



USFQ International Programs

About us



Founded in 1988, USFQ is the first private liberal arts university of Ecuador. Today, our university has more than 9,000 students and receives 1,000 international students per year. We are also ranked as #1 University in Ecuador and #45 in Latin America (2025 QS University Rankings).

USFQ believes in freedom as a fundamental human characteristic and training students to become well-rounded world citizens, leaders, and entrepreneurs. As a research-centered university, USFQ has the highest number of faculty with PhDs in the country, which we leverage across all subjects.

Our Programs

Cumbayá Program



If you who wish to experience life in Quito and study at USFQ's main campus join us for our Cumbayá program and take up to 16 US credits per semester at USFQ alongside local students.

USFQ offers around 3 000 courses each semester in a wide variety of disciplines. More than 80 of these courses are taught in English. Students with almost any academic interest can find exciting and challenging enrollment options. Spanish language classes at all levels are also offered to international students

Outside of the classroom, you can enjoy all that the city of Quito has to offer while surrounded by vibrant neighborhoods and beautiful colonial architecture that make the city a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For more information visit our web page. ¹

- The majority of USFQ's courses are taught in-person
- Host family accommodation services are available. For more information about our vetting process please follow this link².

Fall Semester Dates:

Wednesday, August 12th - Saturday, December 19th, 2026

- **Nomination deadline:** May 10th, 2026
- **Nomination extended deadline:** June 28th, 2026
- **Application deadline:** June 1st, 2026
- **Application extended deadline:**
 - July 6th, 2026 (if the student needs to apply for a visa)
 - July 31st, 2026 (if the student does not need to apply for a visa)

Spring semester dates:

Wednesday, January 6th - Saturday, May 15th, 2027

- **Nomination deadline:** October 1st, 2026
- **Nomination extended deadline:** October 15th, 2026
- **Application deadline:** October 25th, 2026
- **Application extended deadline:**
 - November 1st, 2026 (if the student needs to apply for a visa)
 - November 10th, 2026 (if the student does not need a visa)
- To view our academic programs for all our majors in both English and Spanish, please click here³.
- To view the full course catalog of all our majors, please click **here**⁴

¹<https://www.usfq.edu.ec/en/opi/international/international-students/academic-programs/semester/cumbaya-program>

²https://www.usfq.edu.ec/sites/default/files/inline-files/Homestay_Vetting_Process_and_Requirements_Final_update21sep21_1.pdf

³<https://wsexternal.usfq.edu.ec/MallaCurricular-USFQ/>

⁴https://estudusfqedu-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/vcastelo_usfq_edu_ec/EYgUIgAkVJIgQc5Uqv1DAB9NLkT0fcl0Prxw09MimQ8A?e=rQnns0

- Host families are USFQ's sponsored housing. For students with approval to live outside of USFQ sponsored accommodation, OPI can provide a list of recommended areas where they could stay.

Galápagos Semester Program GAIAS



Located on San Cristobal Island, the USFQ Galápagos campus offers international students the unique opportunity to study in one of the most pristine natural laboratories in the world.

The Galápagos Semester Program offers four Academic Tracks in the biological and social sciences, all taught in English. Students can choose from the following tracks

1. Evolution, Ecology and Conservation Track
2. Marine Ecology Track
3. Sustainability and Resilience Track
4. One Health Track

Depending on the program track, students will visit the Ecuadorian highlands and/or the cloud forest. Additionally, students from the Evolution, Ecology, and Conservation and

Marine Ecology tracks will visit USFQ's Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon during the first modules. In the Galápagos Islands, students will experience hands-on classes where they will visit some of the most amazing places within the islands as part of their coursework.

****** Students should take all the courses from the track chosen at the moment of application, students cannot take courses from other tracks.

