In this program, students select courses from one of four Academic Tracks in the biological and social sciences: (1) Evolution, Ecology & Conservation, (2) Marine Ecology; (3) People, Politics & the Environment; (4) Sustainable Tourism. Each academic track consists of five intensive 3-credit courses taught in 3-week modules that combine in-class learning with field excursions. All courses are taught in English. Students will learn about Ecuador’s amazingly diverse land- and seascapes with visits to the Amazon rainforest, the Andean Mountains, and the Galápagos Islands. Students will live and take courses on the main USFQ campus at Cumbayá (near Quito), at Tiputini Biodiversity Station, and on San Cristobal Island, Galápagos. Students in all tracks also take a required Spanish conversation class (1 credit). Volunteer placements (non-credit) in San Cristobal are also available.

LOCATION
Quito, Galápagos Islands, Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon

EXCURSIONS
Module 1-2: Quito city tour, and visits to surrounding tropical ecosystems including the Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon; the Ecuadorian cloud forest; and the high-elevation páramo grassland; Modules 3-5: Multiple field excursions from the campus on San Cristobal Island while in the Galápagos Islands.

HOUSING
Host families in Cumbaya (Quito) and Galápagos (San Cristobal Island). Hotels and hostels for field excursions.
TROPICAL ECOLOGY & NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION
FALL: AUGUST 9 - DECEMBER 7, 2024

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Must be in good standing
- Must love being outdoors
- Open to all majors (5 spots reserved for WIE majors)

2024 PRICING

Tracks 1 (Evolution, Ecology, & Conservation) + 3 (People, Politics, & Environment) + 4 (Sustainable Tourism):
2023 pricing - $13,600 + $2,000 Tuition

Track 2 (Marine Ecology): 2023 pricing. $15,700 + $2,000 Tuition

Students will receive invoices from both UFIC and USFQ (based on selected track). A $395 nonrefundable deposit toward the total cost of the program is due at the time of application. The remaining fees are due no later than 45 days prior to departure. If you receive financial aid, you can defer payment until it disburses.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

Tuition, lodging, meals, domestic airfare, program excursions, international health insurance and emergency medical assistance

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED

Round-trip airfare, additional personal travel, and personal expenses

FINANCIAL AID

Most financial aid that you would receive on campus can be applied toward the cost of this program. However, all financial aid eligibility is determined by Student Financial Aid & Scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS

UFIC offers many study abroad scholarships, with various eligibility criteria. The Fall 2024 scholarship deadline is March 20, 2024. Apply on our website!