



Well you've studied Spanish for a while, and are doing pretty well in the classroom. Isn't it time that you put your knowledge to practical use? You could choose to study abroad... moving from one classroom to another. Or you could plunge into the real world, using what you've learned in a real-world situation, and improving your language skills at a rate you could never match in the classroom. An essential component of any well-designed curriculum, internships are proving to be an exceptional motivational and practical experience for students and professionals alike. What's more, the fact that you've had the independence, openness, and curiosity to undertake an internship in a foreign country is great for the resume. It says a lot about you as a potential employee or graduate student.

We organize unpaid internships with several NGOs committed to promoting basic human rights.

For this internship, you must have at least an intermediate knowledge of Spanish. You may wish to supplement your knowledge with Spanish lessons. We can arrange lessons to fit your schedule and your budget.

### Quito

Quito is the capital of Ecuador and it is the second highest capital in the world at an elevation of 2850 meters. (La Paz, Bolivia is the highest). Quito is one of the most beautiful cities in South America. The view of the area around Quito is dominated by the majestic, cone-shaped Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano in the world. Due to the altitude of the city, and its location just south of the equator, Quito has a wonderful spring like climate throughout the year.

Quito is a modern city with every comfort and convenience readily available, yet it retains a large historic district that has been designated a UNESCO cultural heritage site. The new town contains numerous modern office buildings, shopping centers, hotels, restaurants, banks, and much more. In the colonial part of Quito you will find Spanish colonial churches, whitewashed houses, narrow streets, and old plazas. Overlooking the historic district stands the imposing statue of the Virgin of Quito, known as the Panecillo. For foreign visitors, Quito is a very comfortable and interesting place to spend some time.

**ALDHU** - In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American Human Rights Association (ALDHU) has a leading role in the promotion of human rights. Its policy is that democracy and human rights should constitute the foundation of every development process. Since 1995, ALDHU has worked with indigenous organizations to bring about an alternative peace process and to maintain the cultural and ecological heritage that Ecuador and Peru share in the Amazon region.

**CEDHU** - La Comisión Ecuánica de los Derechos Humanos is a social organization whose mission is to promote human rights and respect for the dignity of all people. CEDHU was created May 3, 1978 after the massacre of 100 workers at a sugar factory. CEDHU considers the exercise of human rights and social justice to be the foundation for equitable development and social peace. CEDHU supports and promotes human rights through legal aid, education, and documentation.

**FENOCIN** - Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas, Indígenas, y Negras (FENOCIN) is a multi-ethnic organization made up of communities, cooperatives,



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## Ecuador

workers associations, youth groups, indigenous organizations, and campesino organizations. FENOCIN has worked to acquire land, water, and economic rights for the poorest sectors of the rural Ecuadorian population. Interns could assist with projects in the main Quito office or travel to small towns throughout Ecuador with educational outreach programs. This internship requires advanced Spanish proficiency.

**CONAMU** - Consejo Nacional de las Mujeres is a governmental organization started in 1980 to work for human rights, equal rights, and equal opportunities for women in Ecuador. CONAMU is very active working against violence directed at women by revising legislation and promoting reform and enforcement of existing laws concerning domestic violence. CONAMU also has many education and skills training programs aimed at empowering women and giving them the tools to be self sufficient.

**Comisaría de la Mujer** - An NGO based in Quito that provides legal guidance for those that cannot afford a lawyer (especially women and children). All of their services are free of charge and they work with a large number of domestic abuse, child support, and child custody cases. Interns can also get involved in the public

defender's office. The goal of this organization is to make sure that all victims' constitutional and human rights are respected. Interns can work with social

workers, lawyers and judges. **Private Lawyers** – We also have internships available with private lawyers working in criminal and civil law. Depending on your Spanish skills and interests, you may choose to work with a lawyers focusing on helping the poor and disadvantaged through his numerous pro bono cases, or a lawyer that is mainly involved in litigation with a higher profile clientele.

## Ibarra

About 2 ½ hours north of Quito, Ibarra is a charming, medium-sized city known as la ciudad blanca for its whitewashed, colonial style architecture.

**Municipalidad de Ibarra** - The citizen's outreach department of the mayor's office in Ibarra. Here they work with disadvantaged and marginalized populations in an effort to support healthy community development while protecting the rights of the citizens (especially children and young people). The great thing about this

placement is that the sky is the limit! They are very excited to have interns and have many projects they'd like our help to get off the ground. This is a great opportunity to see local government in action and to participate actively in the implementation of projects that meet the needs of marginalized communities. Opportunities include social work, human rights, citizen engagement, urban planning, film production

(documentary), education, at-risk youth and poverty reduction.

**Mision Escalabriniana** - An NGO in both Quito and in Ibarra that works with displaced populations (immigrants, refugees and migrant workers in Quito and primarily Colombian refugees in Ibarra) to integrate them into Ecuadorian society and provide them with services (including legal, medical, housing, work, childcare). These organizations also promote the rights of displaced populations through marches, community events, etc. Interns can shadow and work with lawyers, social workers, psychologists and



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advocates.

