

ECUADOR COUNTRY NOTES 2019-20

Document compiled by British Council: Information correct 10/07/2019. We are aware that information can change throughout the year. Please inform us should you discover any errors.

NOTES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS APPOINTED TO ECUADOR IN 2019-2020

This document is Country Notes for the 2019/20 English Language Assistants Programme in Ecuador. Any previous country notes relating to previous years should be ignored for the 2019/20 academic year.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these notes. However the British Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors which may exist or for any subsequent change

FOREWORD

Congratulations on your recent allocation to a post as an English Language Assistant in Ecuador. Every year, around 2,500 Language Assistants from the UK support the teaching of English in 14 countries around the world. Each one is taking part in a programme that traces its heritage back to 1905. It began as an exchange programme to allow graduates from France to help English students learn French, with 'young Masters in English secondary schools' heading to France to perform a similar role. Shortly afterwards, a similar agreement was reached with the government of Prussia.

Since those early days, the programme has endured major global events, two World Wars, and the Great Depression to name a few. But while the global political, social and economic landscapes may have changed over the years, the Language Assistants initiative has remained committed to increasing language skills across the world.

This document contains important information and advice regarding a variety of practical and administrative matters affecting UK assistants in Ecuador. This document should be read carefully, retained for reference and considered in conjunction with any papers issued by PUCE. It is important that you take this information with you whilst undertaking your year abroad in order to be able to consult it at all times when problems/questions arise.

If your permanent (UK) home address, personal e-mail or phone number should change at any time from now, please inform us immediately by sending an e-mail to languageassistants.uk@britishcouncil.org. We may need to contact you during the year with updates to these notes, invitations or urgent messages.

We hope that you find the following information useful and that you enjoy the year ahead

Best wishes,

British Council Language Assistants Team

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Ecuador is the smallest country in the Andean highlands and has approximately 14 million inhabitants. The official language is Spanish but Amerindian languages are spoken, too, especially Quechua. 95% of the population is Roman Catholics. Ecuador is one of the most bio-diverse countries in the world. The Galapagos Islands and the waters surrounding it are both World Heritage Sites and of vital ecological importance.

The country's economy is very dependent on petroleum production and it is the world's leading exporter of bananas. In 2000, after continued economic instability, the US\$ was introduced as the official currency.

1.0 CO-OPERATING PARTNERS

1.1 BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of [arts and culture](#), [English language](#), [education](#) and [civil society](#). Each year we reach over 20 million people face-to-face and more than 500 million people online, via broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.

Our work in English aims to bring high-quality language materials to every [learner](#) and [teacher](#) who wants them. In developing and post-conflict countries, we teach English and train teachers through radio, web and TV broadcasts. We offer more than three million UK [examinations](#) worldwide, helping people gain

access to trusted qualifications to support their career and study prospects.

Our work in [education](#) and [society](#) helps transform national education systems, builds more inclusive and open societies and increases [young people's opportunities](#). We encourage international students to come and study in the UK, and British students to experience life abroad. We bring [schools](#) around the world together, so young people and teachers from different countries can learn from each other.

Our work in the [arts](#) involves the very best British and international artistic talent. We help increase audiences for international work in the UK and for UK work globally. We bring artists together and support the development of skills and policy in the arts and creative industries. Through this work, we ensure that culture in its broadest sense plays a vital role in connecting with and understanding each other.

In these ways, the British Council builds links between UK people and institutions and those around the world, helping to create trust and lay foundations for prosperity and security around the world.

1.2 COOPERATING PARTNER

There is no British Council office in Ecuador and the Language Assistants programme is managed by PUCE in Ambato. The British Council liaises with PUCE directly. The assistantship programme in Ecuador is administered by:

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador- Sede Ambato

Av. Manuela Sáenz s/n

Sector El Tropezón

Ambato

Tel: (+00593) (3) 258-6016 3 2586016

Website: <http://pucesa.edu.ec/>

Kimberley Paquette is specifically in charge of British Council ELAs.

