

UIN # 657017 8571

PEER ADVISING SHEET

(T)

BLV

Name: Victoria Knawf
 Address: _____
 Telephone: 847 302 9133
 E-mail: _____
 Major: Kinesiology

Year in School: Junior
 Program: SAE Exchange Universidad de Q
 Program Sponsor: _____
 Institution Name: Universidad de Quito
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Period of Study: Semester

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? No
 Courses taken abroad: Andean Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Advanced Spanish, Religion Anthropology

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: \$14,000
 Program Fee/Tuition: \$11,000
 Accommodation: _____
 Food: _____

Books/Supplies: \$30
 Airfare (from): Roundtrip Chicago → Quito \$1,000
 Travel: \$2,500
 Toiletries/Misc.: _____

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Structure of classes are very high school-like. Given homework weekly, most of it was reading articles that were 15-20 pages. All my classes were in Spanish, but there are definitely options for non-Spanish speakers (English classes are available). Most of the teachers were very flexible & helped exchange students if necessary w/ language barriers &/or clarification on assignments. Workload wasn't too bad, although 2 of my classes had random quizzes/presentations on article homework. Foreign language necessity depended on what classes you took.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

Lived w/ host family about 20 mins from the school (School is actually located in town outside of Quito, but other students lived in Quito too). Living with family definitely helps you understand the Ecuadorian culture so I would definitely recommend it! I lived w/ a family with 2 kids - 2 yr old girl & 6 yr old boy.

ips:SAO:Group Shared Items:Main Office Info-Forms:Advising:PEER ADVISING SHEET

POSTED

(Quito)

Box 9.3.13 BAA

On-site Organization:**How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?**

On-site director & international office were awesome. They were always available & helped out whenever necessary.

Host Institution:**How would you describe your host institution?**

Definitely full of individuals that clearly have more money but there are still many individuals on scholarships from smaller villages. There are also many exchange students, so the Ecuadorians are used to them & befriend them often. I absolutely loved the people there! Professors were also very nice!

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Clubs aren't as big there but they offer numerous Pass/Fail classes or club-like activities. I joined Andinismo (Hiking/ Rock Climbing class), Triatlon, & Track & Field classes. These are the classes where I made my friends - the (Athletismo) people are great & classes are very fun!

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

To go from Quito to Guayaquil or Salinas (about 10 hr drive) it only cost about \$15! A lot of my travelling I did with my classes (such as Andinismo or Triatlon) so it ended up costing me less! Galapagos cost about \$700 - I recommend buying air tickets in Quito Centro Mall (they are cheaper than online!). I also don't think an expensive tour is worth it - to find out what to do on each island, all you have to do is ask locals! But definitely travel! There is so much to see!

Social or Other Comments

These people there are great & very welcoming. I made numerous friends not only at school, but also in the town I lived (Umbisi) & on weekend trips.

Before I left, I wish I would have...

Planned trips better! Time flies & every weekend counts!

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

It was the time of my life. Ecuador is an absolutely beautiful country, ~~and~~ so if you love nature & friendly people, I would definitely recommend going here!

Signature: Walter Kreny**Today's Date:** 8/30/13

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Allison Reed
Address: 106 S. Fourth St Apt 2
Champaign IL 61820
Telephone: (847) 525-2368
E-mail: reed33@illinois.edu
Major: global studies & spanish

Year in School: senior
Program: SAO: Universidad San Fe
Program Sponsor: SAO Ecuador
Institution Name: USFQ
Location: Ecuador
Period of Study: Fall 2012

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: spanish/english Did you take courses in your major? yes
Courses taken abroad: intro to international relations (english), Andean
History, Quechua, Baile Deportivo, language and
transition, and language and film (spanish)

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: 1 Books/Supplies: 40
Program Fee/Tuition: 11,000 less than a semester Airfare (from): Chicago (900)
Accommodation: homestay Travel: 150
Food: me currency (BONUS)!! Toiletries/Misc.: brought from home
we replaced \$30

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Volunteered in la INFA a child care center
a healthy amount of spanish is needed but
many courses are offered in english

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

Homestay with the Picho family in Uumbisi
an indigenous community. I enjoyed staying
well, quieter than Quito.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Erika was amazing, really helpful

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

wealthy, not representative of the whole country but it was beautiful

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

GO TO THE BEACH! Cheap bus tickets \$20 at the most. Mindo, Baños and Otavalo are a must. Galapagos as well if you can afford it.

Social or Other Comments

Before I left, I wish I would have...

gone to banos and planked from the bridge

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Amazing. Thoroughly enjoyed my experience. Can't wait to go back and visit.

Signature: *Deepon Reed*

Today's Date: *3/12/13*

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

7

Name: Javier Soto
 Address: 801 W. Oregon St.
Urbana, IL 61801
 Telephone: 847-702-1727
 E-mail: soto.5@illinois.edu
 Major: Global Studies

Year in School: Senior
 Program: SAO San Francisco de Quito
 Program Sponsor: SAO Exchange
 Institution Name: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 Location: Urbana-Champaign, IL
 Period of Study: Spring 2012 January - May

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? Yes
 Courses taken abroad: Andean Anthropology, Ecuadorian Culture, Social Problems in Ecuador,
Spanish American Short Story, Corruption in Internat. System, Guitar Basics

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: _____
 Program Fee/Tuition: \$6,792.00
 Accommodation: \$1918.00
 Food: Included

Books/Supplies: \$100.00
 Airfare (from): AA \$1000.00
 Travel: \$170.00
 Toiletries/Misc.: \$1564.00

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Courses were structured similarly to courses at this university; clear expectations → grading rubric, exams, projects, + papers. An intermediate level of Spanish proficiency is needed to perform required tasks. Higher/advanced classes are just as rigorous but lower aren't.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

Host family in a near suburb; \$1918.00; Do a home stay for

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On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

They were helpful to provide a thoroughly enjoyable + helpful program experience.
They were very informative in all areas of our stay → academic, social, etc.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Small private university; Liberal Arts ~~school~~ + Sciences School.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Campus Crusade for Christ.
Andinismo (Hiking/Climbing)

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Tiputini (Amazon) → about \$400
Inca Trail Excursion → about \$120
Beach Trips → about \$50-100
Cotopaxi mountain climb → ~\$120

Social or Other Comments

Go to the Mariscal - Plaza Foch for dancing
Join a social club / sports club to easily meet locals

Before I left, I wish I would have...

Personally, learned to salsa well. Also wish I would have invested more time with locals instead of w/ my program.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

My experience was very enjoyable in the learning experience it provided. I learned a great deal about myself and others through travels + other unique experiences that I ~~would~~ would never take back.

