

# NPU Group Program: Centers for Interamerican Studies

## Cuenca, Ecuador

### Specifics of North Park's Group Program

#### Dates

- Spring semester, Quad A
- In certain circumstances, students may be permitted to remain in Ecuador for Quad B to complete an internship. Additional fees will apply.

#### Eligibility

- 45+ credit hours by start of program
- Cumulative GPA of 2.75
- Spanish Language GPA of 2.5
- GPA of 2.5 in semester preceding program
- Completion of SPAN 3150 or above (all classes are taught in Spanish)
- Attendance at NPU for at least two semesters by start of program
- 18 years of age



#### Chance of Placement

Program is limited to 10 students each year. Chance of placement may be limited depending on the number of qualified applicants.

#### Courses Offered

While in Ecuador during quad A, students will take 8 credits. Classes are taught in Spanish by Ecuadorian and North Park faculty. Students will also participate in other classroom and extracurricular activities that are part of the group program.

Intermediate Spanish students will take the following:

- **SPAN 2020: Intermediate Spanish II** (4 credits)
- **SPAN 2030: Advanced Intermediate Conversation and Grammar** (4 credits)

Advanced Spanish students will take the following:

- **SPAN 3910: Andean Literature** (4 credits)
- **SPAN 3930: Advanced Morphology and Syntax** (4 credits)

Students who stay in Cuenca for Quad B will take the following additional courses:

- **SPAN 3300: Colonial Latin American Literature** (2 credits)
- **SPAN 3400: Contemporary Latin American Literature** (2 credits)
- **Internship in Community Spanish** (4 credits)

#### Costs

- Student pays North Park the current rate for full-time tuition, housing, and 15 meal plan (Quad A only). All financial aid (excluding tuition remission and tuition exchange) applies.
- Those staying in Ecuador for Quad B will pay tuition, room, board, and a \$2000 program fee to North Park.

### Additional Fees

Airfare	Passport Fees	Residence Permit/ Visa Fees
International Student ID Card	Health Insurance	Discretionary Spending

Accepted students must pay a non-refundable program deposit of \$250 by May 1. Students will receive a \$250 rebate to buy meals while on excursions in Ecuador.

### Other Program Highlights

This program has received high praise from past participants for the degree to which they were embedded in the local community linguistically, culturally, and emotionally.

- Students live with Ecuadorian host families, one in each home. Most meals are taken with the family.
- All students volunteer weekly in the community.
- The host institution provides extracurricular activities in subjects such as cooking and dancing; connections with an English language learner are also available as a means to improve both individuals' language skills.
- The North Park group travels throughout Ecuador as part of the program. Excursions may include:
  - **Quito** (Cathedral, Old Town, Guayasamin Museum, Covenant Mission)
  - **La Mitad del Mundo** (Stand on both sides of the equator)
  - **Otavalo** (Picturesque Indian market)
  - **Incapirga** (Ancient Incan ruins)

## **About Ecuador, Cuenca, and CEDEI**

Ecuador is one of the most diverse countries in the world. Despite its small size, Ecuador contains lush rainforests, snow-capped mountain ranges, mangrove estuaries, and tropical coastlines. It boasts one of the largest varieties of flora and fauna on the planet, thanks in large part to its vast range of ecosystems. While much of Ecuador is modernized and there is a large mestizo population, Ecuador is also home to a wealth of indigenous groups, each distinctive to their individual province.

Cuenca, the capital of Azuay Province, is located in the Andean highlands of southern Ecuador. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Cuenca is the third largest city in Ecuador with a population of more than 300,000 people. It enjoys a spring-like climate year round. Modern Cuenca was founded in 1557 upon the site of the Incan city of Tomebamba. The city preserves its pre-Columbian and well as its Spanish heritage. This mix of colonial architecture and Incan ruins—along with the bustle of a living, buzzing city—makes Cuenca a fascinating place to live.

Centers for Interamerican Studies (CEDEI) is located in a beautifully restored house in the heart of Cuenca's colonial center. Between classes, students can relax in the garden or study in the rooftop student center. The building is located within walking distance to many of Cuenca's attractions including Parque Calderon, the Tomebamba River, and the food and artisan markets. Amenities include computer lab, library, and free Wi-Fi access.

**Please consult the Study Abroad Handbook for information on how to apply for this program.**