



# STUDY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

## CUENCA, ECUADOR

### PROGRAMS START EVERY MONDAY



#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This Study & Volunteer program combines a Standard Group Study program followed up with a volunteer placement in the community for a total minimum time commitment of 4 weeks. Participants can take classes and volunteer simultaneously. All opportunities will work in partnership with local people in a variety of community-based projects. This unique program offers exciting hands-on volunteering opportunities, meaningful cultural immersion, and an enriching language program.



#### **CITY AND COUNTRY INFO**

Cuenca has successfully preserved its colonial past from its cobbled streets, churches, prehispanic ruins, museums and craft shops to its colorful Indian markets. This cultural heritage is found side by side with modern office buildings, art galleries and two Universities, all in a world brimming with colors and contrasts.

Cuenca is located in an Andean valley at an altitude of 2,200 meters, and the climate is spring like, with average temperatures ranging between 14° and 24° C. The region is rich in history and tradition -the Ingapirca ruins and picturesque craft villages such as Chordeleg are found nearby. Nature in Ecuador displays all her magnificence- the Cajas Natural Park and Avenida de los Volcanes (Volcano Avenue) are easily accessible.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM**

After participating in this Study & Volunteer Program in Cuenca, students will gain experience in foreign poverty and need first hand while helping others in severe need, greatly improve foreign language abilities, gain personal growth and confidence both nationally and internationally through service, and combine travel, academics, and community service into one incredible life-changing experience.

### *What's Included*

- **Tuition and Class Materials:** 4 week minimum-group 20 Spanish 50 minute lessons per week in group of 2-5 students per class.
- **Volunteer Placement:** in local organization
- **Lodging:** In a Homestay or Apartment
- **Placement Testing**
- **1-2 Organized Activities Weekly\***  
\* Entrance fees, transportation, etc. may be at additional cost.
- **Access to E-mail**
- **Access to Multimedia Learning Center**
- **Certificate of Completion**
- **Pre-Departure Information**
- **Planning Guide**
- **Medical, Accident and Sickness Coverage \*\***  
\*\* See policy for definitions and exclusions.
- **Medivac Coverage**
- **Other Travel Coverage:** repatriation, baggage, personal effects, accidental death and dismemberment , etc.
- **24 Hour Emergency Multilingual Hotline:** call collect from anywhere in the world

## **FULL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **STUDY PROGRAM**

The Study Program includes 20 hours per week of Group Spanish classes. Maximum number of students per class is 5, with the average being 2 students. Groups are organized in a way that each will always consist of students possessing the same level of Spanish.

The method is based on the 4 language skills: listening, grammar, oral and written comprehension. No English will be used in class.

Classes are 55 minutes in length. Students may enroll for as many weeks as desired. In order to make sufficient progress and gain the maximum benefit from the course, the following program duration ranges are recommended: Beginner (4-12 weeks), Intermediate (2-12 weeks) and advanced (2-12 weeks).

### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Students will be placed in a volunteering position in community in the afternoons after classes for a minimum of 4 weeks. Placement opportunities include the following:

- **MENSAJEROS DE LA PAZ**
  - A nongovernmental, lay organization, of Christian inspiration and non-profit that offers alternative integral protection to children and adolescents, with the objective to provide physical spaces to them with an emotional atmosphere adapted in order to guarantee a total development to them for its individual, group and social integration
  - Voluntary work with abandoned children in the local institutions
- **REMAR**
  - A Christian non-profit that operates in Cuenca from 1996 and works in benefit of children, teenagers and adult people. Its work consists of covering basic necessities, as they are shelter, food, and house, in addition to scholar and spiritual aid.
  - Voluntary work with abandoned children in the local institutions
- **ESCUELA COMUNITARIA DE SAN ROQUE**
  - Works with subjection to the laws, regulations and other emanated dispositions of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. Its objective is offering alternative education to marginal sectors of the city.
  - Voluntary work with children at school. English classes. Help with meals and childcare.
- Other options available upon request.

## **LODGING OPTIONS**

### **HOMESTAY**

Students staying in a homestay will be able to practice their Spanish and be exposed to local culture. Middle class families are carefully selected and provide each student with a private room. Do not assume that you are too old for a homestay as many of our students are older than their host "parents". For many of our students, their homestay is one of the most rewarding experiences.

### **STUDIO APARTMENTS**

Apartments are available for individuals or two people booking together. Our studios have one or two beds, a fully equipped bathroom with towels, kitchenette with refrigerator and other services for an enjoyable and comfortable stay. The studios are within walking distance of the school.

## **PRICE RANGE**

Cost of minimum 4 weeks of classes combined with volunteer placement, and minimum of 4 weeks total of housing ranges from:

**\$1,842 → \$1,864\*\***

\*\*Prices range according to housing and board options.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES**

U.S. citizens traveling on regular passports for tourism or business do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. Those planning a longer visit must obtain a visa in advance.

Participants must have an intermediate level of Spanish to participate in the volunteer program.

Minimum age of 18 unless accompanied by an adult. Volunteer positions on a space available basis. These are unpaid positions and there is a limited number of positions every month.

## **ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS**

All activities are organized by the local coordinator and include visits to:

- Indian markets,
- Monuments
- Charming craft villages
- Natural parks

One day excursions are also available at an additional cost. Excursion locations can include:

- El cajas
- Ingapirca
- Gualaceo
- El Chorro de Giron
- Chordeleg

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

To register for the STUDY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM in Cuenca, either follow the link below or call 1-888-678-6211.

<http://www.nrcsa.com/reg/on-line/regform.html>

When you register, \$140 USD is due to secure your place in the program.