Study Abroad – Ecuador: Cultural Immersion through Food  
CSES 3954; CRN 60483  
First Summer Session - May 25-June 8, 2016

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The core of this unique experience is a two-week trip to Ecuador that explores food, culture, and agriculture across several geographical and ecological regions in Ecuador. “Tell me what you eat, and I’ll tell you who you are,” wrote renowned gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin in 1825. The type of food we eat, and ultimately how we prepare it and share it reflects who we are and where we come from. Therefore, the social context for food is very important and significant. While in Ecuador, we will visit cultural and historical sites, universities, and most importantly we will learn about local food, cook with the locals and experience their “food culture”. Furthermore, we will explore the driving force behind what we eat across several cultural boundaries. The framework for this high-impact experience is a special study course offered during first summer session. Preparation for the trip occurs during spring semester.

COURSE CREDIT
Three credits in first summer session (CSES 3954). These credits count towards international agriculture option (CALS/CSES), Capstone Projects, and Area 6 and 7 of the CLE. Check with your advisor to see how they may apply towards your major.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY
• Depart from Washington, DC or Charlotte, NC on May 25th
• Arrive in Quito, Ecuador
• Otavalo - is a largely indigenous town in the Imbabura Province of Ecuador
• TENA - the capital of the Napo Province
• Ecuador’s Emerald Coast
• Many more….
• Arrive back in DC/Charlotte, NC, June 8th

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 it is the world’s highest official capital.
• **Otavalo/Peguche** - city that hosts one of the most important indigenous markets in the Andes and its surroundings.
• **Hacienda Verde, Pichincha** - Hike and harvest wild medicinal plants (explanation of traditional plant collection techniques and uses)
• **Tina** - Is a city in the Amazon rainforest – quintessential South American jungle town.
• **Esmeraldas** - It is a typically low-key scene in Esmeraldas, an Afro-Ecuadorean province nestled in the far northwest corner of the country, a seductive mix of rugged jungles, giant mangroves and coconut-lined beaches.
• **Many more stops ………….**
COSTS

- Program fee (ground travel, lodging, meals, excursions): $2,500*

- *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.

- First summer session tuition (3 credits): $1,031 (in state), $2,651 (out of state)

RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL AID

- Scholarship and Financial Aid Office (www.finaid.vt.edu)
- College of Agriculture and Life sciences (CALS)
- Global Education Office (GEO) (www.educationabroad.vt.edu)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Dr. Ozzie Abaye (cotton@vt.edu) or Dr. Ryan Stewart (ryan.stewart@vt.edu).

HOW TO APPLY

- Visit the GEO website for application materials.
- CALS students have priority for the program until April 30, when it will open to all students. 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). Submit completed application online and bring $500 deposit
  (check made out to Treasurer of Virginia Tech) to the CSES office – 337 Smyth Hall. Upon
  acceptance, the Bursar’s Office will bill students for the remaining program fees.