Signature: Jamin Jeto

Today's Date: 08/23/2012

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

(T)

Name: Tara McGovern
 Address: 712 W. Illinois
Urbana
 Telephone: (708)
 Email: mcgover3@illinois.edu
 Major: Anthropology

Year in School: Senior
 Program: SAO Exchange Universidad San Francisco de Quito
 Program Sponsor:
 Institution Name:
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Period of Study: Spring 2012

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? Yes
 Courses taken abroad: Antropología Andina (Andean Anthropology),
Literatura Indigenista (Indigenist Literature), Quichua Básico,
Arte de Quito Colonial (Art of Colonial Quito), Audited
Taller de Vitales (Stained Glass Workshop).

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)
 Total Cost: \$12000
 Program Fee/Tuition: included ↑
 Accommodation: included ↑
 Food: \$400 additional (restaurants)
 Books/Supplies: \$50
 Airfare (from): \$1400 round trip
 Travel: \$1000 + \$900 tip to Perú
 Toiletries/Misc.: \$50

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Courses at USFQ were much like high school: stimulating,
interesting, a pleasure to be in, but not difficult at all. I
attended about 15 classes the first week to choose the
most interesting + professors, subject matter + students.
I avoided "Guingo classes" like "Ecuadorian Culture"
because I wanted to meet Ecuadorians and it worked.
I also chose professors who spoke at a pace I
understood. Definitely had to study for tests + put
work into papers, but not debilitating. Leave plenty of
time for travel + fun!

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

Wonderful host family in the native community of Humbisi
very close to university. Every host family for this program
is spectacular + well-paired by the program director
who is very invested in every student.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Resident Director is FANTASTIC. She knows everyone in Ecuador + will hook you up w/ whatever or whenever you need!

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Best in Ecuador. Young elite attend, but also a sizeable group of indigenous students via an affirmative-action type program; also a lot of Americans. Campus is like a palace.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Conversation Club, in which American students met w/ indigenous students to help each other w/ Spanish + English. Made AWESOME friends this way.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Musto: Tiputini Biodiversity Station (thru USAQ, \$400); Cuenca; Montañita + Atacames (Beach Towns, AWESOME); Mindo; Cloud Forest; Papallacta (hot springs + gorgeousness); Otavalo (indigenous market); of course Historic Quito; Cotopaxi; Salasaca

Social or Other Comments

Being friendly is YOUR responsibility. It'll take some time, but it's YOUR responsibility as the outsider to initiate friendships + conversation. Don't blame the Ecuadorians if they're not talking to you more likely you're not talking to them! Also gender is very different, be prepared. Before I left, I wish I would have...

made it more of a priority to hang out with and bond better with my Ecuadorian friends + Americans from other states. Still in facebook contact, but not the same.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Not to be dramatic, but by far the best semester of my life. Aside from getting to know a gorgeous, confusing, complex country + people, I developed relationships w/ NGOs, rights activists, + intellectuals from everywhere in the US + Ecuador + the world.

Signature: Ina McQueen

Today's Date: 27 Jun 2012

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

T

Name: Paige Millburg
Address: 802 W. Green St, Apt #104
Urbana, IL 61801
Telephone: (309) 533-3311
E-mail: millbur1@illinois.edu
Major: Spanish

Year in School: Senior
Program: USFQ (Ecuador)
Program Sponsor: SAO Exchange
Institution Name: Universidad San Francisco de Quito
Location: Cumbayá, Ecuador
Period of Study: Spring 2012

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? yes
Courses taken abroad: Arte del Quito Colonial; Español Avanzado;
Conversación Avanzada; andinismo; Antropología Andina

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: _____
Program Fee/Tuition: _____
Accommodation: _____
Food: host family

Books/Supplies: \$100
Airfare (from): \$777 round-trip, Chicago-Q
Travel: _____
Toiletries/Misc.: \$50

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Basic proficiency in Spanish required, moderate suggested. Courses were easier (at least, the ones I took) than those similar at the U of I, and professors are extremely accomodating to international students - easy to get assignments if you'll be gone travelling, some professors allow you to write assignments/exams in English. Courses structured similar to courses here.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived with a host family, which I recommend to everyone! I became so close with my family, we still keep in touch, and they really help you learn Spanish & more about the culture - so nice for when you feel homesick - Use them to spend time with, but also as a resource for helping your language skills!

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Extremely helpful - everyone involved bent way over backwards to accommodate our needs, ease the transition, drive us to the post office or hospital - they did everything they could!

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Like a clique-y high school. Many students (5,000 total) aren't immediately welcome to int'l students, but keep talking and trying to make friends! You'll meet some amazing people.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Took a hiking course, Andinismo

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Tiputini (rainforest) - \$415, bring repellent & breathable clothing
Various beaches (\$20 for hostel, \$10 bus fare) - repellent, sunscreen
- for any travel, I recommend a money belt you can conceal under your clothing

Social or Other Comments

Before I left, I wish I would have...

Chosen more books & variety of clothing to bring with me. Also - bring quarters & small bills!

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Challenging at times, but the most rewarding experience of my life! I learned much of what I expected, but so much more than I could ever have imagined.

Signature:

Paige Phillips

Today's Date: 8-14-12

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

(T)

Name: JESLIN PANICKER
 Address: _____
 Telephone: (847) 361-7175
 E-mail: jpanicker12@gmail.com
 Major: Global Studies

Year in School: JUNIOR
 Program: SAO Exchange
 Program Sponsor: _____
 Institution Name: USFQ
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Period of Study: one semester

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: SPANISH Did you take courses in your major? yes

Courses taken abroad:

<u>Amazon societies</u>	<u>(Sociedades Amazonicas)</u>
<u>Intermediate Conversation</u>	<u>(conversación intermedia)</u>
<u>Ecuadorian culture</u>	<u>(cultura ecuatoriano)</u>
<u>Race & Ethnicity</u>	<u>(raza y etnicidad)</u>

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: <u>\$7,000</u>	Books/Supplies: <u>\$50 (books are cheap)</u>
Program Fee/Tuition: <u>\$7000</u>	Airfare (from): <u>about \$1,000 (round trip)</u>
Accommodation: <u>(part of program fee)</u>	Travel: <u>(depends where you go)</u>
Food: <u>(part of program fee)</u>	Toiletries/Misc.: <u>\$150</u>

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

The structure of courses is similar to the structure here. I really recommend taking a conversation class with Claudia and Ecuadorian culture (all the EPE classes are meant for international students).

Amazon Societies was a fairly difficult class and I was not a fan of Josefina (the p.

Race & Ethnicity was an interesting class and taught by an American professor (in Span. who was simply awesome.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

My first 2 months I lived with the Ayala family in Valle 243 in Cumbaya (if you want to be independent, less involved family live here)

My second 2 months I lived with the Lucio family by the park in Cumbaya (if you want a more involved family, live here)

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

The on-site director (Maria) was very helpful whenever I needed anything.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

It is very small in comparison to UIUC. There are only about 5,000 students and almost 200 are international students. The campus is beautiful.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Some of my friends were involved in the Andinismo class (hiking),

USFQ choir, salsa dancing club, etc.

