



Republic of Ecuador

The laws of the Republic of Ecuador require that non-Ecuadorians seeking to visit the country for an extended period of time must obtain a **visa** prior to their arrival in Ecuador. Specifically, SIT Study Abroad students must be in possession of a **Cultural Exchange Visa** to participate in the SIT program. This visa will be obtained through an Ecuadorian consulate before the students' arrivals in Ecuador, and further instructions and information will be disseminated during the months preceding their semester abroad. Students must submit this form, acknowledging their understanding of this information.

By completing this form, I affirm my understanding of the following points:

- ☐ Before the start of my SIT Ecuador program, I must obtain an Ecuadorian **Cultural Exchange Visa**.
- ☐ It is *not* possible to participate in the program with just a tourist status, or with any other category of visa.
- ☐ Visa requirements and fees are determined by the Ecuadorian government, which may change requirements at any time. While SIT will make every effort to keep students well-informed, SIT is not responsible for changes in visa requirements and fees.
- ☐ SIT is not affiliated with the central government of Ecuador and cannot waive students' visa requirements.
- ☐ Visa instructions will be disseminated to students approximately 3 months before the program start date. It is not legally possible to apply for the visa earlier than 90 days before the SIT program begins.
- ☐ Following their first entry into Ecuador with this visa, local laws require that students register with Ecuadorian immigration authorities. The on-site SIT program staff will assist with that registration process at the start of the semester. Students must not enter Ecuadorian territory more than two weeks before the program begins, as arriving too early could cause legal complications with the in-country registration.
- ☐ SIT Study Abroad will facilitate a group visa application in which all students should participate. During the six weeks preceding the SIT program start date, students will be responsible for sending their passports and certain other documents to the SIT campus in Vermont, USA. SIT will then obtain visas on the students' behalf through the Ecuadorian consulate serving our region. Students' passports (with the visa stamped inside) will then be returned approximately 2 to 3 weeks before the SIT program start date.
- ☐ For students whose personal schedules will prevent them from participating in the group visa application, it will be possible to obtain the Ecuadorian visa individually through an Ecuadorian consulate. Students who elect to obtain their visas individually must inform SIT as early as possible. They will be responsible for individually applying for their visas according to detailed instructions that will be provided by SIT.
- ☐ Students without a US passport may be subject to additional or different requirements for obtaining a visa or meeting other conditions of entry into the country or countries listed above. Many countries require individuals to apply for visas in person at the relevant embassy or consulate located in their country of citizenship. We strongly recommend that you contact the embassy of each country the program will be traveling to very early in the process to confirm visa and/or entry requirements applicable to your country of citizenship and determine next steps while allowing plenty of time to apply. If the foreign consulate(s) permits non-US passport holders to apply for the required visa from within the United States, applicants are encouraged to contact Travia Visa Services. As an experienced visa agent working closely with a number of SIT programs, Travia may be able to assist you in your visa application process. A service discount is available by entering "SIT" as the corporate code in your Travia online application. It is your responsibility to confirm and complete the visa application process particular to your situation, and to keep your admissions counselor informed.

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Please return this form to:

SIT Study Abroad

PO Box 676

Brattleboro, VT 05302

Fax: (802) 258-3296

Email: studyabroad@sit.edu

If you have any questions, please

contact your SIT Admissions Counselor:

1-888-272-7881

Student's Name *(print)*: _____

Special notes on your individual process: *(i.e. pre-program travel plans, non-US passport, etc.)*

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Your SIT program: *(check one)*

- ☐ Ecuador: Development, Politics, and Languages
- ☐ Ecuador: Comparative Ecology and Conservation