolled in over 18 credit hours are subject to additional charges. Please visit the following website for more information:
<https://www.wku.edu/bursar/home-tuition-fees.php>

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

<p>Your TopNet Account will be billed according to the following Payment Schedule:</p> <p>December 1, 2018 – Priority Study Abroad Application & \$250 non-refundable deposit* deadline. Program Fee will be charged to student's TopNet account (minus \$250 non-refundable deposit). Balance must be paid prior to program departure. Students applying after this date will be billed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit card – NOT billed to student account.</p>	<p>Penalty for Withdrawal or Non-payment: Deposit Non-Refundable</p> <p>After December 1: 50% of program cost billable to student After January 1: 75% of program cost billable to student After February 1: 100% of program cost billable to student/(No refund)</p> <p>If a balance remains after the payment due date, the participant may be dropped from the program. A student may remain in the program by providing an award notification from WKU's Student Financial Assistance that verifies ability to pay the program fee immediately after aid is received.</p>
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The total amount due in your semester invoice may reflect the combined charges for multiple terms (i.e. Fall and Winter or Spring and Summer) and includes program fees for your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program. Please see your TopNet account for a breakdown of amounts due per term. Refer to your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program's Green Sheet for final payment due dates and billing information. If you have any questions, please email facultyled.abroad@wku.edu.

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.