



# Ecuadorian Educational System

María Mercedes Salmon  
Country Coordinator for Educational Advising  
Fulbright Commission in Ecuador



# Ecuadorian Educational System: K-12

- New Ley Orgánica de Educación Intercultural (Intercultural Education) / March 2011
- 3 Levels of Education:
  - Educación Inicial (Initial Ed): 3 - 5 years of age
  - Educación General Básica (Basic General Ed): 5 – 15 years of age (mandatory)
  - Educación Bachillerato (Baccalaureate): 15 – 18 years of age (Bachillerato General Unificado – High School Diploma)
    - Bachillerato en Ciencias (Sciences and Humanities)
    - Bachillerato Técnico (Agriculture, Industry, Business and Arts)

# Ecuadorian Educational System: K-12

- Bachillerato General Unificado (General Unified Baccalaureate) is an interdisciplinary approach that allows students the integration of knowledge into the materialization of the profession and the connection with higher education studies.
- Similar to the U.S. High School education with core fields, electives and a strong research component.
- English is mandatory at least 5 hours a week.
- Mathematics is mandatory at least 4 hours a week.

# Ecuadorian Educational System: K-12

- Types of Institutions:
  - Públicas (Central Government)
  - Fiscomisionales (Central Government + Religious order)
  - Particulares (Private)
    - Religiosos (Religious Order)
    - Laicos (Lay)
  - Binacionales
- 2 academic calendars: 185 days
  - Coastal (April – January)
  - Andean (September - June)

# Ecuadorian Educational System: K-12

- Grading System – not standardized
- Number grading Scales: 10, 20, 50 and 100; Letter grading scales are rare.
- Transcripts are issued in Spanish, very few exceptions
- IB Program instituted in private and public high schools
- Very few AP programs
- International Schools confer Ecuadorian Baccalaureate and the equivalent to High School Diploma in the host country

# Ecuadorian Educational System: Higher Education

- New Ley Orgánica de Educación Superior (October 2010)
- SENESCYT is designated the regulatory body for Higher Education by the Consejo de Educación Superior (Higher Education Council)
- 71 Universities and Polytechnic schools; 293 Technical Institutes
- Private and Public
- 2 academic calendars

# Ecuadorian Educational System: Higher Education

- 3 levels of Education:
  - Técnico o Tecnológico: 2 years of higher education / equivalent to Associate degree
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Level – Licenciaturas and Ingenierías: 4 to 6 years of education / equivalent to Bachelor degree
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Level – Especialidades, Maestrías and Doctorados
- Accreditation process has begun to be designed
- Recognition of degrees conferred internationally by Senescyt

# Ecuadorian Educational System: Higher Education

- Grading system: non-standard
- Number grading scales: 10, 50 and 100; very few letter grading scales
- Transcripts are issued in Spanish
- Only 1 Diploma is issued for life / Certified copies
- Thesis required in most institutions for graduation, related to field of study
- Research and publication during university studies is rare