



Facultad de Economía
Universidad de los Andes
Bogotá - Colombia

International Exchange Program



The University

The Universidad de los Andes is an institution of recognized academic excellence in Colombia and Latin America and one of the most prestigious teaching institutions in the country. Since its foundation in 1948, the University has taken up a commitment to the formation of intellectual, technical and humanist elite, which has played an active role in the production of thought, science and progress in this country. Los Andes has also brought in and disseminated major scientific and technological advances recently developed around the world; and today,



it has taken up the leadership of a mission to face the challenges of the internationalization of our economy, and of technical, social and cultural changes now occurring around the world.

The University is an autonomous and independent institution which fosters pluralism, diversity, dialogue, debate, criticism, tolerance and respect for ideas, beliefs and values of its members. Also, it seeks academic excellence, and offers its students a critical and ethical formation designed to strengthen their awareness of their social and civic responsibilities, and their commitment to the analysis of the problems of their country, and the quest for its solutions. Further, as part of its encouragement of integrated formation, the University provides an interdisciplinary environment with all the flexibility required for the integration of the arts, the sciences, technology and the humanities.

The University currently offers 28 undergraduate programs and 65 graduate programs that include Ph.D., masters and continued education programs. The student population is around 11.000 and by the end of 2006 around 500 full-time professors and 600 part-time professors were part of our institution. The University is located close to the historical center of Bogotá in the neighborhood called La Candelaria. Although not exactly conceived as a University campus, most buildings that make part of the University are located within walking distance from each other. Today, 74 buildings make part of our campus with approximately 65,500 square meters of construction and around 34,000 squared meters of parks and open space.

The University has 8 libraries including the General Library Ramon de Zubiria, and other specialized satellite libraries in business, architecture and art, economics, regional studies, law and mathematics; numerous computer labs and specialized laboratories, in addition to one student cafeteria with a capacity of 320 people, one cafeteria for professors (with capacity for 180 people), and at least 6 other restaurants on campus. In addition, we have a recreation and sports center open 5 days a week from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm with 536 square meters of indoors facilities and 7,800 square meters of sports fields for all students and professors.

For additional information about our campus and our University visit:

<http://www.uniandes.edu.co/home-visitantes/html/nuestraui.htm>

The Department of Economics

The Department of Economics offers one undergraduate program in economics and several graduate programs including the M.S. program in Economics. Starting in AY 2008, the department will also offer a PhD program in Economics. Economics is one of the largest departments in the university. In 2006, it was the fifth largest department, with 800 undergraduate students and 200 graduate students. In addition, we house the Center for Economic Development Studies founded in 1958, which is one of the most prestigious economic research institutes in the country carrying out around 22 economics and consulting projects per year in the areas of democracy, education, labor market, natural resources and environment, poverty and income distribution, violence and conflict, macroeconomics, fiscal policy, urban economics, international trade, agricultural economics, institutional economics and industrial organization. The presence of the Center in the department provides numerous research opportunities for our students.

The department has its own Economics Library (CEDE) with more than 35.000 publications available that include the most important specialized journals and textbooks. CEDE is considered to be the best library in economics in Colombia and one of the best in Latin America.

Faculty

The faculty in our department are highly qualified professors and researchers with high academic profile and professional experience in both the public and private sector in Colombia. Many of the current and former members of our faculty have held very important senior positions in the government (including Finance Secretary, Chairman of the Central Bank and Chairman of the National Planning Department). In addition most of our faculty are actively engaged in research activities and are publishing in both national and international renowned journals. More than 60% of our Faculty are Ph. D. graduates holding degrees from prestigious universities around the world such as New York University, Princeton University, University of California-San Diego, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Maryland at College Park, John Hopkins University, U.Paris X-Nanterre, University of Michigan, Paris 1 - Sorbona, Ohio State University, University of Oxford, Boston University, Oklahoma State University, Rutgers University, and Universidad Libre de Berlín.



Research developed by our faculty spans the following fields:

Growth, macroeconomics, financial economics, development and income distribution.

Econometrics, applied microeconomics, demography, economics of education, health and labor economics.

Economics of the environment and natural resources, urban and regional economics, and program evaluation.

Economics of violence and conflict, political economy, and experimental economics.

International Summer School in Economics

Every summer (June and July) for the last ten years the department has hosted an International Summer School consisting of 4 to 5 short graduate-level courses (2 to 3 weeks) taught by international invited professors from the most prestigious teaching institutions in the world. The goal of the Summer School is to offer courses with the highest level of excellence with the purpose of sharing recent developments and frontier issues in different areas of economics. Among the professors that have taken part in this summer school are James Robinson (Harvard University), Guillermo Calvo (University of Maryland), Allan Drazen (University of Maryland), Orazio Attanasio (University College in London), Jonathan Eaton (New York University), and Arvind Panagariya (Columbia University), among others.

Since 1997 twenty-three summer courses have been offered with approximately 800 participating students including undergraduate and graduate students as well as policy-makers working in the public sector. A good indicator of the increasing popularity of our Summer School is the increasing number of participants. While in 1997 we started out with 80 students, this number increased to approximately 170 by 2006.

The Economics Program

The undergraduate economics program lasts a total of four years consisting of (1) a basic core of five academic semesters, (2) a vocational cycle of two academic semesters and (1) one final academic semester in which the students have two degree-alternatives.

The first five semesters comprise the basic core with a total of 21 core course requirements (including calculus, microeconomics 1 to 3, macroeconomics 1 to 3, economic history, statistics, econometrics, mathematical economics and game theory).

