



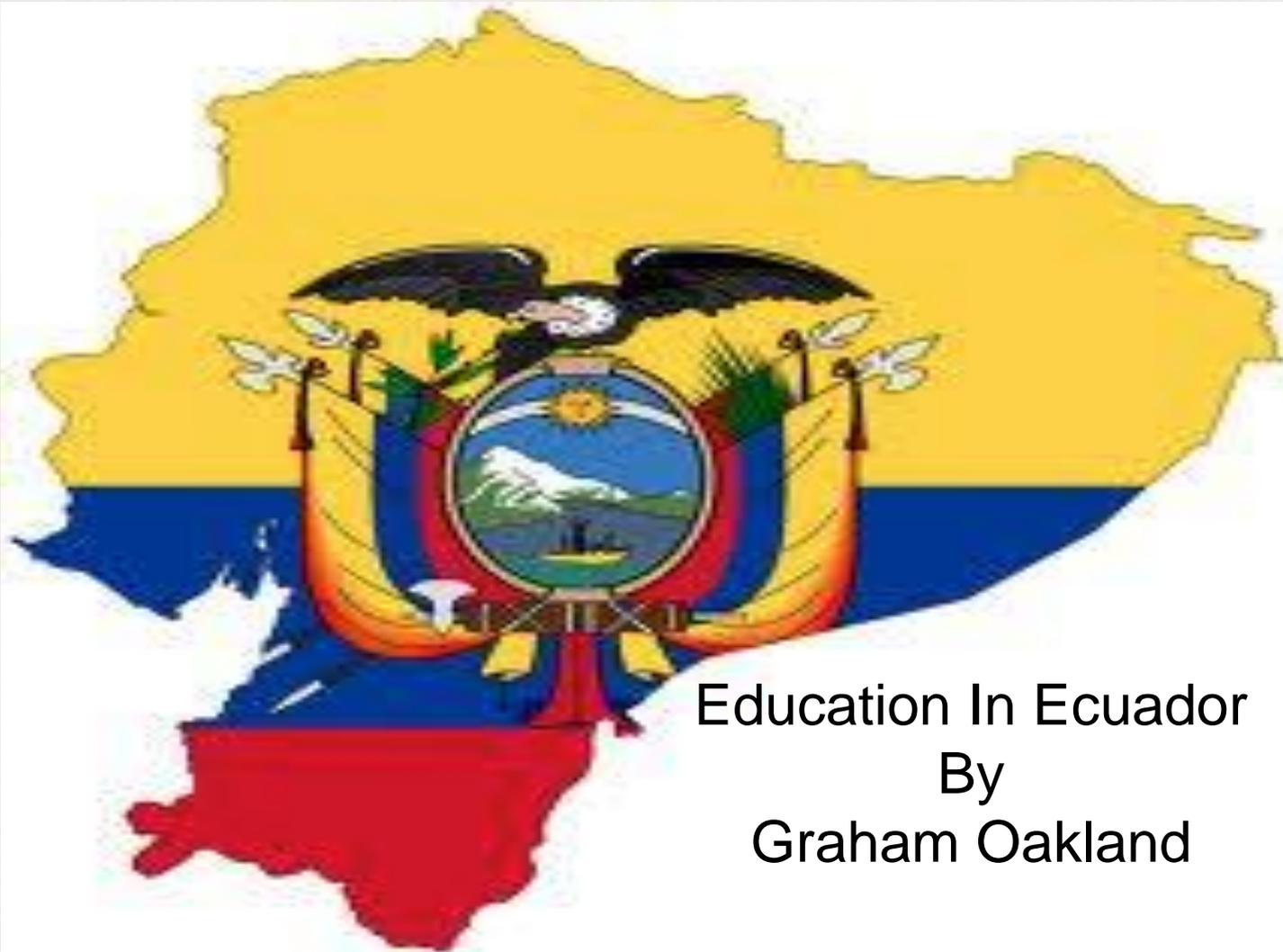
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program Country Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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Education In Ecuador
By
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Where is Ecuador?

