

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES
CONSULAR MISSION ECUADOR



A NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. EMBASSY
AND CONSULATE GENERAL
FOR THE U.S. COMMUNITY IN ECUADOR

SEPTEMBER 2020



Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno and U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House

**ECUADORIAN PRESIDENT LENIN MORENO VISITS THE
WHITE HOUSE TO MEET WITH U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD
TRUMP**

President Lenin Moreno visited the White House on February 12, 2020, signaling a historic turn in bilateral ties between our two countries. President Trump recognized Ecuador as the “Gateway to the Andes” that will help foster a mutually beneficial relationship for the region. The two leaders discussed Ecuador’s leadership role in advancing security, prosperity, and democracy in the Western Hemisphere. President Trump applauded President Moreno’s stewardship of Ecuador to achieve a peaceful and democratic society focused on the defense of basic rights and a free market economy with a strong foundation in growth and job creation.

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A Message from Ambassador Michael J. Fitzpatrick

Greetings. I hope that you and your families are staying healthy and well during these challenging times. I know how difficult being separated from loved ones can be, and what an adjustment it is to comply with mask requirements, social distancing, curfews, and other measures that help us limit the spread of COVID-19. These measures are vitally important for us to break the cycle of transmission and to eventually return to a sense of normalcy, whatever that new normal will be.

While complying with social distancing and limiting our contacts, U.S. Mission Ecuador continues to engage with our Ecuadorian counterparts in the fight against COVID-19. In total, the U.S. Agency for International Development donated 250 ventilators, which reflect cutting-edge technology and provide Ecuador flexibility in treating critical patients affected by the virus. Handing over of the final shipment of 200 ventilators, I had the opportunity to discuss our joint efforts with Vice President María Alejandra Muñoz and Health Minister Juan Carlos Zevallos López and reinforce our commitment to supporting Ecuador during this difficult time. I am proud to say that United States – through our whole-of-government efforts – has, to date, provided Ecuador nearly \$25 million in COVID-19 related assistance.



Ambassador Michael J. Fitzpatrick Delivers Ventilators to Ecuador Minister of Public Health Juan Carlos Zevallos López

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Embassy in Quito and our Consulate in Guayaquil assisted thousands of U.S. citizens to return to their families in the United States, despite movement and flight restrictions. I congratulate our employees, our host government partners and the airport authorities who work together to make it possible to have gone in short order from mass evacuations to reopening both Quito and Guayaquil airports to international travelers. This is especially impressive when we recognize that so many other countries in the region continue to have shuttered their airports indefinitely. As I write this, at least five U.S. air carriers have already resumed regularly scheduled flights to multiple U.S. cities, with more carriers and cities to be added soon.

In addition, we continue working hard to support the Ecuadorian government as it confronts the current economic downturn. In August, Ecuador successfully renegotiated its private international debt while advancing greatly in working with the International Monetary Fund for a new assistance program that should both increase financial transparency and significantly reduce short-term debt burdens. I cannot stress how important this achievement is for Ecuador's continued economic health. It allows more breathing room to focus on fighting COVID-19, while supporting valuable social programs. On the economic front, Mission Ecuador helps provide support to women-owned and small and medium-sized businesses through Development Finance Corporation loans. Ecuadorian banks have already received \$290 million dollars in DFC financing this year, and we look to expand that lending in the future. On the environmental side, the U.S. Geological Survey leads a multi-agency National Response Team to help the Ecuadorians fight regressive erosion on the Coca River which has damaged infrastructure and is putting billions of dollars in investments at risk. Traveling to the site of remediation efforts (in a tropical rainstorm!), I was once again amazed by the raw power of nature and the roles we humans can play in our ecosystem; this has never been more apparent to me than it is in the beautiful and fragile, yet geologically active, country that is Ecuador.

I hope you were able to join us for our online Fourth of July celebration. Maybe you were one of those thousands of people that shared it online! Looking forward to the U.S. November elections, I encourage you to register to vote – and then request your absentee ballots – if you have not already done so. Even overseas, you can have your voice heard.

I am very proud of our Embassy and Consulate staff, Americans and Ecuadorians alike. They continue to work through this crisis not only providing services to our fellow Americans but working with our Ecuadorian partners to produce concrete results in the bilateral relationship. As you enjoy all that Ecuador has to offer, please continue to monitor both national and local government announcements on social distancing and COVID-19 restrictions and do your part to fight this terrible pandemic.

