Pre-Departure Preparation

• Program Paperwork
  – Log into checklist
• Academic Planning
• Financial Planning
  – Financial Aid Preview Meeting
  – Review program fees
• Registration
• Cancellation Policy
  – http://www.gopher.umn.edu/~students/international/registration
Passport and Visa

- Passport required
  - See: travel.state.gov
  - Allow 4-6 weeks
  - Must be valid for 6 months after your return date
- Visa
  - Enter on a tourist visa
  - Extend visa in Ecuador (assistance provided)
  - Carry visa letter with you
- Non-US citizens

Flight Information

- Village Travel
  - www.villageinc.com
- Booking your flight independently
  - Arrive before the group
  - Book a round-trip ticket
- Email itinerary to Learning Abroad Center
- Book in advance!
- Arriving early/staying late

Arrival and Orientation

- Met at airport
- Print & carry arrival email
- Orientation
  - Health, safety, transportation
- Meeting host family
- Flexibility is key!
- Speaking Spanish
MSID Office & Classrooms

- Location
- Facilities
- Internet/wireless access

Fundación CIMAS

On-site Staff

- José Suarez
- Dolores (Loli) Lopez
- Solange Paez
- Fredy Maldonado
- Emelia Castelo
Learning Outcomes

• Foster an understanding of the global context through classroom and experiential learning
• Cultivate awareness and appreciation for development issues through engagement with diverse communities
• Translate insights gained into thoughtful and respectful long-term perspectives on concepts of social justice and sustainable development
• Strengthen communication skills through acquisition of local languages and cultural awareness

Semester Program Overview

• Begins with Orientation
• 7 weeks of classroom learning
• 6 weeks internship/research
• Concludes with final seminar (1 week)

Semester Academic Overview

• Semester Coursework (16-17 credits)
  – International Development: Critical Perspectives on Theory & Practice
  – Country Analysis
  – Intensive Spanish
  – Community Engagement in the Global South
  – Global Identity: Connecting Your International Experience with Your Future (Optional, online, 1 credit)
• International Development Tracks
  – Arts & Cultural Studies
  – Education & Literacy
  – Entrepreneurship & Alternative Economies
  – Public Health
  – Social Service
  – Sustainability & the Environment
Academic Year Coursework

- Fall Semester Courses
- Spring Semester
  - Courses (16 credits)
    - Advanced International Development Internship
    - Directed Research
    - Topics: Case Studies in International Development
    - Applied Field Methods
  - Calendar

Optional Language Pre-session

- August and January
- 3 ½ weeks
- Homestays
- ECDR 1004, ECDR 3015

Internships and Research

- Placements related to development tracks
- Agencies are grassroots, community-based organizations
- Designed to serve both agency’s and student’s goals
- Students receive visit from MSID faculty member
- 25 hours / week minimum
- Placement process begins with Academic Planning Form
MSID Internship Strategies

- Identify 3-4 areas of interest
- Be flexible
- Be realistic
- Be proactive once placed
- Be patient
- Clarify expectations, as needed

Health-related Internships

- It is unethical to provide direct medical care
- Rule of thumb: “If you can’t do it here, you shouldn’t do it there.”
- Complete the “Global Ambassadors for Patient Safety” (GAPS) module in your confirmation checklist

MSID Research Project

- Research methodology coursework
- Agency placement
- Join on-going research project
- Supervision and guidance provided by Resident Director
- IRB considerations
MSID Housing

- Two homestays – one urban, one rural
- Middle class, and possibly lower in rural areas
- Families provide 2 meals per day
- Gift considerations

Living with Your Host Family

- Keep an open mind and have realistic expectations
- Remember that you are a guest in their home and be respectful.
- Greet your family when you come home and say goodbye when you leave.
- Clean up after yourself!
- Always let your family know when you will be out late, out of town or not home for dinner.
- Respect their space but really make an effort to spend time with them.
- Be mindful of electricity and water use.

Cultural Adjustment

To learn more, visit: http://www.cgu.edu/pages/945.asp
Communications

- Mailing address
  - Packages discouraged
- Internet access
- Cell phones
  - Required; must have local number
  - On-site staff will assist you during orientation
- Internet
- Laptop computers

Money Matters

- Local currency
- How much
  - Cost of living
  - Cost of attendance
- Ways to pay
- Emergency funds
- Notify your bank
- Safeguarding your money

Staying Healthy in Ecuador

- Health form
- Pre-departure vaccinations
  - Boyton Travel Clinic
- Prescriptions
- Food and drink
- CISI
  - http://global.umn.edu/travel/insurance/outgoing.html#policy-tab
- Health care facilities
Malaria Prophylaxis

- Use preventative measures
- Purchase medication in the US
- Monitor your reaction to the prophylaxis

Safety

- Be proactive about your safety
- Be vigilant and aware of your surroundings
- Leave valuables at home
- Carry belongings with caution
- Maintain a low profile

Safety

- Go out in groups
- Meet in public places
  - No overnight guests
- Take a cab; don’t walk home alone at night
- Trust your instincts
- Gender & relationships
- Adopt a more cautious attitude
Travel

• Students travel guidelines
• Hosting family and friends
• Consult with on-site staff for travel recommendations
• Independent Travel Form
• No travel to Travel Warning countries (Colombia)
• Balancing travel with other program responsibilities

Packing

• Be strategic; pack light!
• Review packing list
• Consider the weather
• Local norms
• Activities & excursions
• Electricity
• Carry-on items
• Photocopy important documents

Returning to the US

• Reverse culture shock
• Stay connected with others from your program
• LAC opportunities
  – http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/process/reentry/experiences
MSID-Ecuador Program Contacts

Learning Abroad Center
- http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/
- umabroad@umn.edu
- 612.626.9000
MSID-Ecuador home page:
http://umabroad.umn.edu/
programs/americas/msid-
ecuador

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- 612.301.6807

MSID-Ecuador Student Consultant
See:
http://umabroad.umn.edu/
programs/americas/msid-
ecuador/contact

¡Buen Viaje!