



ECUADOR

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Nowhere else on earth will you find so much natural diversity – and all the fun that accompanies it – in such a small country.

Ecuador is in fact the second-smallest country in South America, lying between the equator and the Pacific Ocean, but its range of offerings is no less than astounding. In one day's drive, you can journey from the Amazon Basin across glaciated Andean volcanoes, down through tropical cloud forest and arrive at a seaside village on the Pacific coast.

Traditionally the impoverished have resided in rural areas but with rapid urbanisation over the last 25 years, the urban population in poverty has risen by 2% per annum. In total, around 28% of Ecuadorians live in poverty. Some of the characteristics of poverty are low educational achievement, poor nutrition, informal sector employment, and rented, low- grade housing.

Life outside of the project

Volunteers in these placements have a variety of activities to choose from. Those who prefer city amenities can look forward to museums and galleries, great restaurants, spas and a vibrant nightlife. More outdoor- types will be thrilled by the diversity of amazing beaches, mountains and natural parks, and all the sports that accompany them. And for those looking to really experience Ecuador, spend some time in the Amazon rainforest or exploring Darwin's Galapagos.

Ecuador



Weather

Average temperature: 24°C

Seasons vary depending on the geography and some say that you will experience 4 seasons in one day in Ecuador!

Agro Forestry and Environmental Conservation In The Mindo Cloud Forest

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The project

If you are interested in environmental science and conservation efforts then volunteer on this project located in the stunning Cloud Forest in Ecuador. This family-owned reserve seeks to preserve the cloud-forest and restore land used for pasture through reforestation and agroforestry efforts. The goal of the reserve is to achieve sustainability through both agriculture and ecotourism. A mile-long canopy tour of the reserve provides a unique birds-eye-view of the cloud forest contained in the reserve. As part of the management plan, the local community is included in educational and community building activities. The foundation's mission is to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of natural ecosystems, their resources and biodiversity for future generations, through the diffusion of productive activities that are compatible with nature; supporting values of social equity and respect for natural and cultural diversity. Join this project and help with efforts focusing on ecology, biology and agricultural activities and research to conserve this incredible habitat.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers can get involved in a range of activities focusing on two areas: environmental /conservation activities and culture/community development activities. Depending on your skill set and the needs of the project at the time of your placement, activities may include:

- Restoration of ecosystems: collecting of seeds, plants production in the nursery and reforestation.
- Agroforestry: implementation, management and monitoring of diversified organic coffee plantations.
- Maintenance of trails and gardens.
- Organic agriculture: elaboration of organic fertilizer, harvesting, management of a garden.
- Raising farm animals: horses, cows, chickens and making cheeses.
- Biological survey: identification of orchids and bromeliads, ecological studies of the local avian and technical tests regarding the germination of forest seeds.
- The development of materials and curricula for environmental education projects with schools and businesses
- Working with the tourism program that boasts one of the most impressive zipline canopies in Ecuador, trails, tree-climbing, and canopy bridges

All participants are asked to be flexible. If you are interested in a particular aspect of research please discuss this with a Kaya Placement Advisor.

Skills required

This project is geared towards volunteers with a strong background in natural sciences, including biology, ecology, or environmental science. Volunteers with research experience or who have their own independent research projects are especially welcomed. You will work local experts and should be able to demonstrate cultural sensitivity. A basic level of Spanish would be useful but is not essential for this project.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Develop your own environmental conservation knowledge and skills, while helping in the socio-environmental development of the local community.
- ✓ Contribute to conservation and restoration initiatives in the Choco Bioregion, while also supporting and strengthening sustainable family development program through ecotourism.
- ✓ Compliment your theoretical learning with practical hands-on experience, especially if you are studying environmental science or conservation.

Project location

Orientation will take place in Quito, Ecuador's capital city, where you can take extra Spanish lessons before starting your placement. The project itself is located about an hour and a half outside of Quito in the famous Mindo Cloud Forest which is known for its stunning scenery and habitats. On the weekends, volunteers are able to go hiking, horseback riding, and even cave tubing for the more adventurous! There are waterfalls, cycling routes and rafting opportunities approximately 20 kilometers away, as well as a fascinating butterfly farm.

Project facts

Duration: 2 - 26 weeks

Requirements: Age 16+

Location: Mindo Cloud Forest, Ecuador

Working hours: -

Project availability: Projects run year-round. RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor.

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a volunteer rustic accommodation with up to 7 other people

Meals: 2 meals per day during your project placement

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Orientation in Quito, pre-departure pack, on-site orientation and project induction included

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff will help plan activities and excursions (activities may cost extra)

Hostel stay while in Quito, including Breakfast

Transfer to the project site after orientation

Local SIM card and phone: (deposit of \$50 required for handset)

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Daily transfer to and from your project

Meals beyond those indicated above

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Amazon Rainforest Wildlife Rescue in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The project

Volunteer on this project dedicated to Amazon rainforest wildlife rescue in Ecuador and support efforts to protect local species. The project was founded in 2006 by a local family that lives in the Amazon rainforest. It works with the Ministry of the Environment and the Environmental Police to rescue and, wherever possible, rehabilitate wild animals, victims of abuse and animal trafficking. The sanctuary is open to the public and school groups to generate much needed income to care for the animals but the main focus is the protection and rescue of species.

The sanctuary is home to hundreds of animals at any time, including parrots, monkeys, turtles, wild cats, capybaras, caymans, and many more mammals and birds. As well as 4 hectares of space for the centre, there are an additional 70 hectares used for release and research purpose. Ensuring the spaces are well maintained and suitable for the various species is an important aspect of the daily work. Join us in Ecuador and gain experience of working with a range of species and the attempts made to improve the lives of those that have been trafficked and mistreated.

Role of the volunteer

This project is seriously understaffed and always needs assistance with the daily chores: cleaning the cages, feeding the animals, repairing the animals' homes, constructing new enclosures for incoming animals as well as taking part in research projects focused on certain species. The project opens to school groups to raise money and also to educate local children about the importance of caring for the animals. Volunteers may be asked to help with these groups and will have an opportunity to use their English and Spanish. Volunteers are also involved with the general upkeep of the centre, assisting with cleaning, cooking and maintenance.

Those with experience in veterinary science or biology may work with the sanctuary coordinators to take more of an active role in animal care and some of the more technical aspects of the running of the wildlife rescue centre.

Skills required

No specific qualifications are required however a level of comfort with animals is needed - as well as a passion for getting dirty. A background in veterinary science, biology or environmental conservation is very useful. A love of animals is essential as this is the focus of your volunteer placement. Spanish skills are not required for this placement although it would integrate you more with the local community. You must be willing to learn! Experience working in environmental policy (administrative or legal) would also be a plus!

Why choose this project

- ✓ Support the goals of providing shelter and rehabilitation to animals confiscated from bad situations as the help of the volunteers is much needed with limited funding.
- ✓ Learn about the wildlife of the Amazon while spending time up close with a fascinating medley of enchanting creatures.
- ✓ Learn about nutritional requirements and behaviours and come away with a better understanding of the environmental challenges faced by inhabitants of the Amazon.

Project location

This project is located 3 km outside of Puyo, the capital of Pastaza province, dividing the southern and northern regions in the Amazon - just over an hour away from the popular tourist town of Banos. The area is lush tropical rainforest canopy where mist rises off distant mountains, free roaming monkeys can be spotted, and the chorus of rescued animals and frogs fills the air.

This is a rural location, ideal for volunteers who like tranquil, remote and simple living conditions, rewarded by meaningful work experience with the locals and animals. You will live in furnished wooden cabins on site, with communal kitchen and social areas. In the evenings, volunteers play cards and darts, read books, and watch DVDs and sit in hammocks around the fire pit to round off the night in this beautiful, and tranquil location.

Project facts

Duration: 2 - 26 weeks
Requirements: Age 17+
Location: Puyo, Ecuador
Working hours: 08:00-12:30 and 14.30-17.00 (Monday - Friday)
Project availability: available all year round. RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021
Arrival day: twice monthly on Fridays. Please speak to an advisor.

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a cabin during your placement
Meals: 2 meals per day Monday evening to Saturday morning- Meals served in communal kitchen with shared cooking responsibilities
Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito
Training: Pre-departure pack, on-site orientation and project induction
Support: -
Excursion Planning: Staff will help plan activities and excursions (activities may cost extra)
3 nights stay in a hostel in Quito, breakfast provided
Local SIM card and phone: (deposit \$50 required for handset)
Transport between Quito and project site

What's not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more
Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Education Outreach for Child Workers in the Markets in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The project

Volunteer and provide education outreach for child workers in the markets in Ecuador. Based in Quito, you will help educate children, aged three years old and upward, who work up to ten hours a day. They work in the markets, streets and countryside of Ecuador to support their families. This intervention programme takes a proactive approach, traveling to the markets around southern Quito, setting up tents, and providing an early-years education program for the younger children, and homework support for those older. By meeting these children on their turf, the program has achieved great success in recruiting and maintaining attendees to the preschool programs, along with an ultimate reduction in the children's work hours and in drop-out from public schools. The program also carries out workshops and informational sessions for families of the children addressing issues such as hygiene, nutrition and domestic violence.

Role of the volunteer

With appropriate support and training, volunteers will assist the full time staff in developing lessons and teaching the weekly education themes. The program uses dynamic methods, including song, dance, art, and movement to create a healthy, educational environment for the children. The program generally visits two markets a day, with both morning and afternoon sessions of about two and a half hours each. Volunteers travel to the work sites by local bus, assist in setting up the pop-up tent schools, and play/learn/interact with the children. Social workers work with the families to provide wider support addressing issues such as physical, sexual, emotional and substance abuse in the home, how they can better support their children and general well-being. Volunteers with social work or global health background and good level of Spanish language may sometimes be able to assist in this. The organisation also has intense summer programs with engaging arts, dance, music and sports activities for the underserved community in its surrounding area.

Skills required

Volunteers should be open, flexible, patient, caring, creative and come with a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. Interest in social work, early childhood education, community development and social justice are a plus. Basic Spanish speaking skills are required for this project to enable you to communicate with the children, but can be gained by attending Spanish classes during your placement. As the project involves different locations volunteers should be prepared to use public transport. You will be asked to send your CV/resume before being accepted onto this project.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Enable the passionate and committed local staff - made up of social workers and education specialists - to open their doors to the thousands of market children while still providing the necessary attention, structure and support to achieve individual goals.
- ✓ Work directly with over 160 children who are enrolled in this program to deliver the planned curriculum and provide individual attention.
- ✓ Learn about the challenges faced by the families of market traders, and how early-years intervention and mentoring support can provide opportunities that improve their futures.