Email: kpaquette@pucesa.edu.ec

Tel: (+00593) (3) 258-6188 (ext. 135)

2.0 ROLE OF THE LANGUAGE ASSISTANT

The role of a language assistant is a very important one and one that we hope you will enjoy. Remember that you are a paid member of staff with responsibilities and required professionalism that this entails. Assistants will be based in universities, often providing support to the teacher training programs. You will be expected to take your teaching duties seriously and be committed to the demands of the role. Please refer to our website for more information on your role as an [English Language Assistant](#).

As a language assistant you are also an **ambassador for the UK and its culture**. The way you behave will influence how those around you view the UK and you should endeavor to be a positive example. If you set a bad example, you could damage the reputation of the programme and adversely affect the experience of future assistants.

Your first-hand experience of life in the UK is an excellent resource and you should draw on this during your lessons. Please see the section entitled 'Teaching' for classroom tips and resources.

2.1 TEACHING ENGLISH

It is important to be resourceful and use your initiative. If you do not think that you are being used sufficiently, make suggestions of topics that you could discuss with the students or activities that you could get involved with. This document contains a whole chapter about teaching English but to get started the following links are useful.

- www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/whole_manual.pdf
- www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant/essential-uk

Conditions in Ecuador differ from those in the UK. Any difficulties should be discussed with your mentor teacher and/or the teacher of the class concerned in the first instance. You should then follow the line of referral sent to you if the problem cannot be solved in this way. The British Council in the UK will be happy to offer advice but should only be contacted when all other attempts to solve the issue have been made. Problems are dealt with most quickly and effectively locally and

if contacted, the British Council in the UK will instruct you to take the steps mentioned above.

Consider these steps to avoid problems:

- Form a good working relationship with other members of staff
- Introduce yourself to all members of the English department
- Be patient and polite and be aware of the work pressure of others
- Do not correct the teacher in front of students
- Be punctual, responsible and prepare adequately for your lessons
- Meet regularly with your mentor. This gives them the opportunity to feedback about your performance and for you to raise any concerns or issues

Do tell people if you have problems or if you need information as otherwise they will assume everything is OK. Your institution will not appreciate it if you suffer in silence and complain six months later. A lot of past assistants may tell you that their assistantship in Ecuador was the best year of their life. This can raise expectations and often leads to people feeling low, especially during the first few weeks until they settle in.

2.2 OBSERVATION PERIOD

When you first arrive you should ask for a period of observation of 1-2 weeks. It may not be offered to you automatically. Observation will allow you to familiarise yourself with the environment, to experience classroom management techniques as well as to get to know the names, faces and personalities of your pupils and gauge their level of English.

Try to note the following:

- how the teacher starts and ends the lesson
- how the teacher speaks to pupils
- how the teacher involves all pupils, including shy ones, in the class activity
- what the teacher's attitude is to pupil errors and error correction
- how the teacher controls disruptive behaviour, lateness and lack of effort

3.0 ALLOCATION

3.1 PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT

The period of appointment for UK assistants in Ecuador will be from 26 August 2019 to 22 May 2020. The number of hours worked will be 15 – 18 per week. Assistants should arrive on 19 August for administrative procedures.

3.2 HOLIDAYS

Assistants are entitled to the usual school holidays, details of which you should be able to obtain from Kimberley Paquette. They can be found here for [2019](#) and [2020](#). The Christmas break will run from 23 December 2019 to 3 January 2020. You should not be absent on other occasions without prior permission.

3.3 STAYING FOR A CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Unfortunately it is not possible to stay for a consecutive year in Ecuador. ELAs are welcome to apply for an assistantship in any other country for which they meet the eligibility criteria. This should be done through our online application system.

3.4 PREDECESSORS

Contact details of last year's assistants will have already been sent to you. Past assistants have emphasised how useful it is to contact former assistants and have described their advice as invaluable

4.0 PRE-DEPARTURE

4.1 FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a wealth of resources we recommend you utilise. Before travelling to Ecuador, you should:

- Check the FCO's travel advice pages and subscribe to updates so that you receive any important changes to the FCO's advice. During a crisis, advice for British nationals will be published on the travel advice website and updated regularly, so by subscribing you will ensure that you are aware of any updates.
- Read the 'Support for British National Abroad' documentation provided by the FCO, which can be found [here](#)
- Follow the FCO social media pages for up-to-date alerts and information.