There are various sports classes offered at USFQ including adventure sports & yoga.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

- Montañita for a fun beach and take a surfing lesson!

- Baños for adventure sports (puenting, paragliding, biking, white water rafting)

- Mindo (ziplining, tubing, tarzan jump)

- Cuenca (sightseeing, national park)

- Amazon jungle

Special or Other Comments

Go on a CHIVA for a birthday party. Hang out with locals as much as possible, they can show you around and you improve your Spanish quick.

Before I left, I wish I would have...

I know it's Ecuador near the equator and all, but it can get pretty cold at night and when it rains so bring full sleeve shirts, a rain jacket, and a spring/fall jacket.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Studying abroad was the most rewarding experience of my life!

Signature:

Justin Panich

Today's Date:

3/16/12

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Emily Litchfield
Address: 612 W. California, Urbana
Telephone: _____
E-mail: emily.litchfield1@gmail.com
Major: Sociology

Year in School: Senior
Program: SAO Exchange
Program Sponsor: _____
Institution Name: USFQ
Location: Ecuador
Period of Study: semester

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? No
Courses taken abroad: Grammar, Language + Civilization, Literature, Yoga, Conversation

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: _____	Books/Supplies: _____
Program Fee/Tuition: _____	Airfare (from): _____
Accommodation: _____	Travel: _____
Food: _____	Toiletries/Misc.: _____

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

grading was fairly similar to UIUC, workload was easier

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

live with a host family!! it was the best part of my experience - we got extremely close and still keep in touch.
lived in Lumbisi, which I would also recommend

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On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Very! Maria is awesome!

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Very nice - if you take initiative, many students are very kind & welcoming

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

went to church & joined a small group there

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Social or Other Comments

Before I left, I wish I would have...

not worried so much - everything works out! :)
also - did all my course approvals - it's terrible doing them when you get back...

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

incredibly amazing - challenging + growth-filled.
Hw! :)

Signature: Emily Hefner

Today's Date: 2/29/12

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Vanessa Martinez
 Address: 1343 W 16th St.
Chicago, IL 60608
 Telephone: (312) 404-4884
 E-mail: vmartinez2011@gmail.com
 Major: Industrial Engineering

Year in School: Senior
 Program: Universidad San Francisco de Quito
 Program Sponsor: SAO Exchange
 Institution Name: Universidad San Francisco de Quito
 Location: Quito Ecuador
 Period of Study: Fall 2011

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? Yes
 Courses taken abroad: Introduction to Robotics (Introducción a Robótica); Mecanismo y Vibraciones
Game Theory (Teoría de Juegos); Raza y Etnicidad; Hatha Yoga

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: \$12,000.00
 Program Fee/Tuition: \$6,500.00
 Accommodation: \$100.00
 Food: \$200.00

Books/Supplies: \$100.00
 Airfare (from): \$1,000.00
 Travel: \$1,000.00
 Toiletries/Misc.: \$100.00

Academic Experience:

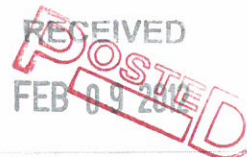
Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

The workload for these courses was less than most of the courses I have taken
at U of I. However the Exams were similar difficulty except for Raza y Etnicidad.
For most of the courses it was about 90-95% of required Spanish. For my engineering
courses the book were in english but the class and exam in Spanish which the english
books helped for studying.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I stayed with a host family, and their house was about 20 minutes walking distance
from the university. The cost for housing was not expensive and the family was
require to make ~~about~~ breakfast and dinner, and lunch was not really force since
students were at school.



On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Our on-site director was very helpful and always made sure everything was going well for everyone. Always made sure to update us on events that were occurring at the University.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Had many events for students, but the structure of the school system is the same as U of T's system. For example, same system is used to register for classes but just in Spanish.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

There were not many clubs or sports teams. Timing conflicted with classes.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

When traveling, I recommend to go in a group, and bigger the group the more discounts the groups get for activities. The places I recommend are, Minda, Barrios, Curra, and Tipatini.

Social or Other Comments

Had the opportunity to go out and hang out with Ecuadorian friends as well as other international students.

Before I left, I wish I would have...

more time to travel to other places in Ecuador. As well as had time to join clubs.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Studying abroad was an awesome experience, it was worth the extra semester. Wish I would have had the opportunity to study abroad for a year.

Signature: Vanessa Maf

Today's Date: 2/1/2012

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: AARON STEINBRECHER
 Address: 712 W. Illinois St.
Urbana IL, 61801
 Telephone: (773)-383-9286
 E-mail: astein27@gmail.com
 Major: PSYCHOLOGY

Year in School: JUNIOR
 Program: Exchange: USFQ
 Program Sponsor: SAO
 Institution Name: Universidad San Francisco de Q
 Location: QUITO, ECUADOR
 Period of Study: FALL 2011

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: SPANISH Did you take courses in your major? SI
 Courses taken abroad: ① Antropología Andina (Andean Anthropology) ANTH 300
 ② Introducción a la cultura ecuatoriana (Ecuadorian Culture) EPE 302
 ③ Intermediate Grammar (Español Intermedio) EPE 306
 ④ Psicología del amor (Psychology of Love) SIC 263
 ⑤ Deporte de aventura (Adventure Sports)

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: ~\$8000.00

Books/Supplies: >\$50.00

Program Fee/Tuition: ~\$6000.00

Airfare (from): round trip = \$1120.00

Accommodation: part of program fee

Travel: ~\$1000.00 (\$850.00 of this was

Food: ~\$5.00/day or less (but food w/ host family was included in program fee)

Toiletries/Misc.: >\$10.00 (I didn't need for much) trip

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

USFQ is really big on their international programs, so they have classes for learning Spanish that are only for international students (EPE classes) so those are really useful if you're still learning (but really, everyone is learning). You definitely need a steady background w/ Spanish, but you will learn so much more about actually LIVING in Spanish so if that is what you'd like, this program is perfect. My heaviest workload class was ANTH 300 (reading for every class, a group project, and a final ethnography where I wrote a 16 page research paper), but everything in that class was amazing! Pretty much no matter what you take you'll still have time to travel & professors understand that you are an international student - mine were very accommodating. Expect to have times of lots of work, but I only took 12 credit hours, so it was definitely a lighter load than at U of I. Grading is pretty much the same, there may be a bigger emphasis on participation. Exams are the same, all in Spanish.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived in Lumbisí, a small indigenous, agricultural community about 20. away from Cumbayá (where the university is). If you want to have an awesome host family and be able to learn a lot about indigenous culture & agriculture - LIVE HERE. I loved my host family was awesome: host mom & host dad (dad worked 4 days away from home!) brother, younger sister, & older sister, who had 2 young kids. The cost of living is included in the program fee. You'll see very clearly that Cumbayá is definitely more upper-class than Lumbisí, but honestly, Lumbisí is much more real. Choose it.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

MARIA BARRAGAN (program director in Quito) is the best. She will help you w/ everything + anything you need. She is all you need. I remember reading one of those peer review whatever's + reading something like, "Maria amazing!" and being like, "Who is this Maria + how great can she be?" Well, believe me, now I know + she really is. Go to Ecuador.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution? USFQ (Universidad San Francisco de Quito) is great. In Ecuador + ^{all} most of Latin America is very clearly separated by socioeconomic class + this Uni is no exception. Pretty much only upper-class, rich Ecuadorians go here because they are the only ones who can afford it. So it will be a cultural shock every day. This doesn't mean they're bad people even if they look like it, they just live in a different world. USFQ is so great, I liked all of my professors — a very quality institution.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Adventure Sports — super fun.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

I traveled about every other weekend. Those weekend trips were about \$50.00 - \$80. During the week-long break we had, I probably spent \$200.00 - \$250.00, to travel 4 different places.