Project location

Quito is a large, bustling capital city - declared a UNESCO world Heritage centre in 1978 surrounded by the natural beauty of the volcanic Andean mountains. For your project, you will be based in the South of the city, where the less affluent population are found. Living in a homestay family, just a few minutes walk from the project offices, you will have great immersion in Ecuadorian life alongside other volunteers from all over the world. At the project centre, you can sign up for language, dance and cooking classes, or enjoy a weekly free movie night, as well as intercambio Spanish conversation sessions. There is plenty to see and do in and around Quito. Spend time walking around the city, familiarising yourself with the art, museums and historic architecture. At night, enjoy the many restaurants, bars and live music performances.

Project facts

Duration: 2 weeks - 12 weeks
Requirements: Age 17+
Location: Quito, Ecuador
Working hours: 9:30 am - 12 pm; lunch break; 2 - 4:30 pm, Monday - Saturday
Project availability: Year-round, starting on a Monday with summer camps during June - August. RECRUITING FOR 2022
Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor.

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a home stay
Meals: 2 meals per day
Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito
Training: Pre-departure pack, on-site orientation on Saturday and project induction included
Support: 24-hour support
Excursion Planning: -
2 days stay in a hostel in Quito on arrival, breakfast included
Local SIM card and phone(handset deposit of \$50 required)

What's not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Transfers to and from your project each day
Meals beyond those listed above
Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more
Optional 6 hrs per week Spanish classes available; £50 / \$88 (alongside your placement)
Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Environmental Conservation on the Coast of Ecuador

ECUADOR

The project

Volunteer on the Coast of Ecuador on this environmental conservation project and gain an incredible insight into the biodiversity of this region. The project NGO is committed to research and habitat protection and restoration for threatened species.

Despite its small landmass, Ecuador is renowned for its mega-diversity due to its variety of life zones, including: mangrove swamps, dry tropical forest, tropical cloud forest, and tropical lowland rainforest. Of the world's known bird species (about 9,000), tiny Ecuador is home to over 1,500.

The destruction of habitats in the Ecuadorian Amazon is considered one of the greatest threats to the conservation of biodiversity and the main cause for the extinction of wild species. Renowned scientists estimate that approximately 137 species are being driven to extinction everyday, that is 50,000 each year.

This environmental conservation and community education initiative offers volunteer opportunities on the coast of Ecuador. Volunteer work includes reforestation, environmental education, community service and development, plant conservation, agroforestry, organic agriculture, field data collection, and scientific research. Come and volunteer and help this amazing work continue, contributing to the sustainability of these essential wildlife conservation initiatives.

Role of the volunteer

Your specific volunteer role will depend on the ongoing initiatives at the time of your projects, as well as your specific skills and interests.

On the coast, help in the recovery, reintroduction and release process of critically endangered macaws, who have been victims of illegal trafficking and ecosystem destruction. The goal at this private reserve is to establish a wild population of macaws in the surrounding area. Work with the support of local foundations and parks to achieve this. Depending on the season, your fieldwork may include going to the forest and climbing trees to monitor nesting sites. You will also be involved in the maintenance of the aviary, cleaning of cages, feeding and monitoring of the birds. Professionals in the fields of biology, zoology, ornithology, environmental sciences or other related areas could assist with more technical functions.

Your work will vary slightly according to your location but Kaya's advisors will help you choose the best location for you with regards to your skills and interests.

Skills required

No specific skills are required to participate. A knowledge of Spanish would be helpful but is not a prerequisite for your acceptance onto the project. The main requirement is a positive attitude, willingness to work hard on each project. You should be interested in reforestation or biodiversity and be passionate about steps to help conserve the environment. This is a great placement for anyone interested in ornithology or birding in general.

Why choose this project



Play an important role in supporting local staff in their conservation efforts. There are many practical environmental projects such as reforestation, park maintenance, wildlife monitoring, feeding, helping with research projects and providing education about the issues facing Ecuador's environment and wildlife, tasks which cannot always be accomplished in full by the staff alone.



Gain an understanding of the challenges facing environmental projects while providing your assistance to help the project proceed in full stride.



Support the local efforts while adding this invaluable experience to your CV/Resume as well.

Project location

This is a great project to explore the Ecuadorian coast during your time off or after their placement has finished. Ayampe is a small coastal village with nice beach walks, jungle hikes and good for surfing. You will experience Ecuadorian living with a host family. The place is a peaceful surfer town known to tourist for being off the beaten track. Many come to practice surf, yoga and get some tranquility away from the Beach Town of Puerto Lopez. Be sure to catch a magnificent sunset from one of the towns hill within minutes of walking!

Project facts

Duration: 2 - 26 weeks

Requirements: Age 18+

Location: Ayampe, Ecuador

Project availability: Projects run year-round. RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor.

What's included

Accommodation: Host family

Meals: 3 meals per day during your project placement

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Orientation in Quito, pre-departure pack, on-site orientation and project induction included

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff will help plan activities and excursions (activities may cost extra)

Hostel stay while in Quito, including Breakfast

Transfer to the projects

Local SIM card and phone: (deposit of \$50 required for handset)

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Transfer to and from your project

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Fair Trade Internship in the Amazon Rainforest

ECUADOR

The project

Travel to Ecuador and join a Fair Trade internship in the Mindo Cloud Forest for a unique chocolate-related project. This project focuses on sustainable economic development, cultural preservation and heritage conservation by working directly with indigenous farming families. The cocoa used is cultivated by over 100 families using traditional farming techniques and with respect to the environmental conditions.

The project works with a women's association that implements continuous education and training programs of the farmers around products like pure chocolate, flavored chocolate and other cocoa products. The association also ensure that a fair price is paid for the products and it generates incomes to sustain the local farming community.

The focus is on social empowerment, community development and environmental management in a fair trade context for vegan sustainable chocolate!

Role of the Volunteer

You will be supportive of the business with possible involvement in the fields of business planning, marketing and customer service. This placement is a great opportunity to learn about the whole fabrication process of one of the best chocolate in the world. Indeed, the chocolate coming from the farming community has already won awards for demonstrating excellence in sales, innovation and advanced social responsibility to the community.

Activities may include field research, manual labor, marketing, or data entry. Your tasks will vary depending on your skills and interests and the needs of the project at the time of your internship.

Skills required

This internship is geared towards undergraduate and graduate students, and industry professionals. Your focus should be on entrepreneurship, international development, business, food engineering, tourism or a related field. Team working skills and flexibility are required as well as a reasonable level of fitness. Proficiency in Spanish (level A2 User of CEFR) is required for this project as you will be working alongside local people. You will receive feedback about your placement. Please bring a laptop to record your progress during your internship.

Why choose this project



Experience a project with a unique combination of environmental, social and business aspects while learning about the process of chocolate making!



Help boost the project's economical gains and really make a positive difference to the lives of the farmers and their families.



Gain experience in an ethical industry with growth potential as you practice your Spanish and demonstrate your ability to effectively communicate your ideas and adapt to different settings.

Project location

The project is located in Mindo, a collection of rural parishes in the northern region of Ecuador. The Mindo Valley is known to be one of the most biologically diverse ecoregions in the world. Not only known as the "Ruta de Cacao", the area is also very touristic due to its biodiversity and collection of things to do.

Your accommodation will be at a nature and touristic reserve and will meet all of your basic needs.

Weekends can be spent rafting, tubing, mountain biking, horseback riding, birdwatching, trekking or just enjoying yourself nearby a waterfall.

Project facts

Duration: 4 - 26 weeks

Requirements: Age 18+

Location: Mindo Cloud Forest, Ecuador

Working hours: Monday-Friday 08.00 - 14.30

Project availability: All year round.

RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday.

Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in an eco lodge, Stay in a hostel in Quito, breakfast included for the first weekend

Meals: 2 meals a day

Airport: scheduled pick up and drop off in Quito

On the Ground Transport: Escorted travel from Quito to your project location

Training: Pre-departure pack, on-site orientation on a Saturday, project induction and learning reflection document

Support: On-site coordinator providing 24 hour support, feedback at the end of your placement

Excursion Planning: Staff help organise evening and weekend activities (extra fees may apply)

Certificate on completion

Local SIM card and phone: (deposit of \$50 required for handset)

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Lunch

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Health and Medical Internship in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The Internship

This health and medical internship in Ecuador will give medical, biology and science students insights into issues in global health, traditional medicine, urgent care and medical practice in a community for middle class Ecuadorians and poor indigenous communities.

Hospital work consist of shadowing doctors. In the poorer communities there are issues with nutrition and a lack of awareness of general health issues such as contraception, and the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. The hospital offers a range of services to the local community and departments include ER, x-ray, pharmacy, surgical, lab, cardio and obstetrics. The hospital also runs an ambulance service.

If you chose to work in rural communities' health centres, you will be asked to provide medical aid, prevention education, and resources to people that do not have access to good healthcare. You will get the opportunity to help very disadvantaged people, living in extreme poverty.

Role of the intern

Health and medical interns in Ecuador will largely observe their supervisor, and may be asked to assist with admitting patients, taking vitals and if your skills and experience deem it appropriate or even administer basic first aid. You may also be asked to shadow or assist a doctor, a dentist, a pharmacist or a lab technician. Your involvement will very much depend on your experience and a placement on this project is suitable for medical, biology or nursing students. Your preferences will be discussed with you and it may be that you rotate around departs or spend more time in one. This will also be determined by the number of other interns at the time of your placement and the needs and demands of the project. Those of you that want to learn about the approaches taken to indigenous treatment may be able to do so. Building a relationship with your supervisor is as important as evidence of qualifications on this placement. There is also an option for you to participate in awareness campaigns in sexual health education. Please discuss this with a Kaya advisor if you are interested in incorporating this into your placement during your interview. During your placement you will have regular meetings with your supervisor to assess your progress.

Skills required

If you are a medical, biology or nursing student you will be able to apply for a position as a medical intern in Ecuador. You will be asked to submit your CV/resume and to attend a Skype interview to be considered for this placement. You must speak Spanish (level B1 Intermediate User of CEFR) to get the most out of this placement and to contribute effectively to the hospital. It is suggested that medical interns who want to get the most out of this placement should sign up for medical Spanish lessons in Quito prior to commencing this placement. Even those who are fluent in Spanish will benefit from these lessons. Interns are asked to complete a learning diary during their placement and to produce a presentation about their learning for the local team at the end of the internship.