And please remember: Masks. Hand gels. Social distancing. (It really is that simple.) Just don't forget not to lose your humor – or patience with yourself or each other.

MJF

Welcome Deputy Chief of Mission Debra Hevia



Debra Hevia began her assignment as Deputy Chief of Mission in Quito on August 24, 2020. She was previously the Director of the Mid-Level Division in the Office of Career Development and Assignments, Bureau of Global Talent Management. She served as Political Counselor in Bucharest, Romania and in Panama City, Panama. Other postings include Bolivia, the Netherlands, the Department of State Operations Center, the Office of Central American Affairs, Nicaragua, and Slovakia. She was raised in upstate New York, and earned a B.A. in International Studies from American University in Washington, DC. She speaks Spanish, Romanian, Slovak, and Dutch. Hobbies include hiking, biking, yoga, and reading. She and husband Marcelo Hevia have two college-aged children.

Welcome Consul General Brian S. Quigley, Jr.



Brian Quigley began his assignment as Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil in August of 2020. Prior to that, he served as an Advisor in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs' Office of Economic Policy and Summit Coordination. He was previously seconded to the Organization of American States where he was the Deputy Executive Secretary for the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism from 2017 to 2019. Mr. Quigley served as the Economic and Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 2014 to 2017. His prior diplomatic assignments include Mexico City, Monterrey, La Paz, Washington, D.C., Tokyo and Guadalajara.

Mr. Quigley entered the Foreign Service in 2000. He is from Virginia Beach, Virginia, and received a B.S. in International Business from Old Dominion University and a M.A. in Administration from the George Washington University. Mr. Quigley is married and has two children.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE FROM OVERSEAS? HERE'S HOW!

HOW TO VOTE FROM ANYWHERE IN **2 Simple Steps...** WHEN YOU'RE AN AMERICAN OVERSEAS

ACROSS THE POND? **NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, YOU CAN VOTE.**

If you're an American living abroad, you can have your absentee ballot sent to you.

HERE'S HOW:

STEP
1

FILL OUT THE **FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)** AT [FVAP.GOV](https://www.fvap.gov) TO REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR BALLOT

WHEN?

Send it to your election office by August 1* (or later depending on your state) for the General Election on November 3, 2020.

STEP
2

FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES

WHEN?

By the recommended deadline of **OCTOBER 13, 2020.**

WHAT IF THE BALLOT DOESN'T ARRIVE IN TIME TO FILL OUT AND SEND BACK BY THE DEADLINE?
Use the *Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)* as a backup ballot at [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov).

WANT TO MAKE SURE YOUR BALLOT WAS RECEIVED?
Check the status at [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov).

THAT'S IT. YOU'RE AN OVERSEAS VOTER.
GET MORE INFO AND ASSISTANCE AT [FVAP.GOV](https://www.fvap.gov)



Americans can vote. **Wherever they are.**

QUESTIONS ABOUT OVERSEAS VOTING?

Now all U.S. citizens can receive their blank ballots electronically. Depending on the state in which you are eligible to vote, you may get your ballot by email, fax, or internet download.

To start, go to www.FVAP.gov to complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), print and sign the form then return it to your local election office in the United States. You can also use the absentee ballot application from your state electoral commission. Absentee ballot applications deadlines vary from a few days to three weeks before election day – depending on the state. However, to ensure your ballot is received by the state deadline, we encourage you to apply early.

We recommend overseas U.S. citizens get in the habit of completing FPCAs each January. You should include your email address on the form so it's easier for your election officials to reach you if there is a problem. If your state delivers ballots electronically by fax only, be sure to include your fax number. If you request electronic delivery and include your email address or fax number, you'll receive your blank ballot 45 days before general and mid-term elections and generally 30 days before special, primary, and run-off elections for federal offices. Most states now have voter registration verification websites, and many offer a means of tracking the status of your registration and ballot.

You do not need an appointment to drop off your ballot. You can drop off your ballot inside a pre-printed envelope at the time and locations specified below:

U.S. Embassy Quito

Tuesdays between 09h00 and 12h00

U.S. Consulate Guayaquil

Tuesdays and Thursdays between 09h00 and 12h00

Alternatively, you may place your signed ballot in either a postage-paid envelope or envelope bearing domestic U.S. postage addressed to your local election officials and send that envelope to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

For questions regarding voting or if you need voting assistance, please email us at VoteQuito@state.gov or VoteGuayaquil@state.gov.