4.2 PASSPORTS & VISAS

Before leaving the UK you must be in possession of a passport, valid until at least December 2020.

All assistants will apply for a VOLUNTARY, MISSIONARY OR RELIGIOUS VISA, CATEGORY 12 – VII. In order to apply for this, you will need to go to this page:

PUCE will provide the following documents for your visa application which will be sent to the British Council and given to you.

- A legalised letter addressed to the Consul of Ecuador in the United Kingdom signed by the legal representative of the organisation established in Ecuador, which should contain:
- A justification of the host Ecuadorian institution to request the services of a foreigner.
- A description of the activities the applicant is to perform in Ecuador.

- The agreement from the institution to cover the expenses of the return trip of the volunteer to the place of origin in case there is an order of deportation issued by the national authority.
- Notarized copy of the appointment of the legal representative of the entity duly registered.
- A copy of the notarized agreement, decree or official registration (Registro Oficial), in which it was published, through which the government of Ecuador authorizes the operation of the organization.
- Notarized copy of the statutes of the organization.
- Letter of compromise by which the applicant offers to do voluntary work.

As soon as you have the documents listed above ready please contact the Ecuadorian consulate on +44 2074510040 / +44 2074510041 / +44 2074510043 / +44 2078370585 Horario: De lunes a viernes 10:00 a 13:30 (atención al público) - 15:00 a 17:00 (información y citas) to make an appointment to obtain your visa. The visa costs USD 180.

PUCE will take care of the VISA payments once the assistants have arrived, at the end of August.

Please bear in mind that visa procedures may vary from year to year. The British Council tries to obtain the latest information on your visa requirements but we are unable to accept any liability if the information provided here differs from what the Consulate requires from you.

4.2 INSURANCE

You are required to take out comprehensive insurance to cover you during your time in Ecuador. It is important to cover medical and other expenses, personal accident and personal liability, luggage and personal possessions and cancellation charges. We recommended you research the various options available and consult other/ former assistants before purchasing a suitable policy. However, any insurance you purchase should include cover for emergency treatment and repatriation.

The British Council will not be responsible for you while you are in Ecuador, although we will offer support when necessary.

If you do fall ill make sure you keep copies of all medical bills, receipts or other documents. You will then need these to make a claim.

The British Council is unable to advise on private insurance packages, so you are recommended to consult an insurance broker for professional advice and to check whether you are covered by your parents' insurance policy. Undergraduate assistants may find that a "study abroad" policy purchased online is an option. Please be aware that some insurance policies, usually 'backpackers' insurance, do not allow for trips home during the year and it is important to check the small print of your policy to make sure that you are covered. We recommended you research the various options available and consult other/ former assistants before purchasing a suitable policy. However, any insurance you purchase should include cover for emergency treatment and repatriation.

4.3 DOCUMENTS TO TAKE

We recommend that you scan important documents before leaving the UK and email these to yourself so that you have access to them while you are away. Documents you may need access to include; birth certificate (although you should not need the original) and scanned copies of the photo page of your passport, visa and driving licence (take this with you). You should carry a photocopy of the photo page of your passport rather than the original and always have this on you as a means of ID.

5.0 MONEY MATTERS

5.1 MONEY MATTERS

The allowance will be US\$ 450 gross per month (approximately £306). This amount is intended to provide a reasonable basic standard of living for one person. Assistants are supposed to pay income tax but PUCE will cover the costs for you.

Please note that you may not receive your first payment for six to eight weeks after you first arrive in Ecuador, so you should ensure that you take around US\$500 or a credit card to cover initial costs. We also recommend that you have access to funds in a bank account in the UK.