Galapagos: \$875 for a 5-day trip. If you want to go the Galapagos.

Find an organization outside of the University — the Uni. will charge you around \$150 for a week trip. The office of International Programs can help find one.

Like anywhere outside of the U.S., Ecuador is different. It is different socioeconomically, racially, physically, and genderized in a different way.

Some things I got used to very quickly, some things took a bit longer, and some things I never got used to. It's a different world, really.

Before I left, I wish I would have...
Stayed longer
Traveled more
Climbed more mountains

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Literally the biggest + best decision I have made in my life.
Call me + ask me about it...

Signature: Ramon J.

Today's Date: 1/23/2012

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GO STUDY ABROAD NOW.

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Study Abroad Office

PEER ADVISING SHEET



Name: MEGAN EVANS
Address: 48 E. JOHN
CHAMPAIGN
Telephone: 847-971-3375
E-mail: megananneevans@gmail.com
Major: GS, Spanish

Year in School: JUNIOR
Program: SAO EXCHANGE
Program Sponsor: VIVE
Institution Name: UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN FRANCISCO
Location: ECUADOR
Period of Study: SEMESTER, FALL 2011

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: SPANISH Did you take courses in your major? YES
Courses taken abroad: ANT 300 ANTROPOLOGIA ANDINA
ANT 360 ARQUEOLOGIA ANDINA
ANT 250 RAZA Y ETNICIDAD
ECL 311 ECOLOGIA MARINO

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable) REFER TO PROGRAM
Total Cost: _____ Books/Supplies: _____ FEES
Program Fee/Tuition: _____
Accommodation: HOST FAMILY Airfare (from): _____
Food: _____ Travel: _____
Toiletries/Misc.: _____

Academic Experience:

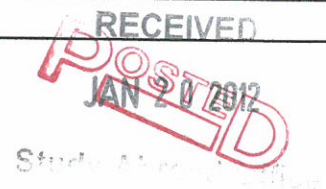
Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Courses are structured the same way as VIVE, and my
courseload was not too bad, it depends on how many credits
you choose. All courses, except for a limited few, are taught in
Spanish and you are expected to read/write/discuss in class
and homework. I highly recommend all the courses listed above,
with the exception of ECL 311.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

Host family in Lumbisi and all costs are included in
the program fees



On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Extremely helpful, you will always be able to ask questions and any other problems you may face

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Much smaller university with ~4000 students with great + helpful ~~professores~~ professors

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

I joined the women's soccer club at my university, but there are not too many clubs, most of my time was spent volunteering in the community

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Bus ~ 10\$ - 2\$

Meals ~ 3\$ - 10\$

Hostal ~ 7\$ - 12\$

Social or Other Comments

Please, if you would like to know more feel free to contact me via email.

Before I left, I wish I would have...

spent more time in the community.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Studying abroad was a great experience that expanded my horizons and my spanish speaking skills. I made great friends and everlasting memories.

Signature:

Megon Graw

Today's Date: 01/20/2012

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

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JAN 23 2012

Name: Sarah Buckman
Address: 602 S. Lincoln Ave
Urbana, IL 61801
Telephone: 847-830-7621
E-mail: buckman1@illinois.edu
Major: Global Studies and Spanish

Year in School: Junior 3rd year
Program: SAO Exchange - Study Abroad Office
Program Sponsor: Study Abroad Off
Institution Name: Universidad San Francisco
Location: Quito, Ecuador
Period of Study: Fall Semester
2011

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? yes
Courses taken abroad: La Cultura Ecuatoriana, Ecologia mari
y Oceanografia, antropologia andina, arqueologic
andina

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: 9500 - 1,100
Program Fee/Tuition: 6,792 included
Accommodation: 7-hostels and host family
Food: cheaper than U.S
\$12.50 lunches
Books/Supplies: \$130
Airfare (from): ≈ \$1,100
Travel: 600 - 1000
Toiletries/Misc.: expensive due to
import taxes

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

The structure of some of the classes was a bit un-
orthodox, many assignments crammed in the end of
weeks, but a relaxed workload. Exams can be worth
a different percentage despite the original
syllabus. Some fluency is needed but all
professors know English as well. Strong
pressure of Spanish!

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

Loved living in Lumbisi an indigenous community
Stayed with a host family, good food, nice
three younger siblings, and many volunteer
opportunities. Highly Recommended, and cheap and
close to the university. Outside valley from Quito.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

On-site director was wonderful. Maria Barragan became a family member. She is very resourceful and will help you with anything you might need.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

It was very wealthy, many rich Ecuadorians attend this school, have family members in the government. Bring nice clothing for school.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Joined my ~~host~~ family's soccer team that would play against other women's teams in Lumbisi.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

very cheap! \$8 for a 8 hour bus to Montañita, ~~Guerc~~ Papallacta, Mindo, Isla de La Plata, Puerto Lopez, Tiputini Biodiversity Research Station in the Amazon, Baños, Misahashu.

Social or Other Comments

Bar scene in Quito La Mariscal, Plaza Foch. Place of a lot of Gringos and others. For a salsa club, La Julia.

Before I left, I wish I would have...

brought more clothes, brought peanut butter for my host family, have traveled more in Quito, went out more, go to Telferico, La Ronda.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Wonderful experience, that should have lasted long. Your Spanish will get much better because you are living with it all around you.

Signature: Sarah Buckman Today's Date: 01/11/2012

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Alisha Gryniiewicz
Address: 1231 S. Delles Rd
Wheaton, IL 60189
Telephone: 630-254-1330
E-mail: agrynie2@illinois.edu
Major: Engineering and
Spanish

Year in School: Senior
Program: Quito, Ecuador
Program Sponsor: SAO
Institution Name: USFQ
Location: Quito, Ecuador
Period of Study: FA 11

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? yes
Courses taken abroad:

ART 214 Taller de Joyeria, IME 440 Introduccion a Robotica
CMP 417 Base de Datos, ING 211 Dibujo Técnico
IME 330 Ingenieria de Materiales, POL 307 Temas de
IME 421 Mecanica de Fluidos America Latina

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: _____
Program Fee/Tuition: _____
Accommodation: _____
Food: _____

Books/Supplies: \$150
Airfare (from): \$900
Travel: _____
Toiletries/Misc.: _____

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

My classes were hard because I did not initially
know any engineering or technical vocabulary.
Also, the structure of classes was very different.
They do not have much homework. In 2 of
my classes, I never had homework. Also, exams
were shorter generally only 2 or 3 questions.

