Ecuador**

COUNTRY OVERVIEW
CAPITAL: Quito
POPULATION: 14,573,101
ETHNIC GROUPS: Mestizo (65%), Amerindian (25%), Spanish & others (7%), African American (3%)
LOCATION: Western South America, bordering the Pacific Ocean at The Equator between Colombia and Peru
CLIMATE: Tropical along the coast, becoming cooler inland at higher elevations; tropical in Amazonian jungle lowlands
RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic (95%), other (5%)
LANGUAGES: Spanish (official language), Amerindian languages (especially Quechua)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND
TEACHING STYLES – In public schools, teachers often encourage students to memorize subject matter. In private schools, teachers supplement memorization with projects, experiments, and a variety of interactive activities.
LEARNING STYLES – Students love to be in school. Students thrive in talkative and unrepressed environments. Classrooms that seem chaotic to an outsider, may be looked at as an encouraging environment of interaction and exploration to an Ecuadorian student.
INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING – Many schools lack text and teaching materials. The physical resources for schools are generally very poor. Access to clean water and toilet facilities are also common problems. Many schools only have one or two classrooms led by one of two teachers for primary grades. One-third of all schools in Ecuador have only one teacher.
DISCIPLINE AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT – Conflict with students are generally expressed in private with discretion. Ecuadorians are seldom direct in communicating dissatisfaction with performance and have an expectation that one’s tones should always remain polite. Demonstrative praise is given when teachers are pleased with the work of a student’s performance. Less enthusiastic praise or more restrained acclamation may be a sign of displeasure of performance. Private school teachers are discouraged from using corporal punishment with students. Rather than hitting students’ hands with a ruler to discipline them, teachers frequently find ways to motivate learners to behave.
EDUCATOR-Student RELATIONSHIP – Relationships are different, depending on if the institution is private or public. Relationships are generally closer in private schools. Students may join teachers in strikes protesting low wages and poor working conditions.
STUDENT-STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS – Students are very close with one another. It is common for students to form study groups and mostly tend to prefer collective rather than individual activity.
POLITE/IMPOLITE TOPICS & BEHAVIORS – Conversation topics often include family, work history, and home origin. Ecuadorian humor has a tendency towards stereotyping people from different regions, ethnicities, and gender.

**All information from the “CIA World Factbook” and “Understanding Your International Students: An Educational, Cultural, and Linguistic Guide” (October, 2010)