Ecuador

Urban/Rural Comparative Health &
Amazon Community Medicine

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Quito/Chone, Ecuador –
Urban/Rural Medicine

• Explore the urban and rural healthcare systems of Ecuador through clinical rotations that highlight the differences in the state of healthcare in the two regions.
• Students spend the first portion of the program in Quito, the capital city of Ecuador. There, they take medical and conversational Spanish classes and are immersed in the rich culture of the city.
• In the second stage of the program, students travel to Chone, a rural town in the Manabi province of Ecuador.
• Students work at the Hospital Napoleon Davila Cordova for two full weeks, where they assist doctors with primary health care, sometimes complicated by tropical diseases such as malaria, chagas, leishmaniasis, and dengue.
• Common adult diseases in this area include: congestive heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. Common childhood diseases, however, include: acute respiratory infection, malnutrition, acute diarrheal disease, and parasites.
Puyo, Ecuador – Amazon Community Medicine

• Participate in community healthcare services and learn about the healthcare challenges facing rural communities like those in the Amazonian border town of Puyo.
• There, students witness the ways in which socioeconomic and cultural factors have shaped the healthcare system of the region.
• Begins with one week of Spanish classes and an orientation to Ecuadorian culture in the capital city of Quito.

• The remainder of the program is spent in and around Puyo, where students participate in clinical rotations, and spend time with indigenous tribes in the Amazon.
• In their clinical work, participants may have the chance to observe the incidence of tropical diseases such as malaria and leishmaniasis. Students also learn about the indigenous peoples’ traditions, history, traditional medicines, and perspectives on healthcare.