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Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived with a host family in Cumbaya.
Cumbaya is a suburb off Quito where the
University is located. My location was great
because I was only 5 min from school and
could walk home for lunch.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Director is amazing! Maria will help you with anything from classes, to doctors appointments, to travel, to chatting!

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Way smaller than U of I, but much more intimate. Teachers know all the students and all the students know each other.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Cuenca, Montanita, Puerto Lopez, Guayaquil. Beaches are beautiful.

Social or Other Comments

Before I left, I wish I would have...

Explored areas in Quito outside of the Mariscal

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Ecuador has amazing natural resources like jungle, beach, and mountains to explore!

Signature: Alesha Grymowicz

Today's Date: 01/09/12

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Sonia George
Address: _____

Telephone: (708) 856-9458

E-mail: sogeob18@gmail.com

Major: Economics & Global Studies

Year in School: JUNIOR

Program: SAO Exchange

Program Sponsor: _____

Institution Name: Universidad San Francisco de Qui

Location: Quito, Ecuador

Period of Study: Fall 2011

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Did you take courses in your major? Yes

Courses taken abroad: Advanced Spanish Conversation (EPE 321), Politics of Latin Amer
(POL307), Rural Sociology (SOC 320), Amazon Societies (ANT 260)

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable) Around \$11600 total

Total Cost: \$

Program Fee/Tuition: _____

Accommodation: _____

Food: _____

Books/Supplies: _____

Airfare (from): Chicago - Miami - Quito \$1000 (bot

Travel: _____

Toiletries/Misc.: _____

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

The courses were all in Spanish, though you can find classes in English. I was a little surprised by the extent of reading in some courses, especially POL 307. Although I only took four classes, the coursework was more challenging than what I was expecting. Try your best to do any reading you are assigned. If you take a class with Claudia (conversation class) make sure you attend all classes because even if you miss a day you will lose a lot of points. Communicate w/ your teachers to make sure you're on track, and try classes you wouldn't have the chance to take at U of I!

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived with a host family, that's the only option if you choose Ecuador, and I think it's the best option. It's very rewarding to develop relationships w/ family members and it also helps you learn Spanish. I lived in Lumbisi, an indigenous village 15 minutes away from the university (there are buses there every 15-20 minutes).

ips:SAO:Group Shared Items:Main Office Info-Forms:Advising:PEER ADVISING SHEET

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On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

The on-site director Mand was wonderful. You will ~~go~~ go on so many amazing trips as part of your excursion fees that other international students will be jealous!

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

It's a beautiful campus, some will say the students are unfriendly, but I don't melt's true. However, if you want to get to know them you have to make the effort! I didn't, but I don't regret that as my host family and other families in Lumbisi were a greater priority.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

I didn't get involved with any, but I volunteered in Lumbisi, helping kids with various special needs and their families.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

You will have time to go basically everywhere in Ecuador, so do it! Travel ~~abroad~~ by bus is organized and cheap. Traveling outside of the country can be expensive and difficult, and going to the Galapagos is also really pricey.

Social or Other Comments

If you're ~~not~~ interested in nightlife, living in Lumbisi may not be the best idea because getting to & from Quito can get expensive.

Before I left, I wish I would have...

Spent more time going on small trips with my host family, instead of spending my last days rushing to buy gifts. Be sure to make some trips to Otavalo & the artisan markets in Quito, don't leave gift buying to the last possible minute!

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Truly one of the greatest experiences of my entire life! I plan on returning to visit after graduation. Leaving here was like leaving home & my family. You will have lived once in two places, & two homes. :)

Signature:

Jonia Geagle

Today's Date: 1/5/12

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Brittany Brown
 Address: 2304 E Michigan Ave
Urbana, IL 61802
 Telephone: 815. 403. 0679
 E-mail: bmbrown2@illinois.edu
 Major: Global Studies & Spanish

Year in School: 5th yr
 Program: SAO Exchange: USFQ
 Program Sponsor: "
 Institution Name: USFQ
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Period of Study: FA 2011

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? yes
 Courses taken abroad:

ANT 260 - Sociedades Amazonicas
ANT 300 - Antropologia Andina
EPE 307 - Advanced Spanish Grammar
EPE 321 - Advanced Spanish Conversation

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: \$8900.00
 Program Fee/Tuition: \$6490.00
 Accommodation: —
 Food: \$200.00

Books/Supplies: \$100.00
 Airfare (from): \$1000.00
 Travel: \$2000.00
 Toiletries/Misc.: \$100.00

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Courses: T/R classes were 95 mins, max 30 students/class
 Grading: attendance, participation, homework was at least 50% of the
grade. Most classes had a midterm and final
 Workload: comparable to anth and Spanish classes at Illinois
 Language: high level of Spanish needed for course work, including a large
vocabulary and comfort speaking extemporaneously in Spanish

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived in Cumbayá, near campus, w/ a host family. The cost was
included in the program fee. I loved living in Cumbayá and would
recommend living there.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

My main contacts ~~at~~ were Maria, the program director at UFG, and her assistant, Jack. They were both extremely helpful.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

UFG is a small, affluent campus. The school organizes a lot of opportunities for the students. Do not expect much economic diversity.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

I volunteered w/ Maria's organization FEV at the Comedor, a lunch program for the Sumbisi elderly.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

I spent at least \$2000.

Recommendations:

- Big trips: Galapagos (\$1000), Peru - Machu Picchu (\$1000), Tibet (\$500)
- Weekend trips: Cuenca, Baños!!!, Cotacachi/Chimborazo, Papallactas, Misahualli, Mindo, ... so much more!!!

Social or Other Comments

Quito offers lots of cultural activities and a fun night life - none of which is too expensive

Before I left, I wish I would have...

- packed 3-4 pairs of jeans and trendy tops
- read more of Ecuadorian history

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

I had a very positive study abroad experience. My host family and the trips I took were the most important and memorable part of my experience.

Signature: Brittany Brown

Today's Date: 1/16/2012

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Mary Stewart
 Address: 806 S. Lincoln #2
Urbana, IL, 61801
 Telephone: 217-725-7726
 E-mail: Stewart8@illinois.edu
 Major: Global Studies
minor in Spanish

Year in School: Senior
 Program: SAO Exchange - USFA
 Program Sponsor: _____
 Institution Name: Universidad San Francisco
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Period of Study: Spring Semester 2011

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Did you take courses in your major? I took classes that went towards my ma

Courses taken abroad: Intro to Ecuadorian Culture
Social Problems in Ecuador; Basic Tejido (Weaving)/Art
Human Rights in World Politics - only class in English
Fonología y Fonética (Spanish Phonetics)
Andinismo - pass/fail outdoors class - take it!