What are the benefits of interning

- ✓ Shadow and work alongside healthcare professionals in a variety of areas including family planning education, dental assistance, basic healthcare prevention methods, nutritional education, and much more.
- ✓ Be matched depending on your skills and interests with projects that suit your interests and help provide essential services to communities who will greatly benefit from any extra medical support they can get.
- ✓ Gain invaluable insight into the local health-care system, develop your team working and communication skills which will look great on your CV/Resume.

Project location

Your project will be based outside of Quito. Quito is surrounded by natural beauty, by the mountains ringing the city, some volcanic, some with white-capped peaks, lushly forested hills and a fertile valley. It was a major Inca city. Quito was named as a world heritage site in 1978 and has wonderful museums, arts and other places of interest.

Project facts

Duration: Minimum of 4 weeks
Requirements: Age 18+
Location: Quito, Ecuador
Working hours: Vary according to the needs of the hospital, expect to work shifts
Project availability: Projects are available all year. RECRUITING FOR SUMMER 2021
Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a shared house with kitchen and 2 bathrooms with hot running water
Meals: 2 meals per day – Breakfast and a light dinner
Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito
Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre-departure info pack, learning reflection manual, on-site orientation and project induction provided
Support: 24-hour support
Excursion Planning: Staff can help plan excursions (some may cost extra)
On arrival you will stay in a shared room in a hostel in Quito, breakfast included
Wifi
Local SIM card and phone: (handset deposit of \$50 required)
Certificate on completion of the presentation about your placement

What's not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Transport between your accommodation and project throughout your placement
Intensive Spanish classes 1 week £355 / \$621 including accommodation
Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more
Police/Government Background Check: US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies); all other nationalities must provide local police check

NGO Management Internship in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The Internship

This NGO Management Internship in Ecuador offers you an incredible opportunity to develop your knowledge and experience in international development whilst using your own skill set to make a lasting impact on a local non-profit in Quito. Gain valuable exposure to how NGOs work and assist with fundraising, administrative tasks, and entrepreneurship support, as well as facilitating skills training and development.

There are several NGOs in the Quito area that are seeking dedicated interns to join their team, and you will be placed based on your studies, skills and interests. Interns will form an integral part of the office staff in a professional setting. You will be supporting an under-resourced not-for-profit organization, directly benefiting a vulnerable local community, whilst gaining cross-cultural experience in an international setting.

This program offers a fantastic opportunity to gain experience in areas such as human rights, social work, psychology, research, communication and non-profit development depending on your future career aspirations!

Role of the intern

This placement allows interns to positively influence a local Ecuadorian NGO in a variety of capacities, including key administrative tasks, important fundraising initiatives and exciting skills development training. During the internship you may have the opportunity to learn how to:

- Research funding opportunities and write grant proposals
- Develop materials for the NGO that will excel in the international development sector
- Work with key community stakeholders to ensure development activities are meeting the needs of local people

Which not-for-profit organization you are placed with will depend on your studies, skill set and areas of interests.

If skills training and entrepreneurship is your passion then join a non-political NGO who work with the local population of Ecuador to help them discover and develop their skills. Improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities through initiatives such as citizen training, local development and core organization strengthening. This NGO was created 30 years ago and has extended its outreach to 12 of the country's provinces.

Alternatively, intern with an NGO that offers vital support to children, and their families, who have been diagnosed with cancer. It is an emotive but wonderful placement where your admin support and funding initiatives will help these vulnerable children overcome their difficult medical treatments. You will also coordinate recreational activities to uplift the children and teach the families useful skills to help with medical costs.

Skills required

You must be diligent, highly motivated with a flexible attitude and able to manage your time. You will be working with a team, so good communication and collaboration competencies are important. Likewise, you will be asked to send your CV/resume to identify your skills, experience, and interests before being accepted into this internship. Furthermore, you will also need to possess the equivalent of an A2 beginner Spanish Level to get the most from your experience. You must be flexible, patient and able to work in a multicultural team.

What are the benefits of interning

Join us on this placement in Quito and gain a core understanding of how an NGO operates in a non-traditional setting, whilst immersing yourself in Ecuadorian culture. Support the local team with a range of tasks including funding and donor opportunities, recognize challenges facing a non-profit and celebrate achievements through your hard work. Gain first-hand experience within the international development sector and offer the local staff a different global perspective and approach, as you increase their audience and quality of publications.

Project location

The placement options are located close to central Quito, the capital city of Ecuador. Quito sits high in the Andean foothills at an altitude of 2,850m and is a renowned world heritage site. Constructed on the foundations of an ancient Incan city, Quito is known for its well-preserved colonial center packed with colonial monuments and architectural treasures. Quito is surrounded by spectacular mountains and volcanoes, with breathtaking landscapes from every angle.

Project facts

Duration: Minimum of 4 weeks

Requirements: Age 18+

Location: Quito, Ecuador

Working hours: Monday-Friday, 6 hours a day

Project availability: Projects are available all year. RECRUITING FOR SPRING 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a shared house with kitchen and 2 bathrooms with hot running water

Meals: 2 meals per day – Breakfast and a light dinner

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre-departure info pack, learning reflection manual, on-site orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff can help plan excursions (some may cost extra)

On arrival you will stay in a shared room in a hostel in Quito, breakfast included Wifi

Local SIM card and phone: (handset deposit of \$50 required)

Certificate on completion of the presentation about your placement

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Transport between your accommodation and project throughout your placement

Intensive Spanish classes 1 week £355 / \$621 including accommodation

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check: US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies); all other nationalities must provide local police check

Psychology and Social Work Internship in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The Internship

The psychology and social work internship in Ecuador work with one of two local NGOs that focus on support for children with autism or language disabilities in Quito. Make a real difference and participate in a wide range of areas including diagnosis, psycho-pedagogical support, multi-sensory classrooms, music therapy, social skills, cognitive skills, language skills, and workshops for parents. As an intern, you will contribute to specific and individual support programs and specialized therapies that stimulate the development of skills.

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability, and during your psychology and social work internship, you will contribute to the educational intervention methods which best meet the needs of the child and family.

As an intern on the psychology and social work internship in Ecuador, you will form an integral part in the diagnosis, rehabilitation and treatment that children require for their learning and development by collaborating with the community of children, their families, schools and professionals.

Role of the intern

During your Psychology and Social Work internship in Ecuador, you will have the opportunity to assist Ecuadorian professionals to integrate professional therapeutic models and family counseling. You will work alongside educational centers, as well as state, municipal and private institutions as you ultimately provide and promote the comprehensive health of vulnerable children and their families through a multidisciplinary approach.

Depending on your skill set and the needs of the project at the time, you may be involved in a variety of rehabilitation programs, including Language Therapy, Child Psychology, Psycho-pedagogy and Physical Therapy. As an important member of the team, you can help improve the children's quality of life, social inclusion, learning and development.

Skills required

In order to participate in this psychology and social work internship in Ecuador, you will be asked to provide your resume and attend a short interview. Any experience with autism and language disorders is highly regarded but not essential. This placement is particularly suited to social work, psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy and psychopedagogy students. Please arrive with empathy, humility, dedication, flexibility and patience. A B1 level of Spanish is also required to communicate effectively throughout your internship.

What are the benefits of interning

- ✓ Work alongside Ecuadorian professionals within the social work and psychology field, and gain relevant experience in evaluation, diagnosis and treatment
- ✓ Support vulnerable children with development difficulties, whilst gaining knowledge in specialized and inclusive therapeutic models in a Latin American context
- ✓ Enhance your resume and support your future career goals

Project location

Your psychology and social work internship in Ecuador will be located in Quito, the capital city of the country. Quito is a renowned world heritage site and sits high in the Andean foothills at an altitude of 2,850m. Built on the foundations of an ancient Incan city, Quito is known for its well-preserved colonial center. Indeed, the center is packed with colonial monuments and architectural treasures. With the spectacular mountains and volcanoes surrounding the city, you will be sure to get your breath taken away by amazing landscapes from every angle.

During your time in Quito as an intern, you will live with a local Ecuadorian family in a homestay within a traditional Quito neighborhood. You will use public transport to travel to your placement each day.

Project facts

Duration: Minimum of 4 weeks

Requirements: Age 18+

Location: Quito, Ecuador

Working hours: Monday-Friday, 6 hours a day

Project availability: Projects are available all year. RECRUITING FOR SPRING 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a shared house with kitchen and 2 bathrooms with hot running water

Meals: 2 meals per day – Breakfast and a light dinner

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre-departure info pack, learning reflection manual, on-site orientation and project induction provided

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff can help plan excursions (some may cost extra)

On arrival you will stay in a shared room in a hostel in Quito, breakfast included Wifi

Local SIM card and phone: (handset deposit of \$50 required)

Certificate on completion of the presentation about your placement

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Transport between your accommodation and project throughout your placement

Intensive Spanish classes 1 week £355 / \$621 including accommodation

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check: US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies); all other nationalities must provide local police check

Social Justice Internship in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The Internship

Join our Social Justice Internship program and help the equal distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within Ecuadorian society become a reality. As a social justice intern in Ecuador, you will contribute to the ultimate goal where everyone has equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities.

Unfortunately, economic policies in Latin America have created some of the most inequitable societies in the world. Ecuador faces chronic human rights challenges, including weak institutions, poor prison conditions, violence against women, far-reaching restrictions on women's and girls' access to reproductive health care, and disregard for indigenous rights. Furthermore, massive Venezuelan immigration is posing urgent challenges, and there have been a series of xenophobic violent attacks and harassment against Venezuelans in recent years. Despite some new political openness in Ecuador, regional development continues to exclude large parts of the population.

The Social Justice Internship in Ecuador works with a multitude of local organizations in the areas of human rights, housing rights, nature rights, LGBTQ+ rights, gender violence and gender rights. Interns are matched to an organization based on their skills, experience and interests. Celebrate diversity in the communities in Ecuador as you work with Kaya as a social justice intern.

This program offers a fantastic opportunity to gain experience in areas such as human rights, social work, psychology, research, communication and non-profit development depending on your future career aspirations!

Role of the intern

This program gives interns a chance to make an impact on a variety of social justice issues faced by the Ecuadorian community. Intern with a local organization and help combat the real social justice issues they are facing. Which NGO you are placed with will depend on your studies, skill set, interests and desired learning outcomes.

If you're passionate about LGBTQ+ rights then support a shelter that provides legal and psychological assistance, medical services along with a safe meeting place and social activities. Alternatively, intern with an NGO that promotes indigenous communities rights, tackles gender-based violence and advocates for the rights of nature in regard to mining and petroleum exploitation.

