

**FULBRIGHT-HAYS SEMINARS ABROAD PROGRAM  
DESCRIPTION FOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATORS  
(Grades 9-12)**

**Ecuador**

**Seminar Title:** Examining the Impact of Ecuador’s History, Biodiversity, and Cultural Diversity

**Dates:** Pre-departure orientation: July 16, 2018 – July 17, 2018 (subject to change)  
Program in Ecuador: July 18, 2018 – August 16, 2018 (subject to change)

**Participants:** U.S. teachers, curriculum specialists, librarians, media resource specialists, and administrators at the secondary level (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Program Content:**

Ecuador has the highest population density of any country in South America, with a population of approximately 16.3 million people. It is ethnically and culturally diverse with numerous indigenous groups, languages, customs, and religions.

For its size, Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse places on earth. The Amazon is home to an abundance of plant and animal life and holds a world record of 150 amphibian species and many species of birds, butterflies and trees. Despite its rich biodiversity, Ecuador has one of the highest deforestation rates in Latin American, due to the pressures of development as well as the government’s reliance on the energy sector to generate revenues to finance state projects. The economic pressures to export petroleum and agricultural products, mine minerals and metals, and farm shrimp have severe repercussions for the homes, livelihoods, and cultures of indigenous groups.

The seminar will begin in Quito followed by visits to cities and rural communities in the highlands, coastal, and upper Amazon areas, as well as the Galapagos Islands,\* time and budget permitting. Each location will provide U.S. educators with a unique opportunity to gain a general understanding of the historical, political, economic, and cultural factors that led to the creation of a “plurinational” society, which is defined in the Ecuadorian Constitution as the coexistence of several different nationalities within a larger state in which different peoples, cultures and worldviews exist and are recognized. The seminar will also touch on the current challenges that Ecuadorians face in this plurinational society.

Seminar participants will have the opportunity to attend lectures and participate in round table discussions with Ecuadorian educators, professionals, indigenous and community leaders, and government officials. Participants will receive assistance in identifying resources for their individual curriculum projects, including portfolios. This seminar will enable participants to expand and improve their current teaching or curriculum development related to the biodiversity, history, political systems, and cultural and ethnic diversity found in the Andean region.

\* The final list of places may vary.

**We are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process; nonetheless, Seminar is contingent upon many factors, such as the availability of funds, the number or the quality of applications, and travel alerts. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final Congressional action. The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.**