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: \$13,000 (?)

Program Fee/Tuition: \$9,000

Accommodation: _____

Food: dirt cheap

Books/Supplies: barely nothing especially compare to U.S. books + ca

Airfare (from): \$11,000 (to/from Ecuador)

Travel: \$1900 - I traveled a lot

Toiletries/Misc.: _____

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

While there were many intl students/Americans in many of my classes, I did have classes with Ecuadorians and that is such a rare opportunity/great way to immerse yourself. The classes were mainly difficult because they were taught in Spanish combined with stress of studying abroad (traveling, illness) not so much because of the content. Most professors/people in general here are understanding if you struggle with Spanish.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived with a host family in Lumbisi, a community about 15 min bus ride from school. This by far made my study abroad experience! While there are pros to living in Lumbisi (weather, internet), Lumbisi is such a unique opportunity and experience. I got to volunteer teaching English to kids in the community as well as some elderly lunch. Also, families in Lumbisi are much nicer and more fun. In my opinion...

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Maria, the on-site director, will be able to help you with anything you need. She's Ecuadorian, speaks English, and has plenty of experience to help you adjust to life abroad.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

USFQ is a (relative to Ecuador) small, wealthy university in Lumbaya (Suburb of Quito). While it is hard to make Ecuadorian friends bc it is small/cliquey, don't let this deter you from this program. Just be aware of this and be intentional about friendships w/ Ecuadorians outside of USFQ.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

Andinismo → outdoors class I took. This ^{was} one of the highlights because you get to take weekend field trips to volcanoes, mountains, etc. in Ecuador. I would definitely recommend it and it's really chill/great way to meet some Ecuadorians in USFQ.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Tiputini → Amazon rainforest trip → \$400
↳ So worth it, some said it was better than Galapagos
Spring Break trip to Peru/Machu Picchu/Lake Titicaca
↳ \$1500 → worth it, I'd always wanted to go to Machu Picchu and it was a once-in-a-lifetime trip

Social or Other Comments

p.s. also, travel in Ecuador (buses, etc.) is cheap
Ecuador is a great place to study abroad because there's the ocean, mountains, and Amazon all in a small country which makes it easier to travel. I love mountains so I focused on seeing mountains, ruins, volcanoes, etc. But the ocean was always about a 7-8 hr bus ride away!

Before I left, I wish I would have...

- Brushed up on my Spanish
- brought my own school notebooks!
↳ the ones they sell there are either graph paper or small, kids' notebooks

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

My study abroad experience is truly unique. I value the time I had immersed in Ecuadorian life through my host family and volunteering in Lumbasi. Consider going to Ecuador!

Signature: Mary Stewart

Today's Date: Oct. 7th, 2011

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OCT 07 2011

PEER ADVISING SHEET



Name: Joy Lin
 Address: 610 W Elm St Apt #5
Urbana, IL 61801
 Telephone: 208 601 7784
 E-mail: joylin2@illinois.edu
 Major: Global Studies

Year in School: Senior
 Program: SAO Universidad de San Francisco
 Program Sponsor: Study Abroad Office
 Institution Name: Universidad de San Francisco
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Period of Study: Semester

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? Yes

Courses taken abroad: EPE 302 Intro to Ecuadorian Culture

EPE 321 Intermediate Conversation

REL Human Rights (in English) and World Politics

ARH 309? Colonial Latin American Art

POL 307? Theme of Latin America (Political Science)

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: ~\$8,900

Program Fee/Tuition: 6500

Accommodation: Included in Program Fee

Food: \$100

Books/Supplies: ~\$40 [I didn't need to buy real books]

Airfare (from): Round trip \$1100 Chicago

Travel: \$1,000

Toiletries/Misc.: \$200 (including souvenirs)

Academic Experience:

(I paid \$958.50)

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

The courses were similar to UIUC courses but smaller in size and all taught by professors. I took 4 classes in Spanish and some required higher level than others. Some Most professors are very flexible with international students offering us to do our assignments in English. I always tried using Spanish to challenge myself.

Ecuadorian culture and conversation were all international students and easier. My other classes had a mix of Ecuadorians and others. Many students and professors can speak English.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

LUMBISI an indigenous comuna outside of Cumbaya (where the University is) with Paucar-Picho family. I loved the family and I still talk to them. Live in Lumbisi if you can choose.

I didn't have internet, but it was part of the experience and there were cheap ways to get internet outside of the house.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

They are great! very helpful, Maria is wonderful.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Very rich and tight knit, but it was a ^{interesting} good contrast to my host family's environment.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

None

Climb to the top of La Basílica!

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Also recommended:
- Tiputini

Mindo - Esmeraldas - Puerto Quito, Baños, Otavalo, Peguche all included in program fee. Mindo again - \$100 including everything and ziplining. Cuenca, Guayaquil, Montanita etc \$500. I recommend Mindo, Cuenca, Montanita. Puerto Lopez is a cheap alternative to the Galapagos.
↳ for tourist beach town

Social or Other Comments

Make friends with Ecuadorean students. They may be hard to approach but they are friendly. Be persistent! If you're Asian / Asian-American most people will assume you're Chinese or Japanese.

Before I left, I wish I would have...

Packed more nice looking clothes, bought a light rain coat

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

It was great and I miss Ecuador and my host family. I know I'll go back one day.

Signature:

Joy Lin

Today's Date:

9/2/2011

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

BL

Name: Kevin Slattery
Address: _____
Telephone: 630 818 7717
E-mail: slatter1@illinois.edu
Major: Computer Science - Engineering

Year in School: 3rd
Program: Universidad San Francisco de Quito Ex
Program Sponsor: SAO
Institution Name: USFQ
Location: Cumbayá, Ecuador
Period of Study: 1 semester (4 months)

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Did you take courses in your major? No

Courses taken abroad:

Language & Literature

Advanced Grammar

Intermediate Spanish

Drawing for Communication

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: \$8100

Program Fee/Tuition: \$6,500

Accommodation: included

Food: \$300

Books/Supplies: \$60

Airfare (from): \$800

Travel: \$400

Toiletries/Misc.: \$30

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

A rather high level of Spanish is required for course work though you'll learn a lot on the fly. The courses I took weren't especially reading intensive but several friends of mine had classes that were a lot of reading. Grading isn't particularly harsh & exams are similar to in the US.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived with a host family in the indigenous community of Lumbisi. I really enjoyed my stay in the rural, tranquil village of about 2000 people.

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APR 27 2011

Study Abroad Office

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Helpful

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Beautiful campus, somewhat like High School due to the low # of students.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

I played on a soccer team & joined a conversation club

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Definitely go to Tiputini & the Hakuna Matata Hostel in Napo if you get a chance. Also the ranch "El Sinche" is a good weekend.