COVID-19: FOLLOW THESE TIPS AND STAY SAFE

If you believe you may have COVID-19 or were exposed to someone who may have COVID-19 call **171** or **911**. Ecuador's Ministry of Health maintains an information page: <https://www.salud.gob.ec/coronavirus-covid-19/>. The most up-to-date information can be found on the Ministry's Twitter account: https://twitter.com/salud_ec.

Protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19. You can reduce your chances of being infected or spreading COVID-19 by taking some simple precautions:

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.
- Maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and others. Why? When someone coughs, sneezes, or speaks they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person has the disease.
- Avoid going to crowded places. Why? Where people come together in crowds, you are more likely to come into close contact with someone that has COVID-19 and it is more difficult to maintain physical distance of 1 meter (3 feet).



FOLLOW THESE TIPS AND STAY SAFE (CONTINUED)

- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and infect you.
- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and wash your hands. Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.
- Stay home and self-isolate even with minor symptoms such as cough, headache, mild fever, until you recover. Have someone bring you supplies. If you need to leave your house, wear a mask to avoid infecting others. Why? Avoiding contact with others will protect them from possible COVID-19 and other viruses.
- If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention, but call by telephone in advance if possible and follow the directions of your local health authority. Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.
- Keep up to date on the latest information from trusted sources, such as WHO or your local and national health authorities. Why? Local and national authorities are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.



RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND ECUADOR BORDER CLOSINGS

On March 14, 2020 the Government of Ecuador announced it was closing its borders to all incoming passengers in order to combat the spread of COVID-19. Without any incoming passengers, U.S. airlines that normally service the major cities of Quito and Guayaquil suspended all outbound flights within a matter of days. At any given moment there are thousands of U.S. tourists in Ecuador, along with an estimated 100,000 U.S. citizen residents.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and Consulate General in Guayaquil quickly reached out to U.S. citizens to determine how many were trying to get home and determined that thousands of people were stranded. In response, the State Department facilitated six humanitarian flights from Quito and Guayaquil and worked with airlines to continue offerings semi-regular flights from both cities. Between March 18 and June 10 the Embassy and Consulate helped repatriate over 4,800 U.S. citizens and residents. American Citizen Services in Ecuador continues to work hard to help U.S. citizens who need to return home by providing emergency services and working to ensure flights continue.



U.S. Ambassador Michael Fitzpatrick, with his signature red-striped bandana, takes a selfie with a departing American family at Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito.

ANTI-FRAUD CAMPAIGN: PONTE PILAS!

The consular sections of the U.S. Embassy in Quito and the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil are always looking for ways we can protect our clients from scams and misinformation. Every year, hundreds of Ecuadorian citizens fall victim to so called “visa advisors,” paying large sums of money for different consular services, including visa and passport applications. Last year, the Fraud Prevention Unit launched a new outreach campaign called “Ponte Pilas Contra el Fraude” in order to raise public awareness, inform consular clients, and target those seeking to influence consular procedures.

The title of our campaign, “Ponte Pilas Contra el Fraude” comes from the local Ecuadorian expression “ponte pilas” which means, “stay alert” or “be aware.” Its main goal is to raise awareness of false or misleading information released by some travel agencies or independent visa advisers. The campaign seeks to educate clients that they do not need a third party to assist them when completing their applications, and that doing so will not give them any advantage. It also encourages people to access our official websites for information, and to be honest when filling out their application and during their interviews. Unfortunately, many applicants are lured by false promises of agents who guarantee their visas will be approved if they pay for their services. This of course is not true – only a Consular Officer can approve or deny a U.S. visa.

The Consular Sections of Guayaquil and Quito have been busy over the last year spreading this important message across Ecuador. Consular staff have traveled across the country conducting radio interviews, in-person presentations, and meetings with government officials and travel agencies. We are even working on a short video that will be posted to our official social media accounts soon.

You can help us to prevent fraud, too! Always access official sites, and if you have information about possible fraud being committed, contact us via email at Noalfraudeguayaquil@state.gov.



NEW ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

On June 1st, airports in Guayaquil and Quito opened for international flights. On August 3rd, Ecuador resumed flights to the Galapagos Islands.