The second cycle comprises two academic semesters during which the student will have to take 8 general electives in economics or other fields.

Finally, during the last semester the student can decide either to take 3 additional economics field courses and work in a research thesis towards the degree of BA in economics or take up to 16 credits (approximately 4 courses) of advanced economics courses from the graduate program towards the M.S. degree.

Exchange Students

In 2006, around 60 international students from countries such as France, E.U., Germany and Mexico visited Los Andes as part of our exchange program. Nearly a fifth of these were hosted by the Economics Department.

The undergraduate program is completely taught in Spanish so we strongly encourage applications from foreign students with a good knowledge of the language.

Application Requirements for the Exchange Program

Interested students can check the information about our admission process at:

https://ctp.uniandes.edu.co/Home/Foreign_Students/index.php

The student needs to fill in the application form that can be downloaded from the following website: <https://ctp.uniandes.edu.co/Documentos/applicationformfs.doc>

In addition, the applicant student needs to put together the following documentation:

Copy of the passport, original transcripts, a short essay in Spanish explaining the reasons why the student is interested in visiting the Department of Economics at the Universidad de los Andes, two passport-size pictures, a list of completed courses and a list of the courses the student is interested in taking at Los Andes

Academic Calendar

The academic year at Universidad de los Andes consists of two semesters of four months each and one inter-semester period in which the university also offers courses similar to a summer course period. The first academic semester spans 15 weeks from mid-January to mid-May, the inter-semester period corresponds to 8 weeks between June and July and the second academic semester comprises 15 weeks from early August to mid-December.

The exact academic year calendar can be found at: <http://registro.uniandes.edu.co/> by clicking on "información" and then "calendario del año en curso" in the menu on the left. Exchange students must register courses during the specific dates established by the University. These can also be found in the same link by clicking on "Inscripciones"

Application deadlines for exchange students::

October in the case of students planning to visit during the first academic semester

May in the case of students planning to visit during the second academic semester

Exact dates can be found in the academic year calendar in the link above

Orientation program

At arrival, we offer our visiting exchange students an orientation program to help them get settled both in the city and the university:

- 1) Airport pick-up: a student from Los Andes will pick up our exchange student at the airport.
- 2) Orientation day at the University: the exchange students will have a one-day guided tour of the University, receive ID cards and attend talks about various issues related to their stay in Colombia such as health, food, security, etc. In addition, they will participate in a guided tour of the neighborhood where the campus is located (La Candelaria).
- 3) Support with housing: The university does not have on-campus housing. However, the office of international students will provide support and assistance to our foreign students in finding housing.
- 4) InterAndes support group: A group of volunteer students will be available to help our international students with any issues related to their stay in Colombia and their daily life as students in Los Andes.

Costs

Approximate costs of the student's stay in Colombia are expressed in dollars (calculated at an exchange rate of approximately \$2.249,28 colombian pesos per dollar corresponding to the official exchange rate as of December 20 of 2006.)

Housing expenses:

- 1) The stay of the student will be arranged with a Colombian family. This is a very appealing alternative for students truly interested in being part of the whole Colombian experience. Furthermore, it is an excellent way to ensure learning and practicing Spanish at a fast pace. The student is usually guaranteed his/her own room and two meals a day. The monthly fee ranges from 100 to 200 dollars.
- 2) Rent a room in an apartment or house of Colombian students who live together. Depending on the exact location, this arrangement might include meals and/or laundry services. The monthly fee ranges from 150 to 200 dollars.
- 3) Apartment: students can also rent their own furnished apartment in a close by neighborhood. These apartments are well suited for one person. The monthly fee ranges from 250 to 280 dollars.

Food expenses:

The price of three meals per day ranges from 6 to 18 dollars.

Transportation costs:

Three main means of transportation can be used in the city: cab, bus or a metro-like bus system called Transmilenio. Costs vary depending on the alternative from 50 cents (bus and Transmilenio) to 6 dollars (cab).

Other materials:

The student might need to spend approximately 70 dollars per semester in copies and other materials and around 100 dollars in textbooks.

Bogotá



Bogotá is a city in central Colombia, is the country's capital, located at an elevation of about 2,650 m. / 8,660 ft. on a mountain rimmed plateau high in the Cordillera Oriental of the Andes Mountains. This gives it spring like weather all year long. It lies only 4°36' north of the equator.

Bogotá is a cosmopolitan city in continuous expansion. It is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas, not only in Colombia, but also in South America. Its almost 6 million inhabitants include a multitude of immigrants from all over the world, which makes the capital a true microcosm of the nation. Modern highrises and skyscrapers contrast with old houses of colonial and republican architecture.

Bogotá offers residents and visitors everything that a modern city can give. Cultural activities abound and its enormous selection of restaurants, bars and nightclubs offers all kinds of food and entertainment.

A picturesque city, it is known for its colonial architecture, its collection of pre-Colombian gold art, and its bookshops and splendid colonial churches. It is also a city of futuristic architecture, modern highrises, brilliant museums, and skyscrapers. Bogotá offers residents and visitors everything that a modern city can give including a vibrant and diverse cultural and intellectual life.

Taken from: <http://www.bogota-dc.com/history/bog-his.htm>

Contact us

Phone: (571) 339 4949 Ext. 2403 - 2470

Dean's Office Phone # (571) 3324493

Undergraduate Office Phone# (571) 3324496

Fax # (571) 3324492

E-mail:

Pregecon@uniandes.edu.co

Web master: jortegon@uniandes.edu.co

<http://economia.uniandes.edu.co>

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Cra. 1 No. 18A -10. Edificio C, Oficina C105

Bogotá, Colombia