EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: _Linguistics, Arts + Social Sci._  Major/Major: _Linguistics + Spanish._
Host university: _Universidad de San Francisco de Quito_ Host Country: _Ecuador_
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) _September 2015_ to (month/year) _December 2015_

TRAVEL
Approximately how much did air transportation cost? _$1,200 CAD round trip_.
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? _$200.00 USD for bus and taxi transport_.
Do you have a recommended routing or airline? □ No  ☑ Yes
If yes, please describe: _United Airlines from Vancouver via Houston, Texas_.

VISAS
What is your citizenship? (voluntary; may impact following information) _Canadian_.
Did you need a student visa/permit? □ No  ☑ Yes: What was the cost? _$80.00 CAD_.
If yes, what documentation was needed? _The university sends you a huge stack of papers_.
Did you need a visitor visa/permit? □ No  □ Yes: What was the cost? _._
If yes, what documentation was needed?
Where was your immigration documentation processed? _The Ecuadorian Consulate's house in Burnaby_.
How long did it take to procure your visa/permit? _30 minutes for out-of-towners (I'm from Northern B.C.)_.
Were any other documents required (residence permit, etc)? □ No  ☑ Yes
If yes, please comment: _Students need to register their visas at the Cancillería and receive an "empadronamiento" or acknowledgement paper_.

AIRPORT RECEPTION
Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? □ No  □ Yes
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? □ No  ☑ Yes
Please comment: _My host mom drove me to and from the airport at either end of my exchange. Taking the bus would have been complex_.
What is the closest airport to the host university? _Mariscal Sucre International Airport_.

ORIENTATION
Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? □ No  ☑ Yes
Was there a cost for the orientation session? □ No  □ Yes, how much? _._
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? □ No  ☑ Yes
Please comment: _Orientation is a good way to meet people and get to know the campus. There is an optional city tour for $60 USD that I recommend highly!_
LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
Is there a language program available either before or during the term? ☑ No ☑ Yes
If yes, how long is it? It takes the form of Spanish courses for foreign students.
Is there an additional cost for language training? ☑ No ☑ Yes: How much?
Please comment: EPE courses (Español Para Extranjeros) were designed for international students, and can be taken alongside regular courses. Not all regular courses are open to SFU students.

ACCOMMODATION & LIVING
Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available? ☑ No ☑ Yes
If yes, are you living in a university dormitory? ☑ No ☑ Yes
If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory? ☑ No ☑ Yes
If yes, please describe: n/a, stayed with a host family set up by the university.
What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? 970.86 CAD
Is there a meal plan? ☑ No ☑ Yes: How much is it?
If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities? ☑ No ☑ Yes
How far is your dormitory from the main campus? 15 minute bus ride.
Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:
Host families are required by the university to provide their students with wi-fi. A free phone plan is provided by USFQ with purchase of a basic cellphone (approx $50 US).

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival? ☑ No ☑ Yes
If yes, how did you arrange this? I wired money from my bank in Canada.
Is off-campus housing easily available? ☑ No ☑ Yes
Please comment on off-campus housing:
Students apply in a separate application to stay with a host family. The international student coordinator can guide you through the process by email.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? 3883.43 CAD
970.86 CAD

Any other comments on accommodation:
Host families provide students with breakfast and dinner. Students are expected to purchase their own lunches at or near the university. I recommend the small almuerzo restaurants, where you get a filling meal for three or four US dollars.
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country? □ No  □ Yes: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?

A benefit to having a local bank account is being able to use debit instead of credit, but it is expensive to open an account. In the end, I decided not to.

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers’ cheques, local currency)?

Bring about $500.00 US with you in a money belt. Diner’s Club credit cards are widely accepted; mastercard and visa only with certain ATMs.

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments? □ Cash □ Debit □ Credit card

Please comment: Smaller businesses will only take cash, and in denominations less than 20. Tourist places like higher-end restaurants also take debit and credit.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? □ No  □ Yes

Please describe the course registration procedure:

Registration is done online through a site called “Banner”, very similar to GoSFU. Students have a separate username and password for Banner. The site is in Spanish.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? Linguistics and Spanish

What is the language of instruction in your courses? Spanish

If not English, are English-taught courses available? Yes, but selection is limited.

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.

Most professors are both knowledgeable and friendly. Course structure consists of lectures, projects, papers, midterms, and final exams. There isn’t too much homework.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?

The main academic benefit was that I had a chance to improve my spoken Spanish while taking courses that I could not have taken at SFU (like Intro to Quechua).

Submission Instructions: 1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire - [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.

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