5.2 ADDITIONAL INCOME

If you wish to supplement your income by working additional hours, please check whether these will be paid additionally by PUCE. If you wish to supplement your income by giving private tuition in English, you are strongly advised not to advertise in local papers or public places. (Please read the relevant sections of our **Personal Safety leaflet**) In general pupils are easily found through school or private connections, i.e. by word-of-mouth. However, it is essential to check that the other English teachers in your school(s) do not mind, so that you are not perceived to be 'stealing' their private pupils. However, it is essential to check that the other English teachers in your school(s) do not mind, so that you are not perceived to be 'stealing' their private pupils.

5.3 BANKS

You are advised to wait until you arrive in Ecuador before considering whether to open a bank account. This will allow you to research all the local options, seek recommendations and choose what will be most convenient for the rest of the year. Assistants do not have to open a bank account but they can if they prefer to. Please check with PUCE regarding the documents required for this.

5.4 LOST OR STOLEN CREDIT CARDS

If a credit card is lost or stolen, immediately call your bank to cancel it. If stolen, the theft should be reported to the police.

5.5 GRADUATES WITH STUDENT LOANS

If you will be overseas for more than 3 months, you will need to complete an **Overseas Income**

Assessment Form to enable the Student Loans Company to calculate how much you need to repay. On the Overseas Income Assessment Form you should provide them with details of your circumstances and prospective income. You will also be required to provide evidence of income or means of support. They will then send you a repayment schedule showing how much you need to pay each month. Your monthly payments will be based upon the earnings threshold for your destination country. More information can be found online [here](#).

6.0 HEALTH & WELLBEING

Please see the Foreign Commonwealth Office website for more information regarding healthcare in [Ecuador](#).

For information in **insurance** please see section 4.2 of this document.

6.1 VACCINATIONS

The British Council is unable to pay for your vaccinations, but we recommend strongly that you consult your GP and get information on the vaccinations needed for Ecuador before you travel. [Fit for travel](#), NHS website will be a useful starting point.

6.2 MEDICATION

Make sure that if you need medication you bring a large enough supply. Label it clearly before boarding a plane. If you have to carry syringes or needles, please remember to get a letter from your GP explaining their medical necessity. We also recommend checking your airline's website to see whether any other documentation is needed. Country specific information and advice can be found on the National Travel Health Network and Centre website.

6.3 MENTAL HEALTH

Although working abroad can be enjoyable, it can also be challenging. Lack of familiar support systems, disrupted daily routines, language

barriers, culture shock and unexpected situations can intensify stress levels rather than alleviate them.

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. You are advised to read the leaflet emailed to you even if you are not currently suffering from mental health problems.

The Foreign Commonwealth Office provides information about mental health and travel via the following links. The advice contains guidance on travelling abroad and mental health, and information about how the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) is able to assist British nationals with mental health needs abroad. The leaflets detail the type of assistance you may find in the country. The leaflet also explains some of the differences between English law and practice and that of other countries.

[Mental Health: Travelling Abroad](#)

[Mental Health: Travelling Abroad Checklist](#)

7.0 ARRIVAL

7.1 INDUCTION

You should fly out to Quito which is around two hours away from Ambato by car. There you will be collected from the airport so you must email your flight details to Kimberley Paquette and the British Council in the UK.

You should plan to arrive in Quito by 19th August 2019 in order to attend an induction workshop before classes start and to sort all migration requirements.

7.2 SECURITY BRIEFING

The British Embassy in Quito will provide ELAs with a safety and security briefing upon arrival. You should coordinate with each other and agree a suitable date and time with the Embassy. The contact at the Embassy is catherine.ankerson@fco.gov.uk, tel 02 397 2236.

7.3 ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be provided for the whole period of your assistantship. PUCE will pay the rent, water and electricity bills. Assistants will be responsible for Internet and cleaning services.

8.0 SETTLING IN

In Latin America there is often a culture of anti-formality which might give the impression of a lack of organisation and forward planning. Things tend to happen at the very last minute and many assistants from the UK find it hard to adjust to what they consider to be a disorganised society. Usually what is lacking in forward planning is made up for in making newcomers feel welcome. However, you will need to prepare yourself for certain frustrations particularly at bureaucratic level, even prior to departure, especially when it comes to finding out specific details regarding your post and visa applications.

