

Gap Program in Quito, Ecuador

Individually Customized Programs

What makes ANDEO's Gap programs stand out is that they are very flexible and can be customized to fit your goals and interests. The two core components are small-group language courses and a homestay with a local family. From there, you can choose your own path. For example, you can take courses in Indigenous Cultures, join a medical services program, or get involved with a volunteer project. Programs can be as short as four weeks or as long as a full year and start any Monday of the year. Academic credit is available.

2009 Cost Estimate: \$3,675 for a 12-week program (airfare not included; 4-week to 12-month programs possible)

Quito

Welcome to the "City of Sun and Sky!" The vibrant capital of Ecuador is a true melting pot of its diverse cultures and international influences. Stroll through the old town with its gorgeous colonial architecture, stand on both hemispheres at the same time, and taking beautiful views of the surrounding mountains.

The Language Institute

The institute is located in a lovely neighborhood called La Carolina and offers a warm and inspiring study environment. The building is surrounded by gardens and features a cafeteria, a video room, and a racquetball court. Because this institute is accredited as a university, you can also take exciting content courses on subjects like Hispanic-American Literature, Indigenous Cultures, or Regional History.

The Classes

With small classes consisting of only five students, you will have many opportunities to join the conversations. The basic language course includes 20 hours of classes per week and covers oral communication, written assignments, interactive exercises, and grammar. Your schedule will depend on your individual course selection.

Cultural Activities

Deepen your understanding of Ecuadorian culture through afternoon workshops and local excursions! You can join cooking classes, lectures on current topics, film screenings, or dancing lessons. Day trips may take you to the Cotacachi National Park, a traditional indigenous market, or the rainforest. Volunteer placements on the Galapagos Islands are also available!

Special Option: Spanish and Andean Cuisine

Discover the flavors of the Andes and practice your Spanish through lively talks over lunch! For three hours per week, you will enjoy not only a variety of local specialties, but also the social atmosphere at traditional restaurants in Quito. A tutor will spark conversation and introduce you to new vocabulary. Contact us for details!

Accommodations

A homestay with a local family is the best way to immerse yourself into the daily life in Quito. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is a strong interest in sharing their culture. Breakfast and dinner are included.



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ANDEO International Homestays - a nonprofit organization since 1981.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the cost estimate include? Tuition for the language course, study materials, homestay placement with breakfast and dinner each day, some cultural activities, pre-departure orientation materials, and ongoing support in your preparations and during your stay in Quito. If you want to add special options, please contact ANDEO for a cost estimate.

Can I study if I am a beginner? Yes, you can start as a complete beginner. Call for specific beginner start dates!

When will I receive my host family placement information? You will receive host family details and contact information in the week prior to your arrival date.

Will I receive any orientation materials? Yes. Once you are accepted into the program, we will send you comprehensive orientation materials that cover everything from packing suggestions to dealing with culture shock.

Will I have access to email? Yes, you can access the internet connection at the language institute for a small fee or take advantage of the free wi-fi network.

Will the institute be closed for any holidays? Yes. The institute is closed for all national holidays in Ecuador.

Can I get credits for studying abroad? Yes! Whether you are a high school graduate, a university student working toward a degree, or a teacher looking for professional development, you can get credit for continuing your education abroad. Earn 5 to 10 credits by signing up for a variety of courses offered by *We Study Abroad*, an accredited college program linked with Seattle Central Community College. Please visit www.westudyabroad.com for details.

Do I need travel insurance? We strongly recommend that you get travel insurance that includes a medical plan. Prices depend upon trip length and participant age. You can compare different policies online or by contacting your local travel agent.

Will I need a visa? That depends on the length of your program, your citizenship, and other individual factors. Visa requirements change frequently, so we strongly recommend that you contact your nearest Ecuadorian consulate or embassy to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about all rules and regulations that apply to your stay. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents for your program in Ecuador. If you need any documents from ANDEO or our partner organization abroad, we will do our best to provide them to you.

Can I speak to people who have participated in the program before? Definitely! Please contact our office and we can provide you with the emails of students who have participated in this program.

How do I apply? To apply, complete the initial Gap application and return it with a \$300 deposit. You can download an application at www.andeo.org. Your deposit will be applied to the total program price. Upon receipt of your program registration and deposit, we will send you a detailed orientation packet. The balance of your program fees will be due 30 days before your program start date.

What is your cancellation policy? If you cancel your program more than 45 days prior to your start date, we will refund the amount you have paid toward your program fee except for the \$100 non-refundable deposit as well as any cancellation fees charged by the language institute. The cancellation fees vary from program to program, so please feel free to ask us about the fees that apply to yours. For cancellations made less than 45 days prior to your program start date, your \$300 deposit will be forfeited, and you will also be responsible for the cancellation fees charged by the institute. If ANDEO cancels your program, you will receive a full refund.

If you have any further questions or would like to start planning your program in France, please contact ANDEO at info@andeo.org, 503.274.1776 or 800.274.6007. We look forward to working with you!



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Like having options? Take a look at our other Gap programs in Argentina, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, and Spain!

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