Intensive Spanish Program Team

- Jessica Hartnett, Program Director, hart0581@umn.edu
- Molly Micheels, Associate Program Director, mollym@umn.edu

Contact us with any questions!
Pre-Departure Preparation

- **Program Paperwork**
  - Log into checklist
- **Academic Planning**
- **Financial Planning**
  - Financial Aid Preview Meeting
  - Review program fees
- **Registration**
- **Cancellation Policy**
  - http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/students/policies/finances/cancellation
Billing & Financial Aid

• Billed through UMN student account
• Billing follows UMN dates & deadlines
• Submit a SACE (Study Abroad Cost Estimate) by the deadline
• A Financial Aid Preview meeting is strongly encouraged. Schedule at:
  • https://z.umn.edu/scheduleFAprview
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, valid for 90 days
  – Extend visa in Ecuador (those staying for the semester only)

• Non-US citizens
  – Check with program team for assistance
Flight Information

- Link to coordinated flight itinerary (through Village Travel)
- Booking your flight independently
  - Arrive before the group
  - Book a round-trip ticket
- Submit flight info via Google Form
- Book in advance!
- Arriving early/staying late
Arrival and Orientation

- Print & carry arrival email from the LAC
- Will be met at airport by partner organization
- Hotel stay on first night
- Orientation
  - Health, safety, transportation
- Meeting host family
- Flexibility is key — lots of changes happening
- Try to get into the habit of Speaking Spanish right away
MSID Office & Classrooms

- All classes are held here
- Facilities
  - Classrooms
  - Lecture Hall
  - Kitchen
  - Outdoor space
  - Computer lab
- Internet/wireless access available at CIMAS
Fundación CIMAS
Fundación CIMAS Staff

Resident Directors (pictured)
- José Suarez
- Dolores (Loli) Lopez

Administrative Staff
- Natalia Cespedes
- Emelia Castelo
Intensive Spanish/Language Pre-session

- August and January
- 3 ½ weeks
- Homestays
- Choose one course:
  - ECDR 1004 (4th semester) or
  - ECDR 3015W (5th semester)
- Great opportunity to brush up on Spanish and get to know Quito prior to the semester
Intensive Spanish Details

• Placement test
  – Administered upon arrival

• Textbooks/course materials
  – Course pack purchased in Ecuador

• Daily schedule
  – 9 a.m. – 1 or 2 p.m. on weekdays (varies by day)
Homestay Housing

- Middle class families
- Placement based on info you provide on housing information form
- Families provide breakfast & dinner daily
- Can accommodate dietary restrictions
- Consider bringing a small gift for the family as an icebreaker/token of appreciation
Living with Your Host Family

• Keep an open mind and have realistic expectations
• Remember that you are 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.
“Most of us are not aware that we have a culture until we step outside of it.”

-Maximizing Study Abroad, 2nd Edition
Iceberg of Culture
Culture is a lens or filter through which we see the world and through which the world sees us.
Packing

• Be strategic; pack light!
• Review packing list in handbook
• Quito weather - homes, altitude & sun
• Local norms are more conservative
• Activities, excursions & outdoor clothes
• Electricity is same as in US
• Carry-on items
• Photocopy important documents
• Host family gifts
Communications

- Mailing address
  - Packages extremely discouraged
- Internet access
- Cell phones
  - Required; must have local number
  - Sim cards vs track phone
  - On-site staff will assist you during orientation
- Whatsapp
- Laptop computers
Money Matters

• Local currency
• How much
  – Cost of living
  – Cost of attendance
• Ways to pay
  – cash and credit cards
  – bring small bills and coins
• Emergency funds
• Notify your bank
• Safeguarding your money
Staying Healthy Abroad

• Health Form
  • Be thorough; follow-up is common
• Prescriptions/Medications
  • Bring a full supply of prescription medications
  • Bring some OTC meds for common ailments
• CISI
  • Let program staff know if you need to access health services
    • They can help to schedule appointments and accompany you
Vaccinations & Malaria Prophylaxis

• Pre-departure vaccinations
  – Boyton Travel Clinic
• No risk of Malaria in Quito, but some internship sites are in Malaria zones
• Purchase medication in the US
• Monitor your reaction to the medication
• Yellow Fever vaccine shortage
Safety Tips & Information

• STEP Registration
• Good judgement is your #1 safety tool – trust your instincts!
• Be a little more cautious than you typically would
• Go out in groups, never alone at night. Take cabs.
• Be aware of what’s going on around you
• Limit valuables you carry with you
• Try to blend in with locals
• Gender & relationships
• If something happens abroad, reach out to program staff first
Independent Travel

• Student travel guidelines  
  – On weekends, breaks  
• Hosting family and friends  
• Consult with on-site staff  
  for travel recommendations  
• Independent Travel Form – required!  
• No travel to Travel Warning countries  
• Balancing travel with other program   
  responsibilities
Returning to the US

- Reverse culture shock
- Stay connected with others from your program
- LAC opportunities
  - [http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/process/reentry/experiences](http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/process/reentry/experiences)
  - Student consultant, promo assistant, Global Leader Intern, Peer Advisor
¡Buen Viaje!