### Quito - Puerto Lopez - Santa Ana - Visquije - Otavalo - And More!

**Construction** - If you are interested in hands-on, construction work we can do this throughout the country, from the highlands, to Quito, to the coastal plains. We have a real need for people that want to get dirty and help some of these small communities to have better infrastructure! Projects include installing bathrooms, paving schoolyards and refurbishing classrooms.

Volunteers in this project can also teach at the schools where they will be doing the construction projects. Any experience in construction, engineering or related fields would be useful. This is an especially good project for groups.



Ecuador's diverse landscapes and cultures inspire visitors from around the globe. The small country is tucked into the northwestern corner of South America, straddling the Andes. The mountains run north to south dividing the country into three distinct regions and hundreds of microclimates. Quito, the capital, lies in the heart of the highlands in a valley surrounded by glacier topped peaks. The city was founded by the Spanish *conquistadores* in 1534, but according to the old legends, Quito had been a capital for centuries before the arrival of the Spanish. To the west of Quito, the Andes drop into coastal forests and plains. About 97% of Ecuador's population lives in the highlands and coastal region. In the East, the Andes fall into the sparsely populated Amazon Basin.

Ecuador's diverse population is descended from many different groups of indigenous peoples, Spanish and other European colonists, Africans brought to the Americas as slaves, and Asian immigrants. Ecuadorian culture reflects the rich tapestry of customs from all these groups, from the beautifully preserved churches and cathedrals built by Spanish colonists to the traditional dress worn by many indigenous people and the colorful seasonal festivals throughout the country. The country is one of the poorer countries of South America and is facing many developmental challenges. ELI partners with dozens of organizations in Ecuador to give volunteers and interns the opportunity to learn about this beautiful country in depth while giving back to the communities in Ecuador.

### Costs

The program fee varies depending on duration and housing choice, here's the [Cost Breakdown](#). Internships are UNPAID.

### Eligibility

All participants must be at least 18 years old at the time of their program. There is no maximum age limit (we've had participants in their 80's!). We accept participants from all over the world as long as they are able to obtain a visa to enter Ecuador. Some professional internships may require educational/professional experience in the area of interest. Programs in Ecuador require at least an intermediate level of Spanish as you will be in a 100% Spanish speaking environment. Programs working with kids or animals may be more flexible with this requirement. If you would like more language training while you're interning, we can set up Spanish classes with a tutor. Please contact us if you have questions about eligibility.

### Visa

In addition to your passport, you will need to obtain a TOURIST visa upon arrival. Participants from most nationalities can enter for 90 days. If you plan to stay longer we can help you extend your visa upon arrival.

### Start dates

The start dates for the Ecuador programs are flexible. We recommend that participants arrive on a weekend and start their placement the following Monday. We ask that participants book flights arriving during the day between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM. Please do not arrive between December 23-25th in order to allow



our coordinator and staff to spend Christmas with their families. Participants have two airport options. They can fly into [Mariscal Lamar International Airport](#) (CUE) in Cuenca for no additional airport pick-up fee or they can fly into the [Mariscal Sucre International Airport](#) (UIO) in Quito for an additional fee.

### Housing

Volunteers in Ecuador stay with local host families OR with a local guest house. ELI truly believes that this is the best way to fully immerse in another culture and get the most from an international experience. All families are carefully screened and are well-respected members of the community. Host families do not speak English, creating a full immersion environment to help participants improve their Spanish language skills. Participants will have either a private or shared bedroom with secure storage (volunteer must provide own padlock). Bathrooms are shared with the host family. Volunteers will be provided with breakfast and dinner daily.

### What's it like?

We have a number of great interviews with past participants. Jake talks about his Pre-Medical Internship, Kendall and Sarah talk about their Teaching Projects and we have a great interview with a group of Physical Therapy students that did a service project in Puerto Lopez and Anam's Photo-Journal from her Medical Internship in Puerto Lopez. We also have some past participants Photo-Journals, Blogs, and a Staff Gallery. You can find all of these on our [Feedback page](#).

### Apply

Start the application process [HERE](#). A US\$200 application fee will be required before we start working on your placement. Please review the [refund policy](#). We recommend applying 2-3 months in advance if possible, but we sometimes are able to set up programs with less notice. Once we receive your online application, resume, and application fee then we send all of your paperwork to our in-country coordinator. The coordinator meets with organization administration and recommends a placement based on the needs of the organization and your specific skills as communicated in the application. This part of the placement process can take 4-6 weeks or more.

### Questions?

Take a look at our [FAQ](#) page.

### Connect with us

Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and on ELI's [Ecuador Pinterest page](#) for updates and information on new programs and to connect with current and past participants.

Please feel free to get back to us if you have any questions about our programs. You can reach us at [info@eliabroad.org](mailto:info@eliabroad.org), call us at the office 303/321-8278, or arrange a time to chat via Skype-- our username is EliPrograms. Our office is open M-F 7:30-5PM MST (we're based in Denver, CO).