Showing an interest in Ecuadorian culture, especially football, nature and music will certainly endear you to the locals. We recommend you read up as much as possible before you go as this will help you make conversation and talk knowledgeably to people you meet in the first few weeks.

8.1 CULTURE SHOCK

Even if you have travelled to non-European destinations before you might feel slightly overwhelmed in the beginning by your experience. Some areas can be very poor and you might struggle to accept this. Latin America is also known for its alleged chaos. Be open to changes of plans (social and at work), lessons cancelled at the last minute etc. A different climate and location as well as feeling jet lagged after the long flight and struggling with speaking Spanish all day long might lead to temporary disorientation, self-consciousness and exhaustion. This usually leads to feeling homesick but please be assured that this is a very common and normal feeling which usually disappears after a few weeks or even days.

There are some ways which might help you to overcome this initial culture shock. Try not to be

too hard on yourself; yes, you have come to Ecuador to live and work there but that does not mean that you have to be like one of the locals within a week. Give yourself time to get over the jet lag and to explore your area. Do not stay in contact only with UK assistants during your assistantship as this might lead to your feeling alienated for the whole time of your appointment. However, it is important that you contact them and your family and friends back home in the beginning to tell them about your experiences. Other assistants can be a great support as they are going through the same process. Once you have met local people and have tackled bureaucracy you will realise that life in Ecuador gets much easier and you will have an enjoyable time. Religion and family play an important role in everyday life so although you may at first feel like an outsider, once you have proved your interest in local people and their culture, you will be welcomed into these tight-knit groups.

The way you behave and represent the UK will shape the view of the UK of those Ecuadorians with who you are in contact. There are a number of frustrations that Language Assistants to Latin America frequently feel; attitudes towards timekeeping in Latin America can be somewhat lax, particularly in social settings (although you will be expected to be punctual to your classes) Machismo and general gender issues might be something with which female assistants, in particular, struggle to manage and unwanted attention in the street should be expected by female assistants. Discourage this by dressing appropriately and trying to blend in. Bureaucracy can also be very tiresome. Do not get angry as this usually does not lead to any results – especially when dealing with people in authority. Ultimately, remember that you are an ambassador for the UK – do not criticise what you cannot change and above all, keep your sense of humour!

Politeness and respect are seen as important everywhere in Latin America. People generally shake hands when they meet each other and start a conversation with a formal greeting. In Ecuador the formal addresses usted/ustedes are used almost exclusively and you should address older people as señor/señora.

8.2 PRACTICALITIES

- The electrical current is 110 Volts and they have two different types of plugs (the American and the Japanese style) so make sure that you get proper adapters. The 110V current means that electrical appliances that do not have dual voltage (110V~220V) will not work. You can check this on the appliance itself.
- Ecuadorians use the metric system for weights and measures. Distances are measured in km.
- Ecuador is 5 hours behind GMT but does not observe daylight saving time.

Important Numbers:

Country code 0056
Directory assistance 100
Fire 102
Police 101
Medical emergency 911

8.3 CREATING SOCIAL NETWORKS

Even if you have been to Ecuador before it is possible that you will find some things strange at first and will need a little time to settle in. On arrival, the thought of making friends and mixing with the locals can seem like a daunting task, but as long as you are prepared to put yourself out there, it is a part of the experience which previous assistants have found the most enriching. Give yourself some time to adjust – you don't need to feel like a local within a week and in the beginning you'll have a lot of administrative matters to deal with.

The best way to start is with colleagues at PUCE. Make sure you always seem positive, enthusiastic and willing to learn. Socialise as much as you can with colleagues and accept all invitations to events, dinner etc. Tell people what your interests are and ask them to let you know what's going on in the local area. Do keep in mind that teachers can be very busy, especially during exam periods.

Apart from your work in the classroom you may be able to attend other classes in subjects which interest you. You will find that you become much

more integrated into university life and gain considerably more from your stay if you become involved in activities organised by the university, such as sports days, theatre or music productions or modern language societies. If you hear about something happening which interests you, ask if you can become involved. Don't wait to be invited as people may assume that you're not interested.

