

Ecuador



Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Winter Intersession • December 28, 2011 - January 11, 2012

Course Name:

Ecology & Sustainability in Rural & Urban Ecuador

Course Number: **BIO 527/627**

Credit hours: **3** (undergraduate or graduate)

Course Overview:

This course builds on and expands study away opportunities in Ecuador. Study will include a visit to a coastal community, an Andean mountain community, cultural aspects of Quito, and the biodiverse rainforest at Yachana Lodge in the Napo Valley.

Program highlights:

- Tour Quito and its Old Town
- Tour Upland areas
- Study coastal ecosystems
- Hike the rainforest at Yachana
- Explore sustainable agriculture, energy and economic practices, as well as alternative models of education, medicine and tourism
- Experience local cuisine, indigenous languages and the diverse cultural heritage of the region

Estimated Cost: **\$3,414.50**

Includes: round-trip airfare from Springfield to Quito, Quito to a coastal town (TBD), and Quito to Coca; canoe fare from Coca to Yachana; ground transportation in Quito; lodging for 7 nights in Quito, 2 nights in coastal town and 6 nights at Yachana's Casa Quest; entrance fees to Upland sites; all activity costs; all meals in Ecuador; hotel and airport taxes; and Study Away student fee. Separated costs are not available.

Excludes: MSU tuition for 3 hours undergraduate or graduate credit; passport fees; personal expenses.

Optional activities: Galapagos Islands

Nonrefundable deposit due at time of application: \$200 (personal check or money order only)

Voucher Eligibility & Financial Aid

If you entered MSU as a freshman in 2009 or 2010, you may use the **Study Away \$500 voucher**. Students who receive financial aid through MSU may apply that aid to the program, if eligible. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at **836-5262** for more information.

Informational meeting: **TBA**

Application due date:
Monday, October 3, 2011

Online Orientation Course: **Dec. 2011**

Depart from Springfield:
Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011

Return from Quito, Ecuador:
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012

Interested in going?

Contact Program Director Dr. Alexander Wait, Professor of Biology, for more information:
AlexanderWait@missouristate.edu
or 836-5802

Study Away!



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY

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Missouri State University Study Away Programs
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301 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806
P: 417-836-6368 • E: studyaway@missouristate.edu
W: <http://international.missouristate.edu/studyaway>

Purposes of the Course:

- 1) Introduce the concept of geotourism (a.k.a., ecotourism) as defined by the National Geographic Society: "tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place — its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents"
- 2) Experience and evaluate examples of how Ecuador has committed to preserve its natural, biological resources
- 3) Explore the biological diversity in the preserved natural areas and urban areas of the mountainous region of Quito, and the remote rainforest of the Napo Valley
- 4) Study sustainable development in a remote area by examining the following: the agricultural fields, ponds and livestock facilities that produce the food served at the Yachana Lodge, as well as touring the kitchen and learning about local cuisine and food preparation and service; the lodge's utilization of solar and hydro-electric power; the lodge's water delivery and sewage removal and treatment systems; the Yachana Technical High School for indigenous youth; and the clinic and hospital associated with the lodge.

Course Objectives:

Students will **explore basic ecological and environmental principles** in the context of urban, mountainous Quito, a coastal village along the Pacific, and a remote village in the rainforest of the Napo River Valley, where Yachana Lodge is located. The course will **focus on the extraordinary biological resources of Ecuador**, why they are so extraordinary, and how they have been exploited, preserved or used sustainably.

The course will include **an overview of the society and cultures of the Andes**, with a particular emphasis on Ecuador and Peru, and on the element of tourism in these cultures, past and present.

Students will **evaluate the value of ecotourism in urban and remote settings**. The faculty leader will provide perspective on the ecological and cultural context of Ecuador and on the triple bottom line of social equity, environmental preservation and economic prosperity.

In the Napo Valley and the Yachana Lodge, students will be led by a trained naturalist and local guide who is knowledgeable about tropical plants and animals, hunting and gathering traditions, and subsistence farming practices. Students will have a chance to **observe the region's biodiversity** and to **reflect on the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainable development** while at Yachana.

Course Requirements & Credit:

There are no required textbooks. Instead, students will be provided a packet of articles to read and discuss during the course of the trip. In addition to the assigned readings, coursework will include lectures, field trips, group discussion and individual reflection.

Students enrolled in this program will receive 3 hours of undergraduate (BIO 527) or graduate (BIO 627) credit from Missouri State University and a letter grade based on the Program Director's evaluation of the following coursework:

- A journal in which students will record their observations and experiences relating to the biological and cultural environment of the region (25%)
- Quizzes over reading assignments, lectures and field trip information (25%)
- A short research paper on one aspect of observed ecology, ecotourism or sustainable development; this may be completed after trip (25%)
- Participation and positive contribution to group dynamics (25%)

Students enrolled in BIO 526 will receive graduate credit and will be required to write a formal five-page report on species conservation in the Ecuadorian rainforest.

Course Itinerary (subject to change):

- Dec. 28** Travel from Springfield to Quito
- Dec. 29** Meet in Quito class; orientation tour of Quito and the Old Town
- Dec. 30** Meet in Quito class daily and tour
- Jan. 2** Upland areas
- Jan. 3** Fly to coastal village (TBD); explore coastal ecosystems and cultures
- Jan. 4** Explore coastal ecosystems and cultures; return to Quito in evening
- Jan. 5** Travel from Quito to Yachana (fly from Quito to Coca; canoe from Coca to Yachana); afternoon hike in Yachana
- Jan. 6** Primary rainforest hike in a.m.; work with alternative energy projects in p.m.
- Jan. 7** Primary rainforest hike in a.m.; culinary demo in p.m.
- Jan. 8** Secondary rainforest hike in a.m.; work in gardens and fields in p.m.
- Jan. 9** Full day investigating sustainability practices
- Jan. 10** Santa Agua market in a.m.; tour Yachana high school and interact with students in p.m.
- Jan. 11** Travel from Yachana to Quito
- Jan. 12** Fly from Quito to Springfield

Application & Payment:

- Complete the MSU Application Form and obtain the Program Director's signature certifying acceptance of the application
- Attach a check or money order payable to MSU in the amount of **\$200** for your **non-refundable deposit**, which will be applied toward your trip
- Take the completed application and deposit check to the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403, for processing. The balance of fees will be billed to your university account.

The published program cost is based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change.

Program participants agree to a potential increase of 10% in the program fee if costs increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies:

- If a student withdraws prior to July 1, a full refund will be made, less the \$200 deposit and non-refundable purchases made on behalf of the student.
- If a student is forced to withdraw from the program after July 1 for a bona fide medical reason, a full refund of all payments will be made, less the \$200 deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is necessary in making claims for refund.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after July 1, or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and to Elizabeth Strong at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. **Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.**
- Any plans by a participant not to travel and return with the group must also be submitted in writing to the Program Director and the Study Away Office.
- The tour will be cancelled if enrollment is fewer than 8 participants. In this event, students will receive a refund of all fees.