

Centre for children whose mothers are working in the sex industry or currently incarcerated



Highlights

- Bringing a smile to the faces of the children who, despite their young age, have often all ready had a very difficult background.
- Living in Ecuador's capital city – Quito! Learn to salsa, hone your Spanish and explore the colonial city.
- Spending your afternoons coming up with educational and fun activities to keep the children occupied and stimulated – we bet you'll have fun too!

About the project

The centre provides care for about 20 children aged between 5 and 12 years of age, whose mothers are either working in the sex industry or incarcerated, and therefore unable to look after them. The children live at the centre although for those who are able to, they see their mothers at the weekends. The centre consists of dormitories, a dining area, library, study centre and playground. Throughout the day, the children are provided with food, care and educational activities.

Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Quito to get to know the city and learn how to get around and use the public transport system. In the afternoon there's an information session in which you will learn about the Academia, as well as about important issues such as security, do's and don'ts in Quito, accommodation, volunteer work etc. Your volunteer work will start on Tuesday of the first week.

Volunteers work from 10am until 3pm at the centre. The permanent staff are occupied all day with day-to-day tasks running the center, so as a volunteer you will be kept busy helping them out with cooking, cleaning and care-work, as well as keeping the children entertained. You'll need to be creative,



patient and able to use your initiative as you organize educational and recreational activities for the children such as teaching English, playing games and arranging excursions.

Location

The project is located southeast of Quito. It is about a ninety-minute bus journey from the Academia.

Lying at 2,800 meters above sea level, and about 15 miles south of the equator, Quito is a city of sun and sky surrounded by mountains, with three snow-capped volcanoes in view on a clear day. Its climate has been described by many as eternal spring, due to its high altitude and its location close to the equator. It has a daily average temperature of about 70°F / 16°C.

Quito has plenty to offer in terms of culture and entertainment. The city is brimming with bars, restaurants and clubs, as well as cinemas, shops, museums, art galleries and markets. Nearby there are local attractions such as the 'TeleferiQo' cable car, providing stunning views of the city, and the 'Middle of the World Museum' where you can stand with one foot on the southern hemisphere and one foot on the northern! The area of Quito known as the 'old town' is also a must with incredible colonial architecture. If you enjoy shopping then you'll be pleased to hear that Quito is Ecuador's most important marketing center for the country's artisan products, lying very close to some of the major production areas and indigenous markets!

As the capital city, Quito has good communication and transport links to the rest of the country, as well as other parts of South America. Its location makes it ideal for access to Ecuador's beaches, mountains, cloud forests and of course the Amazon and the Galapagos!



Accommodation

You will stay either at the student residence or with a host family. Host family accommodation includes a private room, breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Singles, married couples and parents with children can all be accommodated. It is also possible to stay at the student residence located within the school grounds itself. Here you will self cater - there is a large supermarket very nearby and a fully equipped kitchen at the residency.

Requirements

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project in order to build up trusting relationships with the children.

All volunteers must hold at least a low intermediate level of spoken Spanish. If your Spanish is at a lower level, you must join our Spanish language school prior to commencing your volunteer work.

When choosing to volunteer in a developing country such as Ecuador, it is important to remain flexible as the needs of the project are constantly evolving. This is what makes volunteering so rewarding – the fact that you are on hand to lend your support when

and where it is needed. By choosing Academia Latinoamericana de Espanol you will have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

Feedback

"I feel so thankful for the luck I had in finding this project that led to such an incredible experience. Thank you to the children that made my day, to my host family who helped me in Ecuador – they showed me such a nice time and so much love, and to the hard working staff of the foundation."

Laura Nientiet, Germany

Programme Fee Includes

- Accommodation
- 2 meals per day if staying with a host family
- Project Support
- A donation that goes directly to your project
- Orientation and city tour
- Pre-departure information
- Laundry service if staying with a host family
- 24 hour emergency support

Programme Fee Does Not Include

- International flights
- Meals if staying at the student residence
- Laundry service if staying at the student residence
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

After Your Project – Travel Ideas

At our office we are fully equipped to help you with making weekend travel arrangements, and onwards travel arrangements following your time in Quito. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and reasonable trips. Some of the most popular trips include:

- Otavalo – a famous Saturday market offering a dazzling array of textiles, crafts and jewellery just a couple of hours from Quito.
- Papallacta - 8 natural hot springs to soak away the day in! A great day trip from Quito.
- Cotopaxi – you can choose to hike this immense volcano, or take a more moderate tour to see it!
- Banos – great for trekking, mountain biking, rafting and taking a dip in the hot baths! This makes for a nice weekend break from Quito.
- Mindo Cloud Forest – swing in a hammocks, spot exotic birds and animals, bath in waterfalls, float down the river in inner tubes, trek and horseback ride! All this and near enough to Quito to make it a great weekend excursion.
- The Amazon – A fantastic option for those looking to travel after their volunteer project. Stay in rustic jungle lodges, swim with pink river dolphins, search for anacondas and swim in hammocks!
- The Galapagos! Ecuador's true gem! Experience for yourself the exact places Charles Darwin got his inspiration! Take a cruise around the beautiful islands and spot seals, turtles, sharks, albatross, blue and red footed boobies, iguanas and more as you trek, swim, snorkel and explore! An unforgettable way to end your time in Ecuador!

Apply Now

If you have some further questions about this project, please feel free to contact us at info@latinoschools.ec

If you would like to book this programme, please [click here](#) to complete the booking form. We will be in touch within one week of application to confirm your booking!