All passengers arriving from outside of Ecuador are currently required to have the negative results of a RT-PCR (reverse transcription polymerise chain reaction) COVID test from within the last ten (10) days prior to arrival. If they have these results, no quarantine is required. If travelers do not have the results of this test, they will have to comply with mandatory preventive quarantine (aislamiento preventivo obligatorio, or APO) for 10 days upon arrival. **These requirements can change at any time.**

Any international traveler wishing to transit via Quito or Guayaquil International Airport to the Galapagos should first arrive in-country with proof of a recent PCR test and then take a second PCR test at their own expense upon arrival. Travelers should then proceed to local lodging (in parts of Ecuador currently rated as Green or Yellow, but not Red, for COVID) for at least 48 hours to await test results. A second negative test result is required to be able to proceed to the Galapagos Islands. All persons present in Ecuador (regardless of nationality or residence status) wishing to travel to the Galapagos Islands must present negative results from a PCR test taken no more than 96 hours prior to arrival. In all cases, a negative PCR test is required prior to travel to the Galapagos. With such results in hand, there is no quarantine required upon arrival in the Galapagos (nor to return to the mainland of Ecuador).

For the most up-to-date information, please contact your nearest Ecuadorian Consulate or Embassy, and visit the website of the airport you will be arriving at: Quito (<https://www.aerpuertoquito.aero/en/covid-19-protocol.html>) or Guayaquil (http://www.tagsa.aero/en_aerpuertojjo.html?fbclid=IwAR3Z-FpLAAGoT3UQnBgrEyyv6tHaXs2cqg4Wdwdr5dzmlvnNu_29l8wth4o).



THE SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

STAY INFORMED,
STAY CONNECTED,
STAY SAFE!

STEP is a free service that allows U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Benefits to enrolling:

Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.

Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.

Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

To register visit:

<https://step.state.gov/step/>



U.S. CITIZENS SIGN UP AT:
STEP.STATE.GOV



Smart Traveler Enrollment Program
A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. Department of State

ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

The U.S. Embassy in Quito has received several Economic Impact Payments, also known as “stimulus checks,” authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), for recipients residing in Ecuador. If you received notification from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) indicating an Economic Impact Payment was mailed to your last known address in Ecuador, please contact us via email at FBUQuito@state.gov to confirm whether we have received your check. Please be sure to include “EIP” in the subject line.

If you have not received notification from the IRS but believe you may be entitled to this payment, visit the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>. Follow the steps under “Check on the status of your Economic Impact Payment” by clicking the “Get My Payment” button. Please verify that your check has been mailed by going to <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

If the IRS has mailed your check, please keep in mind that the transit time can be more than 60 days. If more than 60 days has passed since the check was scheduled to be mailed, please contact us again with a screenshot of the IRS website stating that your check has been mailed more than 60 days ago. If the website indicates a payment status of “deposited,” check with your financial institution to determine whether the payment has indeed been credited to your account. If you get a Payment Status Not Available notification, please check for more information on the IRS website:

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment-frequently-asked-questions#paymentnot>

For all other questions, including eligibility criteria, visit the Economic Impact Payment Information Center for the IRS at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center#eligibility>.



OPTIONS FOR RETRIEVING YOUR ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT

In Person:

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil are limited in their ability to use local mail services during the pandemic. For the safety of all customers, in-person check pick-up is available by appointment only. Please contact FBUQuito@state.gov to arrange a pickup time. Given the nature of the correspondence, it may not be picked up by third parties unless they have a valid power of attorney.

Courier:

As an alternative, the recipient can pre-pay with a private courier and send the pre-paid envelope to the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate for us to forward the correspondence. You may use any courier you would like to request this service. For more information, please visit our website: <https://ec.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/correspondence-to-u-s-citizens/>. DHL is one company that provides the service. More detailed information about pre-paying with DHL is available on our website. We will continue to update as additional options become available.

Choose Direct Deposit for Federal Benefits:

The federal government strongly encourages federal benefit recipients to choose direct deposit. Federal Regulation 31 CFR Part 208 requires individuals who are physically in the United States to convert federal benefit paper checks to direct deposit in most circumstances. Direct deposit is the safest, cheapest, and most reliable method of receiving your benefits. The payment is electronically transmitted to your bank account and you have access to your funds, eliminating the risk of missing or stolen checks. The United States Department of the Treasury does not charge fees to make deposits. Ecuadorian banks may charge fees.

WHAT'S NEW FOR U.S. CITIZENS?