If land development and justice interest you then you could be placed with an NGO focused on community development and the right to housing, drinkable water and sanitation systems with sustainable, and responsible citizen-based approaches.

Skills required

In order to be accepted on this social justice internship in Ecuador, you will be asked to go through an interview process to determine your eligibility and place you with an organization accordingly. Flexibility, patience, willingness to learn, dedication and passion for social justice are essential. Please come open-minded with a sensitive and respectful approach. Lastly, you should also possess the equivalent of an A2 beginner Spanish Level.

What are the benefits of interning

- ✓ Whether you are passionate about land development, female empowerment, LGBTQ+ rights, access to clean water or the protection of indigenous communities, gain experience with local Ecuadorian organizations in the areas of prevention, advocacy, victim support, and rehabilitation.
- ✓ Ensure the full exercise of civil, political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental rights for the population of Ecuador, and help create a more educated and sensitive society.
- ✓ Delve into local social justice issues and help with new initiatives to tackle them. And, gain a professional insight that can support your future career whilst making a clear contribution to the overall goals and mission of the organization you are supporting

Project location

The organizations are located in and around central Quito, the capital city of Ecuador. It is the world's second highest city and was named as a world heritage site because of its historic and cultural significance. Quito is surrounded by natural beauty with the extraordinary mountains, lushly forested hills and a fertile valley.

Project facts

Duration: Minimum of 4 weeks
Requirements: Age 18+
Location: Quito, Ecuador
Working hours: Monday-Friday, 6 hours a day
Project availability: Projects are available all year. RECRUITING FOR SPRING 2021
Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a shared house with kitchen and 2 bathrooms with hot running water
Meals: 2 meals per day – Breakfast and a light dinner
Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito
Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre-departure info pack, learning reflection manual, on-site orientation and project induction provided
Support: 24-hour support
Excursion Planning: Staff can help plan excursions (some may cost extra)
On arrival you will stay in a shared room in a hostel in Quito, breakfast included
Wifi
Local SIM card and phone: (handset deposit of \$50 required)
Certificate on completion of the presentation about your placement

What's not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Transport between your accommodation and project throughout your placement
Intensive Spanish classes 1 week £355 / \$621 including accommodation
Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more
Police/Government Background Check: US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies); all other nationalities must provide local police check

Support the Survivors of Gender Based Violence and Human Trafficking in Quito

ECUADOR

The project

Whether your interest lies in human rights, social services abroad, social work or girls' empowerment, this is a placement for you. The project consists of working with a non-profit organisation based in Quito which focuses on female adolescents that have been victims of sex trafficking in Ecuador. The NGO works together with the government, receiving the girls that have been rescued and offering them a safe environment to recover while helping them with the legal issues that their situation implies and finding them a safe family as well as including them in the educational system.

In Ecuador, over 75% of victims of trafficking have been sold into sex slavery. In some cases, the victims have been sold by their own family in exchange for money. If that's the case, and because they are minors (under 18), they are paralysed by the law on their official status, which is where the local NGO comes into play. So once a female adolescent has been rescued of sex trafficking by the government office in charge, the NGO receive the person at the "healing" home, where the NGO is given the right to be the legal tutor for a period of 3 to 6 months. As soon as they arrive, they are enrolled in a public school, but cannot attend regular classes due to their protected status, so the school send them the homework and books needed for their education, and the local centres' educators teach them and supervise their homework. During this time, the girls also receive psychological, social and legal support. They are given the opportunity to work with psychologists, social workers, teachers, legal counsellors and others to help them during this time of transition as they re-insert themselves in society, obtain a legal status and rebuild their self-worth and confidence. Some of the victims are at the centre with their children as well and they receive attention as well.

Skills required

Interns should be strong emotionally and willing to be discreet and keep sensitive issues confidential. You should also bring your positive and open attitude and willingness to help the girls at the centre and the NGO team to make the most out of this placement.

You will be asked to submit a full CV/resume and letter of motivation upon application. You will be asked to attend a telephone interview to discuss your experience and assess your suitability for this internship. You should also possess the equivalent of a B2 Spanish Level.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Provide assistance with administrative tasks, fundraising, teaching sessions, social work, creative art workshops, and many other activities to support the victims in their recovery processes.
- ✓ Get involved in a very rewarding project as the girls have suffered from the most tragic forms of violence and you be able to support those girls emotionally as they rebuild their confidence level and their trust towards others in society.
- ✓ Focus on many different aspects as you want to focus on. In general, you will be asked to accompany the girls individually or in a group to go to their workshop, actively encourage them to participate, talk to them and help them build trusts and relationships. Your participation and the bond you build will help the girls learn about the world and realise that there is another better world they might not know about.

Project location

The project and homestays are located in Quito, the capital city of Ecuador. It is the second world's highest city with an elevation of 2,850 metres (9,350 ft) above sea level. You will be charmed by its well-preserved historic centre and its people's warm and relaxed, traditional Ecuadorian Sierra culture. Quito was named as a world heritage site because of its historic and cultural significance. It used to be a striving city until the Incas. It has wonderful museums, arts and other places of interest to keep you busy in your free time. At night, there is plenty to do with many restaurants offering everything from fried bananas, pizza, steak to classic Ecuadorian cuisine and delicious desserts. You will be spoiled for choice.

Project facts

Duration: 8 weeks minimum

Requirements: age 20+

Location: Quito, Ecuador

Working hours: 8.30 - 17.30.

Project availability: All year round.

RECRUITING FOR 2022

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday.

Please speak to an advisor.

What's included

Accommodation: Homestay with a family in Quito

Meals: 3 meals per day

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Pre-departure preparation pack, and orientation on Saturday

Support: 24-hour support from an on-site coordinator

Excursion Planning: -

Stay in a hostel for 1 night in Quito, breakfast included

Local SIM card and phone: All volunteers are given a local SIM card to use and a mobile phone (deposit \$50 required and must be returned when you leave)

Assistance with planning your weekend excursions from local staff

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Daily transfers to and from the project

Optional intensive Spanish classes

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend. Please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through

Kaya (admin fee applies) all other

nationalities must provide local police check.

Veterinary Internship in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The Internship

Join us on this veterinary internship in Ecuador and contribute to improving the welfare of wildlife while developing your CV. Based in the Amazon rainforest, this centre has 4 hectares of land used for wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release. In addition, there are a further 70 hectares that have been used for wildlife release. The project was founded in 2006 by a local family who works with the Ministry of the Environment and the Environmental Police. Wildlife is rescued often after experiencing abuse or having been trafficked nationally or regionally. The project staff treat animals using both modern and homeopathic medicines.

Work at the sanctuary undertaken by a local team and an on-call veterinarian. Tasks includes treatment, nutrition, release and monitoring of species. The sanctuary is home to 200 animals including parrots, monkeys, turtles, wild cats, capybaras, caymans, and many more mammals and birds. It is open to the public and school groups to generate much needed income but the main focus is the protection and rescue of the species. Join us in Ecuador and gain first-hand experience of practices being taken to positively impact the lives of birds and animals.

Role of the intern

You will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills and knowledge on this internship. Activities vary depending on the needs of the animals and sanctuary at the time of your placement. You may have the opportunity to develop your skills in physiology, pharmacology, anaesthesiology, clinical pathology and more. Activities may include:

- Application of preventative treatments including homeopathic medicines.
- Nutrition and feeding plans appropriate for local species.
- Reintroduction of animals to their natural habitats and monitoring their progress post-release.
- Testing of animals going through quarantine.
- Research projects (depending on the length, time and needs).

Learning outcomes may include:

- Understanding of the application of medicines to wild animals and the role of homeopathy.
- Diagnostics including skin samples, bloods, stool samples etc.
- Nutrition.
- Surgery and the appropriate use of implements.
- Habitats of a range of species: what is suitable and the factors necessary to take into account when releasing trafficked or rescued animals back into the wild - use of camera traps, nets etc.

If you work hard and help where needed you will make the most out of this exciting internship.

Skills required

This internship is great for undergraduate and graduate students, with a focus on animal science, zoology, or veterinary studies. You must have a good understanding of biology and physiology of the animals at the centre. You will work with others so team working and good communication skills are important. Proficiency in Spanish (level B1 Intermediate User of CEFR) is required for this project as you will be working alongside local people. You will receive feedback about your placement from your supervisor. Please bring a laptop to record your progress during your internship placement and to prepare your end of placement presentation.

Project location

You will arrive into Quito and will spend your first few nights here. You will be able to join an optional trip to a volcano on the Sunday should you wish to do so. Your project is located 1 hour outside of Puyo, the capital of Pastaza province, which divides the southern and northern regions in the Amazon. This area has lush tropical rainforest and mists rise from distant mountains. You will spot free roaming monkeys and listen to the sounds of rescued animals and frogs that fill the air. This is a rural location, ideal for interns who want to focus on their placement in a tranquil location. You will live in furnished wooden cabins on site, with communal kitchen and social areas. In the evenings, you may want to play cards or darts, read or watch a DVD. There are hammocks around the fire pit, a perfect spot to round off the night in this beautiful location.

Project facts

Duration: 4 – 26 weeks

Requirements: Age 18+

Location: Puyo, Ecuador

Working hours: 08:00-12:30 and 15.00-17.00, Monday – Friday, 08.00-11.00 Saturdays

Project availability: Available all year round. RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a cabin during your placement

Meals: 2 meals per day – meals are served in a communal kitchen area with shared cooking responsibilities

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Pre-departure pack, on-site orientation on Saturday and project induction

Support: -

Excursion Planning: staff will help plan activities and excursions (activities may cost extra)

3 nights stay in a hostel in Quito, breakfast provided

Local SIM card and phone: must be returned when you leave, will be charged \$50 if not returned

Learning Reflection Document

Certificate on completion of internship
Supervision from qualified professional

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Transfer back to Quito after placement ends

Transportation at project site

(coordinators will instruct participants on how to use public transport, which is quite cheap)

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check: US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies); all other nationalities must provide local police check

Integrated Music, Dance and Art Therapy for Children with Special Needs

ECUADOR

The project

Volunteer in Ecuador on this integrated therapy project for children with disabilities and learning difficulties and use your creative skills to help others. This project was set up over 20 years ago to offer support to children who are often unsupported in society. This integrated therapy centre calls on its dedicated, multidisciplinary team to help children with its broad spectrum of services: from early stimulation for those with learning difficulties, to physical rehabilitation, and language therapy. Young adults have also been incorporated into the programme. Students perform within an orchestra and have regular, well attended public dance performances each week.