It is also a good idea to get in touch with other people in the area before you leave. One useful way to do this is to get in contact with a previous assistant in your region and ask them to give you any e-mail addresses or numbers of contacts they made.

Here are some other ways to meet people in Ambato:

- Enrol for an evening class/join a sports club/music group/choir etc
- Volunteer for a charity, society, festival etc
- Join a Facebook group. There are often Facebook groups for people who are new to the city/town, which organise different events to help people make new friends - just search for 'new in "city name"'

Former assistants have recommended not spending all of your time with other assistants, as you won't be able to integrate into your community and life in Ecuador. On the other hand, don't feel that you must cut yourself off from them – assistants can provide a very good support network for each other, as you understand each other's experiences. Don't forget that there may be language assistants from other countries in your area. You may wish to ask PUCE if they have contact details.

As a golden rule, try to say yes to every social opportunity presented to you that does not compromise your personal safety. Accept invitations to places and activities even if they do not sound interesting as you might meet other people there who do share your interests.



- You should be very careful about how you use social networking sites while you are an ELA. Keep your profile private so that it can only be seen by people you intend to see it. If you invite other teachers to be 'friends', remember to remain professional in what you say on your wall and be careful what you say about your employer.
- You should not exchange personal contact details with students, invite them to be 'friends' or accept similar invitations from them. This is likely to be regarded as inappropriate behaviour. Check with teachers about the school's internet policy, particularly regarding any online communication involving students either in or outside school.

9.0 PUCE

9.1 INTRODUCING PUCE

There are approximately 800 students who are placed in groups of 15 - 20 students according to their level. The experience of each assistant will be different. Assistants may be required to participate in Culture Week, which for previous assistants has involved making 20-minute presentations about the UK. Any material you can bring for this would be helpful although previous assistants have found the Internet to be a great resource.

9.2 ABSENCE FROM WORK

Please remember that you are a member of staff and must therefore adhere to the holiday dates set by the school. If you cannot work because of illness you should inform PUCE immediately by telephone. You may be asked to provide a letter from your doctor. This should cover the entire duration of the absence and must be sent to PUCE as soon as it is issued. Any prolonged absence on account of illness should be reported as soon as possible to PUCE and to the British Council.

Requests for leave of absence for any other reason should be made in advance to the Kimberley Paquette who is within her right to refuse it. You are reminded that if you are absent from PUCE without prior authorisation; your allowance will be discontinued from the first day of your absence.

If it becomes necessary to resign from your post, you must give sufficient prior notice in writing of your intended departure to the school, the PUCE and the British Council, setting out your reasons in full. If you are an undergraduate you must also inform your university/college in the UK.

9.3 DRESS CODE

The dress code at the university is casual but smart. The university's language professors are less formal than the other professors, however, they do not dress informally. Trousers or jeans with a shirt, blouse and jumper are most

common. Avoid low-cut or skin revealing clothes as well as any items with offensive content. It is recommended to pack at least one formal outfit as there are two or three formal dinners or assemblies that you will be invited to and formal clothing is quite expensive to buy in the country.

9.4 LINE OF REFERRAL

Conditions in universities in Ecuador differ from those in this country. Any difficulties should be discussed with the teacher of the class concerned in the first instance. If the problem cannot be solved then talk to Kimberley Paquette. Satisfactory solutions can usually be found through such consultations. The British Council in the UK will be happy to offer advice, but should only be contacted when all other attempts to solve the issue have been made. Problems are dealt with most quickly and effectively locally and British Council will instruct you to take the steps mentioned above. **Please see the provided 'Line of Referral' document for information on who to contact.**

To avoid problems at PUCE, it is a good idea to form a good working relationship with other members of staff. You should introduce yourself to all members of the English department. It is important to be patient and polite and to be aware of the work pressure of others. Please remember that it is not good practice to correct the teacher in front of students. You should always be punctual, responsible and prepare adequately for your lessons. Furthermore, meeting regularly with your mentor gives the opportunity for them to feedback about your performance and for you to raise any concerns or issues.