- ❖ Northwestern South America
- ❖ Located on the equator
- ❖ North of Peru
- ❖ South of Colombia
- ❖ Pacific Ocean to the west
- ❖ 283,561 sq. km.
Approximately the same size
as Colorado



The People of Ecuador

❖ Population:

❖ 15,223,680 (July 2012)

❖ Ethnic Groups (2010 Census):

❖ Mestizo 71.9%

❖ Montubio 7.4%

❖ Afroecuadorian 7.2%

❖ Amerindian: 7%

❖ White: 6.1%

❖ Other: .04%

❖ Current President (2013):

❖ Raphael Correa

❖ Official Language:

❖ Spanish

Multiple Indigenous Languages Spoken

Table 1. Linguistic Diversity in Ecuador

	Indigenous	People of	Ecuador
Region	Tribe	Language	Location
Amazon	SHUAR-ACHUAR	Shuar Chicham	Province of Morona Santiago and part of the provinces of Zamora and Pastaza
	SECOYA	Paicoca	Province of Napo, along the shores of the Eno, Napo, Aguarico and Shushufindi rivers, and Lagarto Cocha and Sancudococha lakes
	SIONA	Paicoca	Province of Napo, along the shores of the Cuyabeno, Tarapuno and Aguarico rivers
	HUAO (HUAORAM)	Huao Tinro	Provinces of Napo and Pastaza
	A'I (COFÁN)	A'ingae	Northern part of the province of Napo, near the Colombian border
Sierra	QUICHUA	Quichua Shimi	Provinces of Napo, Pastaza and Zamora
	WAORANI	Waotodedo	Provinces of Napo & Pastaza in Amazon lowlands
	QUICHUA	Quichua Shuni	Provinces of Carchi, Imbabura, Pinchincha, Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Bolivar, Chimborazo, Cañar, Azuay and Loja
Coast	AWA (COAIQUER)	Awapit	Northeastern part of the Province of Carchi and in the provinces of Esmeraldas and Imbabura
	CACHI	Cha'Palaachi	Province of Esmeraldas, along the shores of the Onzole, Camarones, Zapallo, San Miguel, Barbudo, Verde, Viche, Cañando, Cojimies, Sudo and Bilsa rivers
	TSACHI	Tsa'fiqui	Southeastern part of the province of Pinchincha in the township of Santo Domingo de los Colorados
	EPERA	Epera Pedede	Small group of about 60 in Esmeraldas Province

Note. Adapted from *Ecuador: Un país en imágenes* by Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Ecuador, 2002.

Economic and Social Conditions

- ❖ Ecuador uses the U.S. dollar
- ❖ Drug trafficking is a growing problem as Ecuador continues to be used as a smuggling route for narcotics destined for Central and North America.
- ❖ Life Expectancy
 - ❖ Males: 76.81
 - ❖ Females: 79.84
- ❖ Literacy Rate: 93.2%
 - Male: 94.2%
 - Female: 92.3%
- ❖ Poverty is one of Ecuador's biggest problems. 28.6% of the population live below the poverty line.
- ❖ Major exports include petroleum, seafood, bananas, cocoa, and coffee.



Education in Ecuador

- ❖ Preschool starts as young as age 4.
- ❖ Primary and secondary schooling are both free and compulsory.
- ❖ Secondary school structure is split into two parts, middle (3 years) and high school (3 years).
 - ❖ Middle school focuses on basic skills to prepare for a specialization.
 - ❖ High school allows the integration of knowledge to be transferred towards a profession or higher education.
- ❖ Tertiary education is similar to that of the United States

	Education/School Level	Grade From	Grade To	Age From	Age To	Years	Notes
	Preschool			4			
	Primary School	1	6	6	12	6	Compulsory and free
	Secondary School	7	12	13	-	6	Compulsory and free
	Undergraduate					4	Bachelor's degree.
	Graduate					2	Master's Degree

Education Cont.

- ❖ The government provides uniforms and books for primary and secondary schooling. Students in primary and secondary school attend 5 days a week. Monday - Friday
- ❖ The school year is dependent on location:
 - ❖ Coastal Region: April – January
 - ❖ Sierra Regions: October – July
- ❖ Students in primary and secondary school attend 5 days a week. Monday - Friday

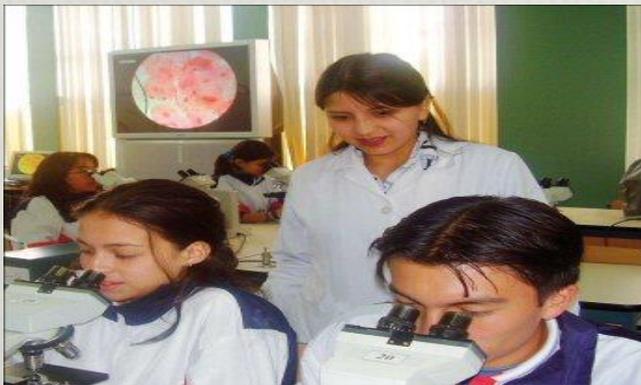


Education Cont.