There are a number of different programmes in place to address the needs of various of children, as the project has responded to the demand in the Quito area. The project now serves around 80 children each day. Activities include music therapy, an academic art programme, therapeutic care, a day care programme and a summer project. Apply your caring nature and creative talents to help the local team run and develop this stimulating programme for a delightful group of talented children.

Role of the volunteer

As there are a number of programmes as the centre volunteers may help with the following:

- Academic artistic programme - supporting children aged 12+s in arts, music, reading, other academic disciplines, computers and sports activities. A full orchestra and performing dance group are a central part of this element.
- Therapeutic art programme - supporting children aged 12+ with music, art, dance and craft activities.
- Daycare project - working with children over 12 plus young adults, focussing on life skills, group work, conduct and developing autonomy.
- Learning therapy - older children and young adults developing educational performance to give students the chance to be involved in possible employment activities.
- Musical artistic development - for the under 12s, developing their creativity.

A summer programme also runs during July.

Skills required

Education or work experience in early childhood education, physical or occupational therapy, dance, music or art skills are a plus, and placements can be specialised in like with those skills. Intermediate Spanish speakers are strongly preferred (minimum level A2 Basic User of CEFR). Volunteers should be open, flexible, patient, passionate, creative and come with a spirit of collaboration and solidarity as well as the willingness to have fun! You will be asked to send your CV/ resume before being accepted onto this project.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Interact with the committed founder and local staff who have poured passion, skills, and personal resources into getting this centre where it is today and are able to offer a range of interactive and exciting activities for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- ✓ Bring new ideas, enthusiasm and creativity to the project and help local staff to provide these essential services.
- ✓ Put your Spanish skills and experience to good use on this project, as well as build the experience section of their CV/ Resume.

Project location

The bustling capital city of Quito was declared a UNESCO world Heritage centre in 1978, surrounded by the natural beauty of the Andean mountains and its active volcanoes. For your project, you will be based in the north of the city, in a middle-income area with plenty of local shops, cafes and restaurants. Living in a homestay, a few miles from the project centre, you will use public transport to travel to work each day. In the centre, Quito has museums, art and interesting places to visit and easy access to the cloud-forest and Amazon jungle just a couple of hours away for weekend excursions.

Project facts

Duration: 4- 26 weeks

Requirements: Age 18+

Location: Quito, Ecuador

Working hours: 8am – 6pm (with preference toward afternoon shift), Monday - Saturday

Project availability: Year-round, starting on a Monday with summer camps during June – August. RECRUITING FOR 2022

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor.

What's included

Accommodation: Home stay with hot, running water, and electricity

Meals: 2 meals per day – Breakfast, and dinner

Airport pick up: Airport pick up on a Friday and drop off

Training: Pre-departure pack, on-site orientation on Saturday and project induction, Learning Reflection Manual

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff will help plan activities and excursions (some activities may cost extra)

Local SIM card and phone: (deposit of \$50 required for handset)

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Daily transport to project

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more
Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

The Course

Do more than just travel. How about travelling whilst also learning worthwhile skills that you can put into practice back home? Want to learn Spanish from qualified teachers who will produce a programme that matches your individual needs and experience levels? Come and learn Spanish on an intensive course in Ecuador.

The lessons are one-to-one with a qualified teacher who will tailor the lessons to meet your needs. So whether you are an absolute beginner, or trying to get fluent, classes are made for you. Using a range of media, depending on your level of Spanish, such as newspapers, magazines, table games, and flashcards the aim is to make your lessons as enjoyable and interactive as possible.

As one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, Spanish is an great option for you to chose. And if you really want to get to grips with the language then Ecuador is a great place to do so - with Andean Spanish considered the most clear and easy to understand in the world. By learning Spanish in Ecuador you will be immersed in the language as well as experiencing the wonderful culture.

Course Content

The course is designed for volunteers, professionals or people who have the time for a full immersion program. If you can already speak some Spanish you will sit a written and oral test on the first day. The teacher will prepare daily lesson plans to match your skill level. A one-to-one approach is used so that you have the full attention and support of the teacher and gain confidence in your speaking abilities. The focus of the course may contain the following:

- For beginners: basic vocabulary for reading and understanding
- Vocabulary
- Pronunciation
- Practical Spanish conversation
- Understanding: readings and lectures
- Also included there are lectures on Ecuadorian geography, history, literature, politics and culture

The course content is written by professionals and delivered by experienced teachers. The language school has a library containing different kinds of books and essays about Ecuadorian history, economy, tourism, grammar, literature, natural sciences, geography and more, which you are welcome to read.

If you are considering a volunteer placement and need to improve your Spanish beforehand intensive Spanish lessons can be arranged in Quito. Please speak to your Kaya Placement Advisor for details.

Course Location

The language school is located in Quito, a city surrounded by natural beauty. It is in an area close to many hotels and restaurants not far from the main tourist area. The area is mainly residential and is safe for locals and tourists. The school itself is light and has a large terrace where Spanish lessons can be enjoyed.

Quito is surrounded by mountains, some volcanic and some with white capped peaks, densely forested hills and a green lush valley. Quito has a checkered past; long before the Spanish arrived, Quito was a thriving centre but it was unfortunately destroyed by the Incas who embarked on a scorched earth policy to protect the city from a Spanish invasion. Unfortunately, their efforts were to no avail. However, Sebastián de Benalcázar recognised the city's fantastic location and founded San Francisco de Quito in, December 6, 1534. This is still remembered today with an annual celebration called Fiestas de Quito.

In 1978 Quito was named as a UNESCO world heritage site because of its historic and cultural significance. It has wonderful museums, arts and other places of interest to keep you busy in your free time. At night there is plenty to do with many restaurants offering everything from fried bananas, pizza, steak to classic Ecuadorian cuisine and delicious desserts. You will be spoilt for choice.

Project facts

Duration: 1+ week

Requirements: 18+, some Spanish is useful but beginners are accepted

Location: Quito, Ecuador

Working hours: 20 hours per week (either mornings or afternoons)

Course Dates: Throughout the year, starting on a Monday. Please contact a Kaya Placement Advisor for details.
RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Stay in a hostel for 3 night in Quito, breakfast included

Then homestay with a family in Quito

Meals: breakfast while at the hostel, then 2 meals per day in the homestay family; breakfast and a light dinner

Airport: pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Pre-departure preparation pack, and orientation on Saturday

Support: 24 hour from the local team

Excursion Planning: Advice provided upon request

Local SIM card and phone (deposit of \$50 required for handset)

Written information and course materials

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Meals beyond those specified above

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check: US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies); all other nationalities must provide local police check

Medical Spanish Language Course in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The Course

Looking to improve your Medical Spanish language skills? In our multi-cultural society these skills can be invaluable to a medical practitioner in the US, Europe or anywhere in Latin America.

If your conversational Medical Spanish isn't good enough to impress your cadaver, we've got the perfect program for medical students and professionals who want healthcare experience abroad. It is a total immersion program in Ecuador that will give you an insight into issues in global health, traditional medicine, medical practice in resource poor communities, and thorough, targeted medical language study so you will be able to communicate effectively with patients and staff in your particular field of medicine. If you have existing Spanish speaking skills (especially those who are Independent user level B1 on CEFR) you will find this placement extremely rewarding. Beginners are also welcome as the course will be tailor made to meet their needs.

Course Content

On the first day of your Medical Spanish course, you will complete a written and oral test to assess your current level of Spanish (excluding beginners). The course will be tailored to your needs and a daily lesson plan will be prepared by the teacher. A one-to-one approach is used so that you have the full attention and support of the teacher and gain confidence in your speaking abilities. The focus of the course will be as follows:

- For beginners: basic vocabulary for reading and understanding
- Vocabulary with a focus on human anatomy
- Oral expression
- Practical Spanish conversation for conducting medical appointments
- Understanding: readings and lectures about medicine, science and technology development

The course content is written by professionals and delivered by experienced teachers. The language school has a library containing different kinds of books and essays about Ecuadorian history, economy, tourism, grammar, literature, natural sciences, geography and more, which you are welcome to read.

If you are interested in joining a health volunteering placement and would like to add on a week of Spanish before starting why not add on a week in Quito studying Medical Spanish so that you can develop your language before interacting with local healthcare professionals and patients. Please ask your Kaya Placement Advisor for a price.

Course Location

The language school is based in Quito in an area close to many hotels and restaurants not far from the main tourist area. The area is mainly residential and is safe for locals and tourists. The school itself is lovely and bright with a huge terrace where Spanish lessons are taught.

Quito is set in a beautiful location, surrounded by mountains, some volcanic, some with white capped peaks, forested hills and a fertile valley. Before being destroyed by a fire Quito was a major Inca city but attempts to keep a Spanish invasion at bay backfired. However, all was not lost as Sebastián de Benalcázar recognized the potential of the location and founded San Francisco de Quito in 1534. An annual celebration marks this on December 6 and is called Fiestas de Quito.

Quito has plenty to offer day and night. There are wonderful museums, arts and other places of interest to keep you busy in your free time. Check out some of the boutiques and the handicraft market where you are sure to find scarves, rugs, ceramics and of course, the panama hat. Evenings are fun in Quito whether you prefer to have a meal in a restaurant serving Ecuadorian cuisine, to dance the night away or enjoy a drink in one of its many bars. There is something for everyone.

Project facts

Duration: 1+ week

Requirements: 18+, some Spanish is useful but is not a requirement

Location: The course is held at in Quito, Ecuador

Working hours: 20 hours per week

Course Dates: Throughout the year. Please contact a Kaya Placement Advisor to discuss dates. RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Stay in a hostel for 3 night in Quito, breakfast included

Then homestay with a family in Quito

Meals: breakfast while at the hostel, then 2 meals per day in the homestay family; breakfast and a light dinner

Airport: pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Pre-departure preparation pack, on-site orientation on Saturday provided

Support: 24 hour from the local team

Excursion Planning: Advice provided upon request

Local SIM card and phone: (deposit of \$50 required for handset)

Written information and course materials

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Meals beyond those specified above

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check: US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies); all other nationalities must provide local police check

Rural Public Health Volunteering in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The project

If you are interested in community development, join our rural public health volunteering in Ecuador. We work with a variety of local organizations either focusing on preventative health for kids, providing community outreach programs and educational programs to the indigenous communities, or working on midwifery and holistic traditional plant based medicines.

Preventative Health For Kids - Working with a local rural public school, this placement works with the children of a parish outside of Quito. The project runs community outreach and provides education on subjects such as hygiene, healthy habits, good nutrition amongst others. Access to healthcare and healthcare education is limited in some surrounding communities of Quito with people living on low incomes. The program is essential as it works with kids and teaches them from a young age.

