ALS 3954:
Environmental Science, Health, and South American Culture
WINTER SESSION 2015-2016
January 1 – January 16th 2016

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The core of this unique experience is a two-week trip to Ecuador that explores that country’s incredibly diverse ecosystems and introduces students to its agriculture and its people. It includes visits to cities and universities, jungles, tropical islands, and mountains, and focuses on research and outreach efforts that will engage students in a multicultural perspective focused on the interaction of South American culture, environmental issues, and human health, and a chance to build lifelong friendships while engaging in professional and personal development opportunities. The framework for this high-impact experience is a special study course offered Winter Session. Preparation for the trip occurs during fall semester.

COURSE CREDIT
Three credits in Winter Session 2015 (ALS 3954). These credits count toward the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences International Minor and Area 7 of the CLE. Check with your advisor to see how they may apply towards your major as some departments may also allow credits in Area 2.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY
• Depart from Washington, DC Jan 1
• Arrive in Quito, Ecuador
• Galapagos Islands (Santa Cruz and Isabella)
• Cotopaxi (Andes Mountains)
• Tiputini Research Station (Amazon jungle)
• Arrive back in DC, Jan 16

EXCURSIONS
Quito - Quito is the capital of Ecuador. A city of 2 million, it was founded in 1534 on the ruins of an ancient Inca city. At 2,800 meters above sea level is the world’s highest official capital.
Galapagos Islands - An archipelago of volcanic islands distributed on either side of the Equator in the Pacific Ocean, the islands are famed for their vast number of endemic species.
Tiputini Biodiversity Station – Located within the world’s greatest biodiversity hotspot and one of the planet’s last wilderness areas, the main goal of TBS is to better understand nature so that appropriate and effective conservation strategies may be implemented.
Cotopaxi - Cotopaxi is one of South America's most famous volcanoes and one of its most active ones. With its 5911 m it also ranks among the world’s highest active volcanoes (26th highest). The majestic, snow covered symmetrical stratovolcano is located on the Eastern Cordillera of the...
Ecuadorian Andes, 60 km south of Quito and 35 km northeast of Latacunga. Cotopaxi National park consists of Paramo which is an alpine tundra ecosystem. Paramos in the Ecuadorian Andes Mountains are important areas of water storage and supply to both Quito and the Amazon basin.

**COSTS**
Program fee (ground travel, lodging, meals, excursions): $4,200*
*subject to change depending on currency exchange rates and other factors; does not include air fare or other pre-departure expenses such as passport, visa, and immunizations.
Winter Session tuition (3 credits): $1,021.75 (in state), $2,642.25 (out of state)
All students will receive a minimum scholarship of $200 toward the program fee.

**RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL AID**
Global Education Office (GEO) ([www.educationabroad.vt.edu](http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu))

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
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**HOW TO APPLY**
Visit the GEO website for application materials.
A completed application, letter of reference, and $500 deposit are required to be considered for inclusion in this program. Application materials are available from the GEO website ([www.educationabroad.vt.edu](http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu)). Applications will be completed online. Upon acceptance, students will be billed the $500 application fee through their student account. Remaining fees will be billed and are due no later than December 1.