CONEXIONES is an intensive program of culture and language study at UNM and at the field site of Cuenca, Ecuador. CONEXIONES offers students up to 10 credit hours and features a four-week field experience with a home stay and multiple field excursions.

Students will deepen their knowledge through qualitative research methods used in the social sciences. Focusing on the theme “Food, Sovereignty, and Development”, the class will practice their growing skills in a variety of settings in Cuenca and beyond before participating in original field research on food production, livelihood formation, and rural development in Kichwa communities in the highland province of Cañar.

IMPORTANT DATES

EARLY APPLICATION DEADLINE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018*

*Application by this deadline will assure a place in the program if all conditions are met, and will allow students time to apply for the Regents International Study Grant (see Financial Aid)

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

ORIENTATION
During the last week of the spring semester and on site in Ecuador

FIELD SESSION IN ECUADOR
May 24 - June 23, 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION

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HONORS COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH & PORTUGUESE

IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE UNIVERSITY OF CUENCA

https://honors.unm.edu/conexiones
ABOUT THE FACULTY

Marygold Walsh-Dilley is Director of CONEXIONES-Ecuador 2018. Holding a PhD in Development Sociology, Marygold is Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the Honors College at UNM. She has over 15 years experience conducting research and living in the Andes, including in Ecuador where she was a co-leader for CONEXIONES-Ecuador 2016.

CONEXIONES Coordinator and co-leader Margo Chavez-Charles has vast experience working with the Conexiones Program since 1987. She has served as the Director or co-director in the various Conexiones Programs in Mexico, Spain, Nicaragua, and Ecuador.

Co-leader and coordinator of Spanish instruction, Santiago Vaquera-Vázquez is an Associate Professor of Hispanic Southwest Literatures and Cultures and Creative Writing in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UNM. He was a former co-director of Conexiones-Ecuador in 2014, and has over the last twenty years directed study abroad programs to Latin America and Spain.

Faculty from the University of Cuenca will teach the Spanish classes.

COURSEWORK

PREREQUISITES
CONEXIONES students must possess at least an introductory level of Spanish and the ability to place into a 200-level Spanish class.

All students register for the following two Honors classes:
- UHON 302 Conexiones (3 credits)
- UHON 498 Research Methods (3 credits)

Students must also register for one of the following courses* (3 credits each):
- SPAN 200 Intermediate Spanish Abroad
- SPAN 301 Topics in Ecuador Culture
- SPAN 439 Literature and/or Cinema

And finally all students will register for a Spanish Conversation class (1 credit)

* For a more detailed description of the Spanish courses, visit the Conexiones website: https://honors.unm.edu/conexiones

FINANCIAL AID

The Global Education Office (GEO) administers the Regents International Study Grant. The deadline for that grant is March 15. Check with that office about any other possibilities for scholarships. Check with the UNM Financial Aid office for other options regarding student loans or grants.

GEO website:
https://studyabroad.unm.edu/section/unm-regents-international-study-grant

For students enrolled in the Honors College, a limited number of Travel Stipends are also available. The deadline for those stipends is in April.

TRAVELING AND LIVING

Students will travel at their own expense from the United States to Quito, Ecuador, roundtrip. Travel expenses within Ecuador that are related to the field sessions are included in the CONEXIONES program fee. In Cuenca, CONEXIONES places students in the homes of host families (the families provide room and board and laundry). In addition, lodging during the stay in Quito and any other field excursion is covered by program fees. Students also receive a stipend for meals while on field excursions.

TUTION AND FEES

Tentative Course Fee (depending on enrollment): $2,300. The course fee includes 3 hours of Spanish instruction, room and board, travel within the country, and field excursion expenses. A $200 non-refundable application fee will be applied to the $2300 program fees. Students pay UNM tuition for the other 7 credit hours. (See Coursework). Summer tuition expenses are announced in April 2018.