Social or Other Comments

Before I left, I wish I would have...

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Signature: Kevin Blatter

Today's Date: 10/11/2011

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

B1

Name: April Watson
 Address: 74 W. Elm Urbana, IL 61801
 Telephone: (773) 710-4467
 E-mail: awatson@uiuc.edu
 Major: Global Studies

Year in School: Junior
 Program: SAO Exchange: Quito, Ecuador
 Program Sponsor: SAO
 Institution Name: _____
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Period of Study: Semester

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? Yes
 Courses taken abroad: EPE 302 (Intro. a Cultura Ecuatoriana)
EPE 321 (Conversación Avanzada)
HIS 220 (Norte y Sur: Procesos de Colonialismo)
LNEO 61 (Temas Básicos)
POL 307 (Temas de América Latina)

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: 10,393
 Program Fee/Tuition: 3,929
 Accommodation: 1,918.00
 Food: _____

Books/Supplies: 170
 Airfare (from): 906.00
 Travel: 3
 Toiletries/Misc.: _____

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

I only took up to span 200 at U of I but knew alot of Spanish
through watching Spanish TV on my own (it really helps!)
I struggled at the beginning to understand everything but
was comfortable w/ the language after a couple months.
I did not feel like U of I courses prepared me at all! Outside
work is definitely necessary!

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived in Urbana w/ a host family. I would suggest that you request
to live w/ the Sulca family because they are the best & most
experienced w/ exchange students! I had a blast and I hope
to visit them again soon!

AUG 05 2010

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

super helpful!!

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

I learned a lot but the quality of the classes reminded me a bit of high school.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

none but I volunteered teaching English in Cumbria.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

I went to Peru for about \$250 (via plane) for spring break. I stayed w/ my friend's family so I basically just had to pay airfare. It was great.

Social or Other Comments

Before I left, I wish I would have...

studied more Spanish, packed less (one suitcase is FINE!), packed more books.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Go to Ecuador! You get the most for your money, learn a bunch, and you'll definitely want to go back!

Signature:

April Quintero

Today's Date:

29 July 2010

By signing you are giving your permission for other students to view your Peer Advising Sheet, and for the Study Abroad Office to use the information provided for promoting the program.

①

PEER ADVISING SHEET

BL ✓

Name: Kristen Tully
 Address: 309 E Daniel #11
 Telephone: 630 240 3161
 E-mail: tully4@illinois.edu
 Major: Int. Studies & Spanish

Year in School: Junior
 Program: USFQ
 Program Sponsor: _____
 Institution Name: _____
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Term of Study: Fall Semester 2009

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Did you take courses in your major? yes

Courses taken abroad: _____

Andean Anthropology, Ecuadorian Ecology, Sidlo del Oro,
Spanish Conversation

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Program Fee/Tuition: 9000

Airfare: 600

Accommodation: included

Travel: _____

Food: included

Toiletries/Misc: _____

Books/Supplies: 100

Total Cost: _____

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

The course load was light compared to classes at U of I.
I was able to travel every weekend without feeling
bogged down with work. All the classes were taught
in Spanish, so a decent amount of Spanish is needed.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

You live with a host family, which is awesome.
If you stay the year you have the option of getting
your own apartment. Your host family gets \$400
a month to pay for food & accommodations.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Mana is awesome. Very helpful!

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

USFQ is a beautiful school. Most of the Ecuadorians are upper class as USFQ is the most expensive University in Ecuador. All students are required to know English.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined. Or, did you participate in volunteer or internship opportunities?

I participated in a volunteer program of ESL

TRAVEL LIGHT!!

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Traveling is cheap. Overnight buses are usually \$8-10 per way. ~~Adm~~ Hostels are normally under \$10 a night & although not glorious, they are clean. I recommend going to Galapagos. I spent about \$900, which is cheap. I went with a volcanology class (that I was not enrolled in) and I recommend doing that because you'll get group rates.

Ecuadorians are really friendly, but you'll need to make an effort to make friends. Don't be discouraged if your plans fall through, ~~rethinking~~ that's just the way things work in Ecuador.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Ecuador was really awesome because of the diversity. You can go to the Andes, Amazon, Galapagos, Beach ect. Whatever you want to do, you can do in Ecuador.

Before I left, I wish someone had told me...

- ① Ask your phone carrier to unlock your phone so you only have to buy a Sim card (not a new phone) in Ecuador
- ② Bring a lot of change - as in quarters, nickels, dimes

Signature: Musten Tully

Today's Date: 1/22/10

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PEER ADVISING SHEET

(T)

VBZ

Name: Carolyn Kloecker
 Address: 1232 Pine St
Glennview, IL 60025
 Telephone: (847) 721-4338
 E-mail: ckloecker2@illinois.edu
 Major: International Studies, Spanish

Year in School: Senior
 Program: SAO Exchange - USFQ - Ecuador
 Program Sponsor: SAO
 Institution Name: USFQ
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Term of Study: Spring semester 20

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish (Minimal English) Did you take courses in your major? yes
 Courses taken abroad: Social problems in Ecuador, Andean Anthropology
Andean Archaeology, The Latin American Short Story, Marketing
Principles and Fundamentals

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Program Fee/Tuition: \$9500
 Accommodation: included ↑
 Food: included
 Books/Supplies: \$150-\$200

Airfare: N/A (freq. flyer miles)
 Travel: \$1500 including Peru + around Ecuador
 Toiletries/Misc: \$50
 Total Cost: _____

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Most of the courses that I took were amazing and very exciting and informative. The only bad experience was with Andean Archaeology which was only somewhat disorganized. All of my classes were very similarly structured to U of I with slightly smaller class sizes. I wrote papers, did group projects, took quizzes etc. I went in with a pretty advanced Spanish level which was very helpful. I was able to take classes with mostly Ecuadorian students, which was something I was looking for.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived with a host family which is the only option for this program. It was quite possibly the best part about my study abroad experience. If you love kids like I do, I can specifically recommend my host family with Yolanda Cordova, which was in the city of Quito, only about a half hour from the university.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

SOOO Helpful! Maria Barragan is the on-site director. She organizes trips, volunteer opportunities, helps you with classes, host families, or anything you need at all.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Very good, most professors are U.S. educated, probably the best or one of the best schools in Ecuador.

This also makes the students some of the wealthiest in the country, which can be a negative thing, but don't make assumptions.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined. Or, did you participate in volunteer or internship opportunities?

I did a lot of volunteering with an organization called FEVI (which Maria is the director of) which has opportunities to volunteer in anything you could imagine. I worked with an after-school program to help kids with homework. People can be great & very friendly too.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

All over Ecuador, most trips are included in the program except big vacations which I took to national parks, the coast, etc. - Extra trips in Ecuador ~ \$800 altogether. I also traveled 2 weeks in Peru (Lima, Cuzco, Puno, Machu Picchu) which cost about \$700 including a 4-day hike to Machu Picchu (\$3).

