UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO
Cumbaya, Ecuador

The University
La Universidad de San Francisco de Quito is a relatively young, private, small, liberal arts college in Ecuador. It has about 2,300 students, almost 10% of whom are international students. It is a leader in liberal arts education in Latin America. USFQ offers many degree programs comparable to OU, although it does not have as many majors available. The campus grounds are very well maintained and there is a university clinic for student use. There are also recreational fields, outdoor basketball and volleyball courts, an outdoor food bar used for special functions, a campus bookstore, a cafeteria and a meditation/martial arts building.

The City and Country
USFQ is actually located in Cumbaya, a small, affluent suburb in a valley northeast of Quito. Students live in Quito and take a bus back and forth to campus each class day. Quito itself is the political center and capital of Ecuador. It’s a modern city of about 258,000 people and is located near some of the highest peaks in the Andes. It has been called “The City of Eternal Spring” because it remains at about 70 degrees F. all year round. Quito has an old historical and political center with many shops and parks. It also has several modern malls, recreational parks, restaurants, internet cafes, soccer stadiums and bull-fighting arenas.

Ecuador is one of the most diverse nations geographically in the world. It has volcanoes, beaches, rainforests, snow-covered peaks, rivers, canyons, plains and of the famous Galapagos Islands. Traveling by bus to different parts of the country is very common and inexpensive.

Academic Calendar
The academic calendar is nearly identical to OU’s, beginning about one or two weeks earlier each semester. The first semester begins in August and ends before Christmas. The second one begins in January and is over in May. Dates for 2009/10 academic year, which are subject to change, are:

Fall 2009
June 20 – July 1, 2009 – SPANISH PLACEMENT TEST ONLINE
July 4 – 13, 2009 - SPANISH PLACEMENT TEST ONLINE, SECOND OPPORTUNITY
Aug. 22 – Recommended arrival and the only date for official airport pick-ups
Aug. 24 & 25th – Orientation for new international students
Am I eligible for this program?
All applicants for study abroad must have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5. Students should have completed four semesters of university-level Spanish to participate.

What could I study?
USFQ offers a good assortment of courses in a wide variety of majors. The colleges of the university offering courses that match some of OU’s options are: Architecture, Communication and Contemporary Arts, Biological and Environmental Sciences, Health, Liberal Arts, Administration and Development (Business). Some classes present unique opportunities to take field trips into the rain forest or to the Galapagos Islands. Although students may take a few courses that are designed for non-native speakers of Spanish, it isn’t possible to take a full 12 credits in that type of curriculum.

What about academic credit?
Grades received on reciprocal exchange study abroad programs through the University of Oklahoma are posted by the Office of Admissions as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) on the OU permanent record. These grades are not factored into the participant’s Grade Point Average. Because each student is enrolled in 12 credits per semester while abroad, participants are expected to enroll in an equivalent number of credits at the host university. Academic systems around the world vary in what equals 12 OU credits. The decision about awarding credits is made in the Office of Admissions at OU.

The majority of the courses at USFQ are worth 3 credits and the USFQ credits are a 1-1 match to OU’s credits.

Where would I live?
There are no dormitories on campus. Students will live with assigned host families in Quito. Students will be responsible for finding their own transportation to and from the university. Living with a family will expose the student to traditional family life and culture, as well as provide the necessary environment for speaking practice.

How much does it cost?
Costs at OU: All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal exchange programs are enrolled at OU for 12 credits each semester abroad. Tuition and
fees are billed through and paid directly to OU at the appropriate resident or non-
resident rate. Fees are charged at the Arts and Sciences College rate, even if the
student’s major is in a different college. All participants pay a $10/credit hour study
abroad fee.

Room and Board: The cost to live with a family is $14/day and includes two meals/day.
The cost during the 2009/10 academic year is projected to be $3,302 USD ($1,560 USD
for fall and $1,742 USD for spring.)

How do I apply?
Instructions for applying to any semester or academic year exchange program may be
found in the “Apply” section of our website.

For more information please contact:
ea@ou.edu