Community Outreach and Education - The project runs community outreach and provides education on subjects such as avoiding teenage pregnancy, alcohol and drug addiction and nutrition. These are all common problems that exist in the communities of the indigenous population of this province. Access to healthcare and healthcare education is limited for these communities, and the people live on very low incomes. The program provides essential education to these communities while incorporating their traditional values and practices.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers will work with the local project leader who is responsible for organizing and running the mobile clinic and the public health awareness sessions that are delivered to the local school or nearby Quito parishes. Nearly 30% of the population lives in largely poorer and rural communities, where access to health care is very limited. As a volunteer on this project, not only will you gain invaluable insight into the problems facing impoverished communities you will also understand how public health education initiatives are planned and implemented. If you have a specific area of study that you wish to focus on please discuss this with a Kaya advisor, for example, nutrition. Options for awareness campaigns in HIV and sexual health education, nutrition, alcohol and drug awareness and general hygiene can exist. You may be asked to take vital information about patients to help with record keeping. If you have a form of exercise that will interest the local children you may be able to run sessions once you have agreed your approach with the local team.

Skills required

Participants with a health interest, premed students, nutrition or other related fields are the perfect match for this placement. If you are interested in studying medicine or nursing in the future and are passionate about community development you may also be considered for this placement. Volunteers must be resilient, enjoy working with people and be able to cope with situations that are outside their comfort zone. You will be working in poor communities and the language barrier can be difficult at times. All volunteers must speak Spanish (level B1 Intermediate User of CEFR) to get the most out of this placement and to contribute effectively to the outreach program. Those of you who need to improve your Spanish there is the possibility of adding on the Medical Spanish Course at the beginning of your placement in Quito. You will be asked to send your CV/resume and attend a Skype interview before being accepted onto this placement.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Help in the running of preventative health workshops throughout the Quito parishes.
- ✓ Gain invaluable insight into the problems facing Ecuadorian healthcare and also understand how public health education initiatives are integrated.
- ✓ Support the local project team with the challenge facing them in helping to educate the youngest about important health issues.

Project location

Quito is surrounded by natural beauty, by the mountains ringing the city, some volcanic, some with white-capped peaks, lushly forested hills and a fertile valley. Quito was named as a world heritage site in 1978 and has wonderful museums, arts and other places of interest to keep you busy in your free time when you first arrive in Ecuador.

Project facts

Duration: Minimum of 4 weeks
Requirements: Age 18+
Location: Quito, Ecuador
Working hours: Vary according to the needs of the placement
Project availability: Projects are available all year. RECRUITING FOR SUMMER 2021
Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday. Please speak to an advisor.

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a shared house with kitchen and 2 bathrooms with hot running water
Meals: 2 meals per day – Breakfast and a light dinner
Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito
Training: Healthcare ethics & culture doc, pre-departure info pack, learning reflection manual, on-site orientation and project induction provided
Support: 24-hour support
Excursion Planning: Staff will help plan activities and excursions (some activities may cost extra)
On arrival you will stay in a shared room in a hostel in Quito, breakfast included
Wifi
Local SIM card and phone: (handset deposit of \$50 required)

What's not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Transport between your homestay and the project throughout your placement
Optional intensive Spanish classes 1 week programme £355 / \$621 including accommodation
Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more
Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Spring Break Volunteering on a Sustainable Community Project in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The project

Spend your Spring Break volunteering in Ecuador on this sustainable economic and community development initiative supporting 50 families in their efforts to preserve their cultural identity and community. In 1995, with support from NGOs and international cooperation, the project was started and focused on community organisation and conservation. Using sustainable approaches including organic gardening, small-scale dairy processing factories, jam making from local resources and ecotourism, they have been building sustainable livelihoods and manageable tourism. Spend a week volunteering, immersed in the local community and help the project to continue the progress that has been made while enjoying a full day excursion to a popular excursion around Quito.

Role of the volunteer

Spring Break volunteers will be involved in a couple of activities, due to the length of their placement. The exact activities will be determined nearer to your placement but could include:

- Environmental education for local school children.
- Forestry research of how to use local resources on non-industry related purpose, for example orchids, medical plants etc.
- Organic gardening - planting, clearing and harvesting organic plants to support local women.
- Physical agriculture work on family farms.
- Community based activities such as maintaining camping trails, developing composting systems, maintaining the camping area etc.
- Jam making, food processing or local cheese production

There is always plenty to do and volunteers will also find themselves participating in social events, sporting activities and festivals that are important to the community.

Skills required

Spring Break volunteers are not required to have any specific skills apart from Spanish. You will need to be a confident Spanish speaker (level B2 Independent User of CEFR) to participate in activities and to gain the most out of the project and your homestay placement.

All volunteers should be flexible, patient, creative and come with a can-do attitude to get the most out of this placement and to make the maximum contribution to the community. Anyone with an interest in organic gardening, jam making, horticulture, early childhood education or community development will really enjoy this placement. You will be asked to send your CV/resume before being accepted onto this project.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Dedicate your Spring Break to participate in an amazing experience that also contributes to an ongoing program supporting sustainable livelihoods and preserving culture.
- ✓ Spend time to the benefit of the community and the environment, and gain incredible insight into local customs.
- ✓ Meet the project beneficiaries and share your ideas and experiences with the local community, as well as build up experience to add to your CV/resume while improving your Spanish speaking skills.

Project location

You will arrive into the city of Quito and depending on the arrival time of your flight you may have some time to explore the city. On the Sunday, you will travel to a local excursion with the local team depending on the day you arrive. On day 3, you will head out to the small town where your project is based, an hour North of Quito. Set high up in the cloud forest it is part of a municipal natural reserve and is a beautiful place to stay. On the Saturday, you will arrive back in Quito with time to attend the City Tour. This is a great opportunity to sample a little of Quito and also experience Ecuador's beauty.

Project facts

Duration: 1 week

Requirements: Age 16+

Location: Near Quito, Ecuador

Working hours: Half day on Monday, Tuesday - Friday, full days

Project availability: Spring Break.
RECRUITING FOR 2022

Arrival day: Any Saturday in March

What's included

Accommodation: Homestay or Volunteer house at project, hostel in Quito for the 1st 2 nights

Meals: breakfast and lunch from the Sunday

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Pre-departure pack, on-site orientation on Saturday and project induction included

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Sunday excursion as planned by the local team

Transfer to and from project site to Quito
Local SIM card and phone: (deposit of \$50 required for handset)

City Tour in Quito

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Transfers to and from your project

Meals beyond those listed above

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Sustainable Economic and Community Development in Ecuador

ECUADOR

The project

Volunteer in Ecuador on this economic and community development initiative and work alongside 40 families who are aiming to preserve their values, culture and environment while building sustainable livelihoods for themselves. Keen to maintain a sense of community the families, with the support of NGOs, started a forestry project which grew to incorporate organic gardening, a dairy processing factory making cheese and yoghurt, a jam factory and a restaurant. Avoiding monoculture, agrochemical use, logging and mass tourism, the community run a sustainable eco-friendly cooperative. The initiative is now supported by scientific research projects which aim to preserve the flora, fauna and cultural specialism of the area. With a wealth of activities on offer this initiative is a remarkable placement for volunteers to help support sustainable economic and community development.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteer will be involved in a range of activities, which are determined by your skills and interests and the needs of the project at the time of your placement. Volunteers may be involved in:

- Environmental education and English teaching for local children
- Forestry research of non-timber industry resources such as orchids, medical plants etc.
- Organic gardening - planting, clearing and harvesting organic plants to support local women.
- Agriculture and reforestation on family farms.
- Community focused tasks such as maintaining camping trails, developing composting systems, maintaining the camping area etc.
- Food processing - marmalade/jam or cheese production.

There is always plenty to do including participating in social events, sporting activities and festivals which are important to the community.

Skills required

There are no skills required to participate on this project. However, you will need to be a confident Spanish speaker (level B2 Independent user of CEFR) to participate in activities and gain the most out of the project and your homestay placement. The project requires the use of public transport to reach the different initiatives within the community. Volunteers should be flexible, patient, understanding, creative and come with a can-do attitude to get the most out of this placement and to make the maximum contribution to the community. Anyone with an interest in organic gardening, horticulture, early childhood education or community development will really enjoy this placement. You will be asked to send your CV/resume before being accepted onto this project.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Offer an extra pair of hands and share ideas and expertise with the local teams and the community.
- ✓ Benefit from being able to experience first-hand the challenges facing communities and projects trying to adhere to a sustainable economic approach.
- ✓ Enjoy this unique experience and make it a great addition to your CV/resume especially if you have been studying a related subject.

Project location

Your project is based in a small village, an hour outside of Quito. Set high up in the cloud forest, it is part of a municipal natural reserve. There are stunning views and lots of wildlife to see. The community where your home-stays family is based surrounds the project and most volunteers can walk to the project each day.

At weekends, participants like to visit the nearby cloud-forest town of Mindo, or travel back into Quito to visit the city. Public transportation is cheap and frequent.

Project facts

Duration: 2 - 26 weeks

Requirements: Age 16+

Location: Near Quito, Ecuador

Project availability: Year-round.

RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday.
Please speak to an advisor.

What's included

Accommodation: homestay with hot, running water and electricity

Meals: 2 meals per day

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: pre-departure pack, on-site orientation (on Saturday) and project induction

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: -

Stay in a hostel in Quito, breakfast included, homestay family or volunteer house in Yunguilla

Local SIM card and phone (\$50 deposit required, must be returned when you leave)

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Transfers to and from your project

Meals beyond those listed above

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other nationalities must provide local police check.

Turtle and Marine Environmental Conservation and Education

ECUADOR

The project

Volunteer and support turtle and marine environmental conservation and education in Ecuador. This research, conservation and education project located on the Pacific Coast works to protect the lives and habitats of turtles, sharks and other marine life. It focuses on the critically endangered Hawksbill Turtle, alongside the Green Turtle and the Olive Ridley breeds. From May to September beaches in the Northern Esmerelda region are also monitored. Involvement of local communities is essential for sustainable conservation efforts and educating them in the results of scientific investigation is important. The project has developed an excellent Environmental Education Program that involves local school children in activities such as beach cleaning, small garden construction and the production of informative conservation murals.

Role of the volunteer

Volunteers work in 3 main areas.

