Tropical Entomology and Evolutionary Biology in Ecuador and the Galápagos

Trek through the country of Ecuador’s Andean cloud forests and travel to the Galápagos Islands to explore tropical insects and gain an understanding of the culture and biodiversity of this equatorial region. During this two-week summer course, you will explore Ecuador’s cloud forest at the Maquipucuna Reserve while photographing and studying native insect species, plants and wildlife. You’ll use digital macrophotography to capture memorable entomological images, identifying samples for research and discussion.

In the Galápagos Islands, hikes in the land ecosystems of Isabela, Santa Cruz and San Cristóbal Islands will provide opportunities to observe insects, birds, tortoises and other animals, and gain a deeper understanding of Darwin’s theory of evolution and efforts to combat invasive species. Daily snorkeling trips will allow you to closely observe the islands’ unique ocean life.

You’ll experience local culture during visits to coffee and cacao plantations and experience ecotourism in towns in the Chocó Andino Biosphere Reserve. The itinerary also includes two days in Ecuador’s capital, Quito, to visit an alpine ecosystem, tour the historic city, learn about the indigenous history of Ecuador, and visit the national biodiversity museum.

This course requires hiking in mountains and swimming. Students should be prepared for moderate physical activity.

Projected travel dates:
May term

Estimated cost:
$4,250 + UGA in-state tuition and fees + international airfare
global.uga.edu/scholarships

UGA academic credit:
ENTO 4850/4850L, ENTO 3900 (6 hours)
Fulfills experiential learning requirement for CAES students

TO APPLY, VISIT:
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