



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

## Ecuador School FAQ

### **In what type of school will I be enrolled?**

Your host school placement will be assigned after your arrival, as students must be physically present in order to enroll in schools.

Although AFS cannot anticipate what kind of school you'll be placed in ahead of time, most AFS students are placed in public schools, though in some cases they are placed in private schools where AFS has secured a tuition waiver. There are different types of public schools, including those that offer university preparation, business, accounting, secretarial, clerical, educational, or technical training. All schools follow the same curriculum for the first three years. Most schools are all boys or all girls.

### **In what grade level will I be enrolled?**

Those students who have completed 10 years in their home country will be placed in level 11; if they have completed 11 years, they will be placed in level 12. Students who have graduated at home will also be placed in level 13.

### **When does the school year begin and end?**

The school year differs between the coastal area and the highlands. On the coast (Esmeraldas, Manabí, Los Ríos, El Oro, Guayas), the academic year runs from April to January. In the mountains and the Eastern provinces, it runs from September to June.

### **What is a typical school day? How many classes per day?**

School begins around 7am and ends at 2pm. Unlike in the US, most classes are given in the same room so students stay in the same classroom all day and teachers move from class to class. Students will have about seven classes per day plus a 30 minute lunch break. Each class will last about 45 minutes.

### **Will I be able to choose my classes? What classes are available?**

There are 13 required subjects including Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Philosophy, Social Sciences, and English. Other classes depend on a student's chosen concentration. Most schools offer a choice of three different concentrations: Math/Physics, Chemistry/Biology and Philosophy/Social studies. Students choose a concentration according to their preferred career choice for college/university. Classes feature teacher dictation, copying from texts, and reading aloud.

### **In what language will classes be taught?**

All instruction, with the exception of foreign languages, is done in Spanish.



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### **Will I need to buy a uniform, books, or other school supplies?**

Provided that the student attends the school assigned by AFS, AFS Ecuador will pay for the school registration fee (when applicable), required textbooks, and school transportation.

Students or his/her host parent(s) may be asked to pay up front to cover these expenses, but they will be reimbursed by AFS Ecuador.

On the other hand, students are responsible for buying uniforms and all other school supplies. Students must buy two kinds of uniforms. The daily uniform consists of a blouse or shirt, skirt or pants, sweater, white socks, and black shoes. The physical education uniform consists of a tshirt, pants, and white sports shoes. The total estimated cost of uniforms will be approximately US\$200

### **Are extra-curricular activities available such as sports, music, and art?**

Probably not. Schools are academically oriented and do not offer many extracurricular activities.

### **Can I get an official transcript or a certificate of attendance?**

Officially, schools cannot provide a guest student with an official transcript of grades or diploma. AFS Students may obtain a letter from their school principal. The AFS Ecuador National Director, upon request, can also provide a letter indicating the school attended and courses taken.

### **Can I get academic credit for my study abroad?**

The amount and type of credit you receive is determined by your high school in the U.S. so it's important that you talk with your teachers and guidance counselor before you depart. Be sure to keep a copy of any formal grades or transcripts you receive from your host school. It is your responsibility to obtain any written information about your attendance and grades in your host school before you return home. AFS does not have any influence over obtaining academic credit for your studies abroad and cannot assist you with course or grade information for your time on program.