Application deadlines

- Fall Semester: May 1
- Spring Semester: September 25

For more details please visit the following link: USFQ Galapagos Semester Program⁵



<https://youtu.be/milt-d-hXZNw>

Research Stations

USFQ is the only university globally that owns and operates an undergraduate campus in the Galapagos Islands. Further, USFQ and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill co-founded the Galapagos Science Center (GSC), a research center dedicated to scientific development in the Galapagos Islands. USFQ also runs a research station in the Amazon basin called Tiputini Biodiversity Station (TBS). The station is located on the border of Yasuní

⁵<https://sway.office.com/NSaLnu7XC14jhCcz?ref=Link>

National Park, one of the world's most fantastic biodiversity hotspots and one of the planet's last wilderness areas.



1 - Tiputini Biodiversity Station

Orellana, Ecuador



2 - Galápagos Science Center

San Cristóbal, Galápagos

Research Opportunities- Online or In Person



Be part of our unique Research projects, gain cultural competence, and strengthen your CV through USFQ's Research Opportunities.

Students from all over the world have the unique opportunity to conduct a research project in conjunction with a USFQ faculty member in various fields of study, you can do it online or in person, with credits or without credits, you choose!

Why Apply

Take advantage of mentorship opportunities and team building experiences, possibly resulting in the opportunity for joint research publications.

Apply research methods and skills, enhancing employability and graduate school prospects.

Network with local and international experts in the field.

Gain exposure to multicultural perspectives and Ecuador's diversity of environment, people and language.

For more information visit our web page⁶.

Academics



Number of Students

9000+ undergraduates

500 graduate students

Strength

Engineering, Liberal Arts (Literature, Anthropology, etc.), Ecology and Biology Environmental Science, Spanish Language, International Relations, Art, Business, Culinary arts, Law

Admission Deadlines for International Students

Fall Semester (August to December): June 1st

⁶<https://www.usfq.edu.ec/en/opi/international/international-students/academic-programs/research-opportunities>

Spring Semester (January to May): October 25th

Summer Session (May to July): May 1st

Our Services



Campus Activities:

USFQ offers in the main campus a number of student clubs⁷ in a variety of interest areas including theatre, tango, chess, ecology, and cycling, to name a few. If students cannot find what interests them, they can always start a new club!

There are two clubs in our Galápagos campus which are Music and Photography.

Ongoing Orientation:

The Ongoing Orientation program at USFQ provides comprehensive support for international students. Our goal is to help students establish community and provide them with important health and safety resources. We understand that each incoming international student will have different needs, interests, and goals for their semester abroad. As such, we provide various events, informational sessions, and correspondence with information and support for adapting abroad meant to serve the needs of students from all backgrounds.

⁷https://www.usfq.edu.ec/estudiantes/clubs_campus_life/Paginas/default.aspx

These events are led by the Office of International Programs, the student government (GOBE), and local students as part of the Global Dragons program.

Visa Information:

USFQ provides the necessary information and documents to get the Temporary Resident Visa for students if needed. For more information click **here**⁸

Medical Check Ups:

There is a medical clinic with highly qualified physicians on campus. Visits to the on-call doctors cost \$35-45 USD for students to pay for laboratory tests, materials, and appointments with specialists. USFQ can arrange Counseling and/or more informal support for students wanting to talk through personal issues. For more information about health Information in Ecuador please click here.⁹

Medical Insurance:

All USFQ international students should come with an international medical insurance plan that will cover them while they are in Ecuador. In case medical attention is necessary, students will pay out of pocket and submit receipts to their insurance company to be reimbursed. Specific requirements for the medical insurance click here.¹⁰

⁸https://estudusfq.edu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/vcastelo_usfq_edu_ec/EQZC_hm35yJHlygH0olcunwBlqC2mmG2ZGW752CpbsLN9g?e=ghhuOZ

⁹<https://www.usfq.edu.ec/en/opi/international/international-students/before-you-travel>

¹⁰<https://www.usfq.edu.ec/en/opi/international/international-students/before-you-travel>

Contact information



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¹¹<https://www.usfq.edu.ec/es/oficina-de-programas-internacionales-opi>