- **Research**
 - Data collection & technical sampling - such as recording size and stats of turtles (live) and sharks (captured by fishermen at the local markets)
 - Statistical data analysis and data entry
 - Turtle tagging
- **Turtle Monitoring**
 - Beach patrols during nesting season (including night patrols)
 - Moving nests laid in unprotected areas
- **Environmental Education**
 - Work with children of primary schools teaching them about the importance of conserving the marine ecosystems (May to October), including garden and mural design
 - Create, develop and implement projects at the Ecoclub
 - Participate in a beach and marine-floor cleaning programme

Skills required

Your role will depend on your skills and experience. Participants in this project will require some skills or knowledge in one of the following fields: marine biology/sciences education, statistical analysis experience, experience working with children, participation in environmental campaigns or interest in environmental conservation and willingness to learn.

All volunteers will need to be fit enough to work in the water, able to cope with patrolling beaches day and night, have an interest in the environment, be enthusiastic, willing to learn and work with others. Volunteers are not required to speak Spanish, although it would be beneficial.

Why choose this project

- ✓ Help gather significant and consistent data, and maintain a protective presence in the turtle nesting area.
- ✓ Contribute to important studies regarding policy development for the Ecuadorian environmental agencies with the data gathered, while on a more local level, contribute to developing environmental awareness in the children of the town.
- ✓ Benefit from acquiring new skills in conservation and applying these in a Spanish context, which is just the type of work experience that your future employers may be looking for.

Project location

The Pacific Coast is a beautiful, tropical location. Puerto Lopez is both an up and coming tourist town, and also a central fishing ports for locals. You will find restaurants, internet cafes and laundry services, as well as dive shops and tour operators that can take you to visit the nearby islands - including "Isla de la plata - the "poor man's Galapagos". Accommodation is at a shared house with 2 dorm rooms and a shared kitchen in the centre of town. When working in the Esmeraldas you will be based on the small island of Mompiche, which is very basic with a limited supply of electricity and water. Conditions are basic but for those who are serious about conservation and becoming immersed on a project, it is well worth sacrificing a few luxuries.

Project facts

Duration: 4 weeks

Requirements: Age 18+

Location: Puerto Lopez, Manabi Province Ecuador (some visits to Machalilla)

Working hours: 8 hours per day.

Flexibility is required as needs vary according to tides, time of year and project needs. You may be asked to work a few weekend or nights.

Project availability: All year round.

RECRUITING FOR EARLY 2021

Arrival day: Twice monthly on a Friday.

Please speak to an advisor

What's included

Accommodation: Shared room in a volunteer house (camping during excursions and in Esmeraldas)

Meals: Meal stipend during project placement

Airport pick up: Airport pick up and drop off in Quito

Training: Pre-departure pack, on-site orientation in Quito and project induction

Support: 24-hour support

Excursion Planning: Staff will help plan activities and excursions (activities may cost extra)

3 nights stay in a hostel in Quito, including breakfast

Drinking water in the volunteer house

Transfer to and from Pacific Coast

Local SIM card and phone: (deposit \$50 required for handset)

What's not

Flights

Insurance

Visas

Additional meals beyond those mentioned above

Optional excursion on the Sunday on your arrival weekend please speak to an advisor if you want to know more

Police/Government Background Check; US and UK citizens will be processed through Kaya (admin fee applies) all other

nationalities must provide local police check.

Project Costs for Ecuador

COUNTRY	PROJECT	2 WEEKS PRICING		4 WEEKS PRICING		EXTRA WEEKLY PRICING	
		Price GBP (£)	Price USD (\$)	Price GBP (£)	Price USD (\$)	Price GBP (£)	Price USD (\$)
Ecuador	Agro Forestry and Environmental Conservation In The Mindo Cloud Forest	£1423	\$2221	£1915	\$2989	£246	\$384
Ecuador	Amazon Rainforest Wildlife Rescue in Ecuador	£1423	\$2221	£1915	\$2989	£246	\$384
Ecuador	Education Outreach for Child Workers in the Markets in Ecuador	£1423	\$2221	£1975	\$3083	£276	\$431
Ecuador	Environmental Conservation on Biological Stations in the Amazon and on the Coast	£1423	\$2221	£1915	\$2989	£246	\$384
Ecuador	Fair Trade Internship in the Amazon Rainforest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£251	\$392
Ecuador	Health and Medical Internship in Ecuador	N/A	N/A	£1971	\$3077	£251	\$392
Ecuador	NGO Management Internship in Ecuador	N/A	N/A	£1971	\$3077	£251	\$392
Ecuador	Psychology and Social Work Internship in Ecuador	N/A	N/A	£1971	\$3077	£251	\$392
Ecuador	Social Justice Internship in Ecuador	N/A	N/A	£1971	\$3077	£251	\$392
Ecuador	Support the Survivors of Gender Based Violence and Human Trafficking in Quito	N/A	N/A	£1971	\$3077	£251	\$392
Ecuador	Veterinary Internship in Ecuador	N/A	N/A	£2326	\$3717	£246	\$392
Ecuador	Integrated Music, Dance and Art Therapy for Children with Special Needs	£1423	\$2221	£1915	\$2989	£246	\$384
Ecuador	Learn Spanish in Ecuador	£1784	\$2786	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ecuador	Medical Spanish Language Course in Ecuador	£1853	\$2892	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ecuador	Rural Public Health Volunteering in Ecuador	N/A	N/A	£1915	\$2989	£246	\$384
Ecuador	Spring Break Volunteering on a Sustainable Community Project in Ecuador	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ecuador	Sustainable Economic and Community Development in Ecuador	£1423	\$2221	£1915	\$2989	£246	\$384
Ecuador	Turtle and Marine Environmental Conservation and Education	N/A	N/A	£1971	\$3077	£251	\$392

Program Agreement, Terms and Conditions

Thank you for choosing to apply for placement on a Kaya programme. We are committed to providing you the best support as you prepare for the experience of a lifetime, which is why we have laid down the following terms and conditions. By checking the agreement of these terms and conditions you have accepted to abide by the rules laid down in this agreement, and we suggest that you read the details carefully and speak to us if you require any further clarification. Please note there may be additional conditions that apply to individual placements.

Program Agreement Terms and Conditions

NOTE: The current terms outlined include temporary accommodations made to address the current Covid-19 global pandemic. We have called these Kaya Amended Coronavirus Terms – Kaya ACT. These temporary terms are outlined alongside Kaya regular terms and conditions and may be amended at any time. These are all shown in red for easy identification.

Deadlines, Dates and Prices

Applications are accepted throughout the year and are subject to limited space availability. Programs are priced individually and displayed on the Kaya website alongside each project. Deadlines are based on the dates of the desired placement. Some programs and project placements fill up prior to their published application deadlines. Apply early to secure your space. Important deadlines for the Kaya Programs are:

Early Application

Application can be made up to 1 year in advance, however, arrangement and communication of the program specifics will commence 2-3 months prior to program start.

Application Deadline

Programs have varying deadlines. Most are around 3 months prior to the program start. Last-minute bookings will be considered on an individual basis. Last-minute bookings are advised that their placement arrangements may require more flexibility to accommodate.

Total Fee Due

60 days prior to program start – unless specified for a particular project

Late Payment

Payment deadlines are displayed on the invoices provided. It is important to meet these deadlines to secure your placement, and missing these deadlines may result in the cancellation of your placement. Where a payment extension is requested, this will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will incur a late payment fee of £35/\$60 basis.

Program Start and Finish Dates, Current Prices, and “What’s Included” are displayed on the Kaya website alongside each project. Details shown on printed materials are subject to change. Projects prices are reviewed annually and bookings for the following year may differ from those listed. Payments may be made in GBP or US\$.

Application Instructions

Apply online: <https://www.kayavolunteer.com/book-now>

At the time of initial application, an application fee of GBP£75/ US\$95 is requested. This fee will be deducted from your total program fees. This is a non-refundable fee that enables us to process your application and ensures we work to match you with the best possible placement for your skills, interest, and needs. In the event that the application is rejected by Kaya, this payment will be returned in full. You will be provided the option to “speak to an advisor before submitting your fee”, but please note that your application may not be completed until payment of this fee is received.

Upon receipt of the application form and fee, we will contact you to arrange an online interview, work with our in-country teams to review your information, and offer you a placement in line with your request. Kaya will contact all applicants within 2 weeks of receipt of the application.

Confirming your placement: Once a placement is offered, you will have the option to confirm your placement and dates, and reserve your space with a confirmation fee of GBP£150/ US\$250. This fee will be deducted from your total program fees.

Kaya ACT: During the Covid pandemic, this payment will not be requested until travel to that country is possible (the host country borders open to you, and your home country is allowing travel to the host country). These will be deferred until confirmation of travel dates can be provided, at which time applicants may decide whether to proceed with, or cancel their application.

Until your confirmation fee is received we cannot guarantee your space on the program. See Trip Cancellation & Refund Policy below for further details.

Additional deposit fees: A small number of our programs have an additional deposit applied by our in-country project partners. You will be notified of this on initial inquiry if this exists for your program. Any payments made will be applied toward the total program fee. These additional deposits are non-refundable in all cases but can be applied to future participation for that specific placement if your placement dates need to be moved.

Trip Cancellation & Refund Policy

Kaya reserves the right to cancel any program if there are insufficient registrants (where minimum numbers apply) or if Kaya determines it is in the best interest of the applicant's safety and quality of programming to cancel the program. Kaya is not responsible for other costs incurred by applicants preparing for the trip. Should a program be canceled by Kaya, for any reason, applicants will be offered the option of positions in other Kaya Programs or a full refund on all fees paid, minus application fees and bank charges.

For participants wishing to cancel or shorten their program, the following terms apply:

- Application fees are non-refundable in all instances for successful applicants. Unsuccessful applicants will be fully refunded.
- Additional deposits, where applicable, are also non-refundable in all instances.
- Confirmation fees: If you decide to cancel, for any reason, any time up to 61 days before travel, we will provide a 50% refund, less application fee, and bank fees.

If the travel status of your program changes prior to your travel dates, and those are likely to interrupt your travel at your booked program time, we will provide a full refund, less application fee, and bank fees. Cancellations made within 60 days before departure will make confirmation fees non-refundable.

- Program fee balance – Payment of all remaining program fees are due 60 days prior to your program start date. Payment of program balance fees prior to this deadline are fully refundable up to 61 days before departure (minus any bank fees incurred). Payments not received by this deadline may result in the cancellation of your program or a late payment surcharge of £35/\$60.

If the travel status of your program changes prior to your travel dates, and those are likely to interrupt your travel at the booked program time, we will provide a full refund, less application fee, and bank fees.

- Under our standard terms, if you decide to cancel or shorten your program within 60 days of your program start, no refunds will be provided.