Do tell people if you have problems or if you need information as otherwise they will assume everything is ok. The staff will not appreciate it if you suffer in silence and complain six months later. A lot of past assistants may tell you that their assistantship was the best year of their life. This can raise expectations and often leads to people feeling low especially during the first few weeks until they settle in.



- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJsSEDFnMFvW9JWU6XUn0Q>
- <https://premierskillsenglish.britishcouncil.org/>

10.0 TEACHING RESOURCES

10.1 BRITISH COUNCIL RESOURCES

The British Council produces and co-produces a range of **resources** specifically for Language Assistants. Making use of **these** will help you greatly to deliver interesting and useful classroom activities and will support you in solving problems in the classroom.

- [TeachingEnglish.org](https://www.teachingenglish.org) is an online resource centre produced jointly by the British Council and the BBC:
- The British Council Learn English website is an excellent free online resource for students of English with lots of games, stories, listening activities and grammar exercises:

This may be a useful tool for you to use for your teaching but also to pass on to your students for them to access from home.

Some other websites which may be useful are listed below:

- <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk>
- <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org>
- <https://go.edmodo.com/teachers>
- <https://www.teach-this.com>
- <https://en.islcollective.com>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

10.2 TEACHING MATERIALS

One way of making language learning real for your pupils is bringing authentic materials from the UK into the classroom. Take the opportunity to collect a variety of resources while you are still at home. Past assistants have found that the following materials worked well: Photos of family and friends and your home town, postcards, examples of UK coins and notes, train tickets and timetables, stamps, posters and tea towels to decorate walls, posters and games, UK TV programmes and listings, magazines and local newspapers, CDs, photos of school uniforms, a school timetable and school report, flashcards, word searches, maps, tourist brochures, UK food (marmite, jelly, chocolate, custard, mince pies, gravy granules, etc), adverts, menus, cartoons, comic books, DVDs (e.g. Ready Steady Cook for catering students), simple recipes e.g. scones, recordings of the weather forecast, London tube map, recordings of friends' accents and conversations, bingo, Taboo etc. The more materials you can find the better. Think about what worked well for you as a language student and about which items you find interesting when you are in a foreign country. You can also ask your host institution whether there is something specific they would like you to bring and to find out about topics you are likely to be asked to cover during your assistantship.

10.3 LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS' MANUAL

'Language Assistant' by Clare Lavery is a resource book designed for language assistants and provides information on all aspects of the role. This can be downloaded [here](#).

Please read this carefully as it is extremely useful in preparing you for your assistantship.

¡Buen viaje! We hope you enjoy your assistantship in Ecuador.

11.0 TRAVELLING AROUND ECUADOR

You should check the FCO's advice on travelling in [Ecuador](#). You must inform your mentor about your travel plans, even for short trips.

Former assistants have commented that roads in Ecuador can be dangerous and drink driving can be common place so you are advised to read FCO advice and talk to your mentor for further advice.

The main international airports are in Quito and Guayaquil. Travellers also have the option of internal flights. TAME is the main domestic airline and there is also Aerogal and LAN.

It is advisable to carry a passport when travelling as there may be transit police checks on the highway. Most travellers use autobuses and busetas (which cover long distances quicker than autobuses) and a lot of cities and towns have a main bus terminal (terminal terrestre). Bus fares vary depending on company and season so please make sure to check thoroughly before buying tickets. Local buses are usually slow and crowded, but very cheap. Outside Quito, fixed stops are virtually non-existent. Buses are usually flagged down.

If you intend to rent a car in Ecuador please keep in mind that you must have a British or International Driving Permit. It might be worth checking locally which renting agencies are recommended. If you wish to rent a car you must be at least 21 years old and must have a valid driver's license plus a credit card. Please make sure that you are adequately insured. For advice and information on driving abroad, please refer to this [website](#).

Train travel in Ecuador is limited to a couple of tourist trains. There is a train from Quito to El Boliche and one from from Riobamba to Sibambe, also known as the Naríz del Diablo.

An International Students Card (ISIC) might also be helpful to get, for example, discounts on public transport and admissions to museums. Information can be found on the ISIC website.