



The latest bylaws to obtain a visa in Ecuador came to effect on Nov. 2017. We are providing two options for incoming students to enter Ecuador lawfully, please review Option 1 and 2.

Additionally, starting February 6, 2018, students will need to have their health insurance policy on hand to enter Ecuador as officers at port of entry can ask for proof. The letter has to state dates of coverage, amount of coverage, policy number and contact phone number. Insurance cards will not serve as evidence.

#### Option 1 –

#### Temporary Residence Visa - Student (obtained in Embassy/Consulate Abroad):

##### General Considerations:

- This visa is mandatory for students who will stay more than 180 days. Special cases:
  - If you are playing for an Ecuadorean sports team.
  - If you have already been in Ecuador and it has not yet been a full year since you left.
  - If you plan to visit Ecuador (again) in less than 365 days after your program is done.
  - If you plan to do tourism with your family after your program.
- GAIAS students need resident visas as they are not eligible for an extension in order to stay in the Galapagos for longer than 60 days.
- If you **FAIL** to obtain a visa abroad, bring ALL documentation to Ecuador in order to process the Temporary Resident Visa. When applying in Quito the students do not need to translate the documents only if all their documents are in English. Students will need to have \$1500 in their Bank account by the time they have the appointment at the Ministry in Quito.

##### Process:

Reach out to your nearest Ecuadorian consulate and apply for the Temporary Resident Visa for Students (Visa de Residente Temporal – Estudiante). You will need to follow these steps:

- a) Apply through the online application portal (more information [here](#). Click on OTHER NATIONALITY. BOTTON RIGHT HAND SIDE)
- b) Present the application form. Available after you apply online.
- c) Present the original valid passport and & its copy.
- d) Present an **Apostilled Federal & State Background** check (find attached examples on the document Examples Temporary Resident Visa Documents). The process to obtain an FBI background check is as follows (find more information about this process [here](#)):
  - FBI background check [form](#)
  - Finger print form ([FD-258](#)) – see locations [here](#) Once this is submitted, the process can take up to 5-7 business days
  - The cost of the FBI report is **\$40.00 USD** (not including shipping – find out more [here](#)). In the USA, this process can be expedited through a private company for approximately \$80.00 USD and can be obtained in 2 days.
  - The cost to get the documents **apostilled** is approximately an additional **\$200.00 USD**
    - i. **PLEASE ask your local consulate if they require translation of background checks or other processes.**
- e) Bank certificate under the students' names with at least \$1,500 USD or its equivalent in other currencies of available funds (any of the following is sufficient and **cannot be older than 15 days** prior to obtaining the appointment at the consulate):
  - A letter from the bank stating that they are the account holders (not their parents) and that they have at least \$1,500.00 USD of funds available.
  - A print out of the online bank statement showing their names as the account holders and a minimum balance of \$1,500.00 USD.
  - A letter from their credit card company stating that they are the account holders and the maximum credit card limit.
- f) Admittance letter form USFQ (documents provided by USFQ)
- g) A letter from the international health insurance provider stating their name, coverage period, and benefits. (THE COPY OF THE INSURANCE CARD IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. IT HAS TO BE A LETTER. IT CAN BE FROM THEIR HOST UNIVERSITIES).
- h) Visa application cost: \$150.00\* USD (**not including** federal and state background checks or the cost of having the documents apostilled)

Please note that **each Ecuadorian consulate may ask for additional/different documents**; it is extremely important that the students get in touch with their closest Ecuadorian consulate to confirm what documents they will be required to present and be in touch with us in case they have questions.



**\*Visa costs may vary as it is a percentage of the minimum Ecuadorean wage and this is adjusted every year.**

**Option 2: 180 days Port of Entry or Tourist Visa Extension**

**Port of entry:** If your students are coming for less than 180 days, the bylaws of the Ecuadorean Mobility Law, article 40, allow students to enter Ecuador with an invitation letter issued by USFQ for a period of less than 180 days – this applies to students that have not been in Ecuador 365 days prior to their arrival for the beginning of their program at USFQ. Nevertheless, Ecuadorean migratory entry points rely on their officers and might not be aware of the bylaw. We suggest that your students present the invitation letter issued by USFQ, ask if they have the 180 days and if the person does not know, ask to speak with the supervisor. In case the supervisor does not grant the 180 days, and/or if the student did not present the invitation letter, the student will have to extend their permit of residence in Quito (tourist visa extension).

**Tourist visa extension:**

The extension permit will be processed at the end of the initial 90-day free entry period, allowing students to stay for a total of 180 days. Students will be able to travel out of Ecuador for the first 90 days. Please do not travel after day 85 to 90. Every time the student leaves, the count will stop. For example, if they leave on day 60 to Peru for 10 days they will come back to day 61. We will need to know when students come in and out in order to know when their 90 days are up. Once their 90 days USFQ will have 30 days to process the extension permit. **Students should not plan to travel outside Ecuador or to the Galapagos until the extension is granted.**

The process is simple and students will need to present the following documents:

- Extension permit [form](#).
- Original Passport and a color copy - THE PASSPORT HAS TO BE SIGNED BY STUDENTS.
- Extension Permit fee: \$132USD (this may change in time, as the fee is equal to 1/3 of the minimum salary in Ecuador which is adjusted to inflation each year)\*\*.
- A letter from their international health insurance provider stating their name, coverage period, and benefits. (THE COPY OF THE INSURANCE CARD IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, it has to be a letter as previously mentioned. The letter can be issued by the home University).

**\*\*Extension costs may vary as it is a percentage of the minimum Ecuadorean wage and this is adjusted every year.**

Students will need to present their invitation letter at the migratory point of entry and let the officers know that they will be studying in Ecuador for less than 180 days.

Once again, if students are coming to the Galapagos Semester Program or coming for a full academic year, USFQ recommends that students secure their visas in advance (Option A).

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: in case students, do not convey information regarding travel dates to International programs, present documents on time and accordingly, or show up to their visa appointment, they will forgo USFQ's visa services and will need to cover ALL EXPENSES involved in their visa process (extension or temporary residence visa) themselves.**

Do not hesitate to contact OPI in case there are questions.

**Useful links:**

Consulado Virtual: [www.consuladovirtual.gob.ec](http://www.consuladovirtual.gob.ec)

My FBI Report: <https://www.nbinformation.com>

FBI Background Check Form: <https://www.nbinformation.com/order.php#forms>

FD-258: <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/standard-fingerprint-form-fd-258-1.pdf/view>

Fingerprinting locations: <https://www.nbinformation.com/locations/>

FBI Report Cost: <https://www.nbinformation.com/faq.php#q130>

Tourism extension form: <https://www.ministeriointerior.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FORMULARIO-PRÓRROGA-MIGRACIÓN.pdf>