Social or Other Comments

Mariacal has all the bars, but it can be somewhat dangerous. Always go in groups. Keep a little cash (\$40-60) at your host family's house at all times just in case you get pick-pocketed. It's really not a big deal usually, just don't carry around too much important stuff with you if you can help it.

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

Amazing. Amazing. amazing!!!!

★ Please feel free to e-mail me and ask me any questions or if you want to know more about Ecuador - ckloeck1110@gmail.com

Before I left, I wish someone had told me...

?

Signature: Lucy N. Kun

Today's Date: 8/21/09

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RECEIVED

AUG 21 2009

PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Adriana Cortez
 Address: 7329 W. Touhy Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631
 Telephone: (773) 512-0360
 E-mail: acortez2@illinois.edu
 Major: _____

Year in School: Senior (4)
 Program: USFQ, Academic Year
 Program Sponsor: UIUC
 Institution Name: USFQ
 Location: Quito
 Period of Study: Academic Year '08-'09

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish & English Did you take courses in your major? yes
 Courses taken abroad: French I
Genero y Sociedad Chinese Novel
Lit y Cine en LatinoAmerica Corruption
Derechos Humanos en el Politico Mundial Int'l Relations Workshop
Int'l Negotiation Filosofia Latinoamericana

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: _____
 Program Fee/Tuition: _____
 Accommodation: \$420/mo.
 Food: \$500

Books/Supplies: \$180 (per semester)
 Airfare (from): \$900 + \$200 change fee
 Travel: _____
 Toiletries/Misc.: \$100

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

Classes are available in English, but classes in Spanish are difficult.
You must be able to have about 80% accuracy in order to do well,
although some professors allow you to hand in work in English.
There were 2-3 mid terms during the semester with one final
exam (some take-home) and all final exams were in essay format.
Grading was standard A-F and is very similar to US grading
system. It is common to take 12-15 courses per semester.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived with a host family near the University for first semester
and then in an apartment with an Illinois student for second
semester. The families received \$420/month, but I received it while I was
in an apartment. If the connection with the family is not right, ask
to be moved. An apartment was better for me, but try to live with
an Ecuadorian.

On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Very helpful. Whenever I needed assistance with classes or family or ANYTHING in general, I received it.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Beautiful. The buildings and landscape were beautiful and unique, but not representative of the impoverished city around it.

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

I joined Campus Life, an organization that manages clubs on campus. I participated in "Ingles Para Todos," an org. to teach underprivileged employees of USFQ English.

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Weekend trips to the coast, \$200 (total)

Peru, Chile, Argentina \$700 (total)

Recommendations: travel with Ecuadorians

- Ibarra, Guayaquil, Montañita, Esmeraldas

Social or Other Comments

Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

I experienced a beautiful country and breathtaking scenery while understanding why such a beautiful country is in such a bad state (from my peers in class). I understood the importance of knowing and acknowledging my blessings.

Before I left, I wish someone had told me...

Bring a jacket, or two, or three.

Signature: Adriana L. Cortez

Today's Date: 7/18/09

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BL✓

(T)

PEER ADVISING SHEET

Name: Dallos Aramburu
 Address: 48 E. John St. Apt. 205
Champaign, IL 61820
 Telephone: 773.879.2006
 E-mail: darambu2@uiuc.edu
 Major: International Studies / Spanish

Year in School: Junior
 Program: University of San Francisco de Quito
 Program Sponsor: _____
 Institution Name: _____
 Location: Quito, Ecuador
 Period of Study: Fall 2007 Semester

-- Program Basics --

Language of Instruction: Spanish Did you take courses in your major? Yes

Courses taken abroad:

Rel 220 Relaciones Americana - EEUU
Rel 440e Advanced International Relations Theory
EPE 307 Español Avanzado
EPE 321 Conversacion Avanzada Dep 195 Andinismo

Costs (please list in US Dollars and Foreign Currency where applicable)

Total Cost: \$9,500

Program Fee/Tuition: \$6,500

Accommodation: when traveling, hostels \$5-\$15

Food: Restaurants generally cheaper

Books/Supplies: \$300 - depends on classes

Airfare (from): Chicago \$650

Travel: all depends how much you travel - \$2000

Toiletries/Misc.: Mostly same as home.

Academic Experience:

Please describe the structure of courses/internship, grading, workload, exams, amount of foreign language needed to perform required tasks well.

USFQ is a small university where mostly the rich youth of Quito attend college. Personally, I found the student body to be quite smug, but there are definately some awesome people worth befriending. As for classes, they all differ. The workload, flexibility, grading, and exams all depend upon the professor. I had joke classes and I had difficult classes. As for the language, you can get by with minimal spanish. However, the more you know and practice, the more rewarding the experience.

Housing:

Where did you live, with whom, the cost, recommendations for future study abroaders...

I lived with a host family in Quito. My host mom lived with her maid and the maid's family. The cost of living in terms of service jobs (i.e. taxis, restaurants) is extremely cheap, but any clothes shopping done in malls is extremely expensive. Get to know your host family as much as possible - they are AWESOME people!



On-site Organization:

How helpful was the on-site director, international office or other contact person?

Our resident advisor Maria was amazing, along with Erica. They acted as your family and were always there to help with ANYTHING. I don't think I could have managed without them.

Host Institution:

How would you describe your host institution?

Personally, I did not like USFQ. It reminded me more of high school than college. It was way too small and "richy".

Clubs, Societies, or Sports Teams and Facilities that you joined.

I did not join any myself. A friend played soccer and another one played volleyball. They said if you are competitive and intense, you should probably not join because you will be very frustrated.

I did take andinismo → DO IT!!!

Travel (Include costs, destinations, and any recommendations)

Travel as much as possible. MUST go to Montañita → \$100 for the weekend, including food, lodging, transportation, entertainment. Galapagos Islands → \$1,000 includes everything, may need a little more. I did not spend too much. Visit Otavalo, jungle, esmeraldas, Cuenca → TRAVEL, TRAVEL, TRAVEL as much as you can.

Social or Other Comments

Interact w/ as many people as you can, both from Quito and other abroad students. Explore Quito during the week and travel on the weekends. ABSOLUTELY NEED TO GO TO AS MANY FUTBOL GAMES AS YOU CAN!! ¡Liga Campeón!

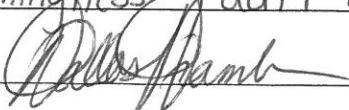
Please summarize your study abroad experience in two or three sentences

I had as many highs as I did lows. I cried, I laughed, I was pushed to my very limits. I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

Before I left, I wish someone had told me...

That the trip is not going to be all awesome and amazing. There will be hard times of frustration, missing your family and friends, overwhelmingness → don't be ashamed of that. Embrace it and work through it.

Signature:



Today's Date:

3/25/08

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