- ❖ Primary school grades 1 & 2 are held for 5 hours per day. Lessons are 45 minutes in duration and there are 3 breaks of 15 minutes throughout the day. Lunch break is 3 hours long.
 - ❖ *Primary school curriculum focuses on basic reading and writing, English, mathematics, science, history, and geography.*
- ❖ Grades 3 – 12 are held for 6 hours per day. Lessons are 45 minutes in duration and there are 4 breaks of 15 minutes throughout the day. Lunch break is 2 hours long.
 - ❖ *Secondary school curriculum focuses on Spanish, English, physics, chemistry, world history, mathematics, and natural sciences.*

Diversity of schools & Classrooms in Ecuador

- ❖ In urban areas, classrooms may resemble those of the United States with new technology and up to date amenities.
- ❖ Urban schools are generally given priority to funding
- ❖ Urban teachers tend to have higher salaries.



- ❖ In rural areas classrooms may lack basics such as electricity and running water
- ❖ Rural schools lack necessary funding for upkeep.
- ❖ Rural teachers tend to have lower salaries.

Steps to Educational Reform

President Correa has placed major emphasis on increasing education in

Ecuador

- ❖ 2006 - The Ten Year Education Plan (overseen by the Ministry of Education) passed with goals such as achieving a 75% secondary graduation rate, ending illiteracy, improving materials and the infrastructure of schools, and increased training and professional development for educators.
- ❖ 2008 - Ecuador's new constitution declares that primary and secondary schooling be free and compulsory, and that all people have the right to learn in their own language and cultural environment.
- ❖ “Escuelas Unidocentes” (one teacher schools) – This program is administered with the intention of reaching students who live in rural areas with limited access to schools.
- ❖ 2009 - All teachers are now subject to evaluation. Incentives are given for teachers working close to the northern border.
- ❖ 2010 - Adoption of the Higher-Education Reform Act. This gives the president the power to appoint those who control the universities.

Educational Issues and Limitations

- ❖ Approximately 60% of the population live in urban areas where basic services such as water, electricity, and healthcare are plentiful. The other 40% (mostly indigenous population) live in rural areas where there is often a lack of resources, materials, basic healthcare, and infrastructure.
- ❖ Many children/young adults living in poverty are encouraged at a young age to leave school to work and help support their families monetarily.
- ❖ Indigenous languages are experiencing shift and loss due to lack of emphasis put on native language instruction and preservation



English in Ecuador

- ❖ English is mandatory in primary and secondary schools. The language is required to be taught at least 5 hours week.
- ❖ English teachers are sparse in many rural areas and many are considered under qualified due to lack of professional development or exposure to the language.
- ❖ Learning English is seen as a pathway to a better life, affording better job opportunities.
- ❖ Due to Ecuador's major exportation business, English is often a necessity for conducting meetings with international partners.

Family Values and cultural norms

- ❖ The familial unit is generally considered by Ecuadorians to be the most important aspect of life.
 - ❖ Children are cherished and a strong emphasis is placed on respect for adults and elders.
 - ❖ Commonly the mother seen as the primary nurturer and father as the primary provider.
- ❖ Depending on location; gender roles vary greatly from equal to male-dominated.
- ❖ Respeto (respect) across all classes, ethnic divisions, and between genders is fundamental to Ecuadorians.
- ❖ Discourse Norms:
 - ❖ Direct eye contact is seen as respectful
 - ❖ A hand shake is a common greeting for new acquaintances.
 - ❖ Unless a close friend or family member, always refer to another by honorific title and surname
 - ❖ Greetings are more tactile for close friends. Men hug or pat each other on the shoulder (“abrazo”) and women will kiss each other on the right cheek.

Ecuador and the United States

- ❖ Ecuador and the U.S. share concern over armed militant groups and illicit drug trafficking. The two countries are working together to combat these issues.
- ❖ The U.S. and Ecuador are major trade partners. The two countries signed a bilateral investment treaty.



- ❖ Immigration.
 - ❖ According to the 2010 census, there are roughly 665,000 Ecuadorians living in the United States making up 1.3% of the total U.S.- Hispanic population.
 - ❖ The most concentrated area of Ecuadorians living in the U.S. is in Queens, New York with 98,512.

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