Individuals who cancel or shorten their program, for any reason (including health, bereavement, and visa issues) less than 60 days prior to the program start or during the program will not receive any refund, and we encourage you to approach your travel insurance to seek compensation in this instance. We are happy to provide proof of payment and cancellation if required. Travel insurance with trip cancellation coverage is strongly encouraged for this reason.

- **Kaya ACT:** Due to the impacts of Covid-19, for programs planned for 2021 we will be providing a more flexible cancellation policy. For programs with start dates in 2021, if you decide to cancel between 60-31 days prior to travel, a 50% refund less application fee and bank fees will be provided. Some programs are exempt from this flexible arrangement and you will be notified of this upon booking. After 30 days, no refunds will be provided.
- **Date Flexibility** – Participants will be permitted to change program dates any time until 2 weeks prior to departure, for any reason, for no additional fees. Last-minute changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. New dates will be subject to availability. Programs being delayed to a future year may incur program fee increases. Dates must be changed prior to payment deadlines for “payment due” dates to be amended.

Program Agreement, Terms and Conditions

- If the Participant cancels for any reason, the Participant must notify Kaya in writing. The cancellation will be effective upon receipt of the written notification by Kaya to info@kayavolunteer.com. Careful planning goes into developing volunteer and intern programs for every individual applicant. As a result, Kaya and our host communities and partners incur substantial administrative and planning costs, including accommodation reservation fees, prior to the start of each program.
- Kaya strives to ensure sustainable projects and quality programs for Participants. The Refund Policy is defined in an effort to protect and accomplish these goals. Kaya deals with each situation fairly, in consideration of well-established policies, and with the best interests of community members and Participants in mind.

Date and Project Changes

Upon application, you will receive an interview in which your placement and program dates will be discussed. When you confirm your placement and pay your confirmation fees, we will agree program dates against which your placement will be held. We encourage you to stick to these as the projects plan around your participation. Under standard terms, one (1) date or program change made prior to 60 days before departure will be accommodated for, at no charge, subject to availability. Placements moved to the following year may be subject to price increases. After 1 change has been accommodated for, any future changes made will be subject to an administration charge of GBP£40 / USD\$70 – payable at the time of change. For project changes where the original project incurred an additional deposit, the additional deposit amount will NOT be transferable to your new project.

Date changes requested within 60 days prior to departure will be considered on an individual basis, the original payment deadlines will apply and changes will be subject to an administration charge of GBP£40 / USD\$70 – payable at the time of change. Placement changes within 60 days prior to departure are typically not accommodated for, due to project commitments made at that time.

Under Kaya ACT, the 60-day deadline outlined for changing program dates without a fee has been reduced to 14 days, with further flexibility considered as a result of travel bans and advisories in place at the time of your placement.

Age

Participants must be aged 18 years over at the time of pick up, unless expressly agreed in advance by Kaya. Kaya reserves the right to cancel any application or terminate any placement, without refund, if false proof of age is found to have been supplied.

For participants under 18yrs, who have been accepted onto a Kaya program, parental consent is required and participants agree to our Code of Conduct, which includes strict policies about alcohol consumption. Where accepted, participants under 18yrs will not be offered any different or additional service or treatment to other participants. All participants under 18yrs must participate in an interview and require a reference from a professional person who has known them for over 2 years.

Program Flexibility

Kaya programs are different from travel or adventure programs. Each development project and work experience placement is unique and often cannot be implemented exactly as planned for a variety of reasons. Itineraries shown are a guide and the order of activities may be shifted in line with factors, including, but not limited to the weather, changing project needs, local regulations and individual situations. Project activities shown cover most areas that you may be asked to get involved, but additional activities may arise that require your assistance and not all activities shown may be carried out in the period of your stay. Applicants are advised that these variables may require changes before or during a program. Part of the challenge and growth opportunity is in adapting to changing conditions and overcoming the obstacles they may present.

Legal Jurisdiction, Release of Liability and Assumption of Risks

UK and European Participants:

Participants from the UK and European countries booking their placements on kayavolunteer.com enter a contract with Kaya Responsible Travel Ltd., of The Arches, North Campus, Sackville St, Manchester, a company registered in England and Wales (company number 6885700). This contract is governed by English law under the exclusive jurisdiction of English courts.

Participants from North America and other Non-European countries:

Participants from North America and other Non-European countries booking their placements on kayavolunteer.com enter a contract with Kaya Responsible Travel Ltd, part of the Global Educators Inc consortium of 3 Ferry Street, Studio 3-West, Easthampton, MA, a company registered in the state of Massachusetts, USA. This contract is governed by the laws of the State of Massachusetts, U.S.A., excluding Massachusetts's conflict of laws rules, regardless of your location. You hereby expressly consent to exclusive jurisdiction and venue in the federal and state courts located in Massachusetts U.S.A., for all matters or disputes arising out of or relating to these Terms and Conditions or your access or use of the Website.

All Participants:

In organising and managing volunteer projects, work experience placements, group programs, and courses, Kaya, its agents, employees, and staff give notice that they act solely on behalf of and for the benefit of the participants, on the express agreement that Kaya shall not be liable, financially or otherwise, for non-performance or unsatisfactory service; for the injury to persons including death, for loss of or damage to property, for accident or delay, and/or for expenses arising from strikes, weather, quarantine, sickness, government regulation, civil unrest or war, or from any act or omission of Kaya agents or employees, and/or airline, mail services, rail, bus company, vehicle rental entity, hotel, restaurant, or other suppliers of service.

By submitting this application form the participant assumes all of these risks and agrees to indemnify Kaya, its officers, directors, and employees harmless for any and all liability that may arise in connection with participation in the Kaya Programs. Kaya reserves the right to refuse any applicant admission to any program if he or she is deemed ill-suited for the program. Important program information will be sent to the email address provided on the application. Photographs, videotapes, and/or statements of participants may be used in promoting Kaya. Kaya publishes program and project photos on a regular basis on the Kaya website. These photos and videos are available for participants, friends, family, and interested individuals to download, email, or print for personal use. Photography usage for distribution purposes will be considered on an individual basis on application to Kaya.

Participants accept that they will be subjected to various physical and emotional demands and accept that the standard of living, including food, hygiene and accommodation in the relevant country may be below the general standards of their own country. The Participant also understands that certain risks may arise, including, but not limited to, hazards of traveling in remote areas; travel by automobile, van, bus, airplane, boat, train or any other means of conveyance; the forces of nature; civil disturbances; national or international conflicts; terrorism; arbitrary itinerary changes made by foreign governments or vendors; dive related accidents, boat accidents; interacting with dangerous wildlife; personal injury or illness from the local environment; accident or illness in remote locations without immediate evacuation or medical facilities; or negligent acts of third parties. The Participant asserts that they know, understands and appreciate these and other risks inherent in the program, agrees that participation is completely voluntary and assumes all risk associated with the program.

Kaya shall have no responsibility for any activities undertaken by the Participant outside the scope of those directly relating to the program, including activities that may have been recommended by Kaya staff, or it's partners, within the location. For all excursion activities, Kaya acts as an agent, not a principle of the activity. Any information provided by Kaya, including but not limited to information about visas, vaccinations, healthcare, climate, group sizes and packing requirements is given in good faith for information and educational purposes only but without responsibility on the part of Kaya or it's partners.

Travel Documents and Insurance

All participants must possess a valid passport for their Kaya trip. Participants are responsible for any costs associated with visas, airport taxes, obtaining the proper travel documents for their trip, and changes to flight itineraries. All participants must have valid, comprehensive health and travel insurance during the time of their program covering risks associated with a 'Force Majeur' event, medical emergencies and repatriation. Details of insurance must be supplied to Kaya prior to commencement of any program. Kaya reserves the right to refuse entry to programs if insurance details are not supplied.

Program Agreement, Terms and Conditions

Behavioural Expectations

By joining a Kaya Program, the participant assumes certain obligations to Kaya, its community, and other program participants. If on-site program directors determine a participant fails to meet the behavioural expectations set out in this contract and within Kaya's Code of Conduct document, that participant will be asked to leave the program. Participants asked to leave under these circumstances will not receive a refund. In addition to other program responsibilities, as a program participant you are responsible for:

- Being in sufficient good health to undertake the program.
- Acting in an appropriate and respectful manner towards the local people, fellow travellers, program participants, and staff in accordance with the customs, laws, regulations, and ordinances of the country of placement.
- Following all health and safety protocols and precautions outlined by ground-team members.
- Communicating effectively your interests, skills, limitations, and needs to home community members and program staff members.

Disclosure

All participants must disclose at the time of application any pre-existing or existing medical conditions (including depression and eating disorders) and disabilities. Some placements may require doctor's notes as a requirement for participation – some of which may be dictated by legal requirements or liability purposes. Any medical conditions arising after Application and prior to Placement must be disclosed to Kaya prior to placement commencement. Kaya reserve the right to refuse applications based on these disclosures, if deemed necessary for the safety of the participant and the project. Kaya operates a policy of non-discrimination and any information provided that may impact an application will be discussed with the applicant prior to any decisions being implemented to establish the basis for any concerns. Kaya reserve the right to cancel any application, or terminate a placement without refund if false information or lack of disclosure is found to have been supplied. Kaya is not held responsible for the administration or monitoring of any medication. While Kaya makes every effort to establish safety conditions and risk assessment, Participants are warned that the general standards of health, safety and hygiene in many countries visited may not be of comparable standard to Western countries and hence a risk of injury and illness is inherent to this venture.

Some placements may require a police criminal background check, conducted by the government. This check shall be carried out at the applicant's expense with guidance from Kaya. Some placements require proof that volunteers are clear of certain medical conditions, through the provision of a health certificate. This check shall be carried out at the applicant's expense.

Complaints

If a Participant wishes to lodge a complaint in relation to their program, they shall first bring the complaint to the attention of the in-country coordinator, who will make reasonable efforts to deal with and, where possible, resolve the complaint within a reasonable time. If a Participant feels that a complaint is not being dealt with adequately by their in-country coordinator they should then contact the Kaya placement advice team to escalate the issue. If the coordinator is unable to resolve any serious complaint, and the participant chooses to terminate their placement early and depart the project, they shall provide the coordinator with a written version of events leading to their early termination, prior to departure. Refunds cannot be provided for early departure unless extreme circumstances are found, which will be determined at the sole discretion of Kaya. Issues reported after the end of a program that were not reported during the program, giving the site team an opportunity to address the issue in country, will not be considered for any compensation. Participants agree that Kaya shall not be liable for damages or compensation relating to any claim regarding inconvenience, disappointment, discomfort or loss of enjoyment.