As the Embassy and Consulate adapt to changing COVID-19 restrictions and prioritize the safety of both our staff and visitors, please remain patient as we update our guidelines for U.S. Citizen services.

For the most up-to-date detailed instructions on passport applications and renewals and other U.S. citizen services, visit our website, ec.usembassy.gov or email us at ACSQuito@state.gov or ACSGuayaquil@state.gov.

If you have an emergency, please contact the Embassy in Quito at +593-2-398-5000, or the Consulate in Guayaquil at +593-4-371-7000.

SWITCH TO DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR FEDERAL BENEFITS

In May 2020, President Moreno announced the liquidation of Correos del Ecuador, Ecuador's national government postal service. While postal delivery services will eventually become the responsibility of a private company, reliable postal service is currently unavailable. The Embassy and Consulate will continue to receive all federal benefits checks and hold them for pickup. However, to avoid problems with physical checks, the federal government strongly encourages federal benefit recipients to choose direct deposit. Please contact your corresponding federal agency for assistance:

Social Security benefits

Contact the Federal Benefits Unit in Santo Domingo at FBU.Santo.Domingo@ssa.gov. Still want to receive a physical check from the Social Security Administration, but have not been receiving yours recently? Please contact the Regional Federal Benefits Unit in Santo Domingo to ensure they have your full, deliverable mailing address listed.

Veteran's Affairs (VA) benefits

Please visit the Veteran's Affairs website on direct deposit for instructions on how to sign up for direct deposit: <https://www.va.gov/change-direct-deposit/>.

OPM benefits

You can make your change on your online retirement account at <https://www.servicesonline.opm.gov>

Internal Revenue Service and Economic Impact Payments

Please consider choosing direct deposit when filing your annual tax return, in order to expedite receipt of any refund. Information about economic impact payments is available on the IRS' Economic Impact Payment Information Center website here:

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

Veterans may apply for benefits online from overseas using their home computer. Visit the Veterans Online Application (VONAPP) for more information. Where the VONAPP is not available, the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate can be of assistance. If you need to set up an appointment with the Federal Benefits Unit in Quito or Guayaquil to talk about Veteran Affairs, please e-mail us at fbuquito@state.gov.

You may obtain contact information for the VA at the following address:

www.va.gov/landing2_contact.htm

If beneficiaries have questions: EMBASSY.VBAPIT@va.gov



For more information on VA Services and Benefits for U.S.

Veterans Living Abroad: www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/foreign/index.htm

If you are in crisis and need immediate help, please call 1-800-273-8255 and (PRESS 1) or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>.

If you have questions, please visit <http://va.gov/explore> and refer to "FAQs and Info" and "Get Assistance."

VA on Social Media

Facebook:

Department of Veteran's Affairs <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs/>

Veterans Health Administration <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHealth>

Veteran Benefits Administration : <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits>

Twitter:

Department of Veteran Affairs: <https://twitter.com/DeptVetAffairs>

Veteran Benefits Administration: <https://twitter.com/vavetbenefits>

Other:

Department of Veteran Affairs Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/deptvetaffairs/>

VANtage Point Blog: <http://blogs.va.gov/>

MEET YOUR ACS QUITO TEAM



ACS Chief Scott Tuttle joined the Department of State in 2014 after eight years practicing law in New York City. Prior to his arrival in Quito in June 2020, he served at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou, China. Scott also worked as a staff assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs in Washington D.C. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and Niagara University.

ACS Officer Andy Sullivan joined the State Department in 2015 after serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic from 2011-2014. He received a Master's in Public Affairs in 2016 from Indiana University, and holds a B.S. in International Affairs and a B.A. in Spanish from Middle Tennessee State University.

ACS Caseworker Elizabeth worked in the U.S. Consulate in Recife, Brazil, for a total of eight years, six years as a Non-immigrant Visa Clerk, and two years as the NIV supervisor. In 2014, she moved to Quito, Ecuador, where she has been working for the U.S. Embassy in various consular-related roles. Prior to working for the State Department, she worked in the private sector and for the Brazilian Government.



ACS Caseworker Herminia has worked in ACS for seven years. Prior to this she worked for the Drug Enforcement Agency in Quito for two years. Herminia holds a degree in business and finance from Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

ACS Caseworker Adriana joined ACS in 2018. Adriana earned a B.S. in Liberal Arts with a Law & Paralegal Studies concentration. Previously she worked at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. and at an American multinational company in Ecuador. She is a devoted mother of two and avid reader.

ACS Caseworker Esteban has worked in ACS since 2009. He started as an ACS Clerk and the position evolved to an ACS Assistant. Previously, he worked with the construction company that built the U.S. Embassy in Quito as a Warehouse, Logistics, and IT Manager. He has an IT background and is very resourceful in different areas.

MEET YOUR ACS GUAYAQUIL TEAM



ACS Chief Phil Folkemer joined the Foreign Service in 2009 and Guayaquil is his fourth overseas post. He has also served in Belize, Brussels, and Togo. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Phil worked as a mathematics professor at a community college in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda.

ACS Local Supervisor Eduardo Jacome joined the consulate staff in 2010 and previously served in the United States Army for seven years and as a police officer in Texas for five years. Eduardo has a Bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University.

ACS Officer Lisa Anderson studied Spanish and Foreign Language Education at the University of Virginia. She joined the Foreign Service as a Consular Fellow in 2018 and is serving in her first tour at U.S. Consulate Guayaquil. Prior to working for the State Department, she worked for an international development contracting firm as a project manager for various USAID-funded projects.

ACS Officer Julie Mellin joined the Foreign Service in 2018. Julie holds an M.A. in International Affairs and a B.S. in Psychology. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Julie developed and oversaw public health programs in Asia, Africa, and New York City. Julie also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana from 2008-2010.



ACS Caseworker Adriano came back to settle in Ecuador and worked as a Business Consultant after a long tour in Europe. He worked for the Consulate as a contractor for two years before joining the ACS team in June 2018. In 2018, he also got married! He enjoys riding / fixing / building bicycles and considers himself a Zestful bicycle enthusiast.

ACS Caseworker Annabelle joined the Consulate in 2005 and served as an IV assistant for 14 years before joining the ACS team. Prior to joining the Consulate, she worked at Citibank N.A. for five years as a Relationship Manager (ETM) Expanded Target Market. Annabelle holds a bachelor's degree in business administration.

ACS Caseworker Elena joined the ACS team in November 2019. Before working at the U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil, she worked as a lawyer in both public and private sectors handling civil, environmental, childhood and family issues, among others. Elena holds a Law Degree from the Universidad de Especialidades Espíriu Santo, and a master's degree in Environmental Law from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

ACS Caseworker Carolina started working at the U.S. Consulate General Guayaquil in March 2006 as a NIV Assistant. In August 2010, she joined the Immigrant Visa Unit as an Immigrant Visa Assistant. In October 2019, she joined the ACS team as an ACS Case Worker. Carolina has a bachelor's degree in international business administration.

OFFICIAL HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2020

HOLIDAY	U.S./ ECUADORIAN	DAY OF OBSERVANCE	
New Year	U.S./Ecuadorian	January 1	(Wednesday)
Martin Luther King's Birthday	U.S.	January 20	(Monday)
Presidents' Day	U.S.	February 17	(Monday)
Carnival	Ecuadorian	February 24	(Monday)
Carnival	Ecuadorian	February 25	(Tuesday)
Good Friday	Ecuadorian	April 10	(Friday)
Labor Day	Ecuadorian	May 1	(Friday)
Memorial Day/ Battle of Pichincha	U.S./ Ecuadorian	May 25	(Monday)
Independence Day (U.S)	U.S.	July 3	(Friday)
Founding of Guayaquil (*)	Ecuadorian	July 24*	(Friday)
Independence Day (Ecuador)	Ecuadorian	August 10	(Monday)
Labor Day	U.S.	September 7	(Monday)
Guayaquil Independence Day	Ecuadorian	October 9	(Friday)
Columbus Day	U.S.	October 12	(Monday)
All Souls' Day	Ecuadorian	November 2	(Monday)
Cuenca Day	Ecuadorian	November 3	(Tuesday)
Veteran's Day	U.S.	November 11	(Wednesday)
Thanksgiving Day	U.S.	November 26	(Thursday)
Founding of Quito(**)	Ecuadorian	December 7**	(Monday)
Christmas Day	U.S.	December 25	(Friday)

For the most updated information, please check our website:

<https://ec.usembassy.gov/es/embassy-consulate-es/holiday-calendar-es/>

See you soon!

LOOK OUT FOR OUR WINTER ISSUE