



REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY TO ECUADOR AND TO GALAPAGOS

International visitors coming to Galápagos to develop research activities using the campus and logistical support provided by the Charles Darwin Foundation's (CDF) Visiting Scientists Program, must comply with Ecuador's Immigration regulations controlled by the Department of Immigration, as well as the Galapagos Immigration regulations enforced by the *Consejo de Gobierno de Galápagos*.

ECUADOR IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

Any foreign visitor coming to Ecuador (and Galapagos) to work or to develop scientific activities for a period of up to 90 days per year, may enter the country as a tourist. If additional time is required, Immigration allows an extension of 90 additional days upon payment of \$160.67. This amount must be paid by depositing the money into a bank account using the banking information provided by the Immigration Office located in Puerto Ayora.

To complete the process, the foreigner must be physically present on the island and must apply for the extension no later than their 90th day in Ecuador. If the application is made starting on the 91st day, a \$482 fine will apply, in addition to the \$160.67 extension fee.

The entire procedure must be completed in person, and the applicant must bring their passport.

If the intended period of stay in Ecuador (and Galapagos) is for longer than 180 days per year, the visitor must acquire a visa. It is the foreign visitor's responsibility to process the visa request. The CDF recommends the NGO visa (*visa por convenio para organizaciones no gubernamentales*), please apply online or contact the consulate of Ecuador nearest you. There is a set of requirements that you must obtain and a set of requirements that the CDF will provide which include de visa request letter signed by CDF's Executive Director/Legal Representative and other documents that will be sent to you at the appropriate time.

GALAPAGOS IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS (processed by CDF's Visiting Scientists Program office)

Transeúnte Certificate

This document will allow you to enter Galapagos and to carry out research activities for a period of up to 90 days per year. If more time is required, you may request an extension of an 90 additional days. The requirements are:

- Scanned copy of the participant's passport (make sure to include the page with your signature, pictures or copies with fingers are rejected by the *Consejo de Gobierno*)
- Cooperation agreement prepared by CDF's Visiting Scientists Program (includes participants name, passport number, exact dates of visit, activities to develop)



- Copy of the research permit that includes the participant

The above requirements will need to be submitted to the *Consejo de Gobierno*'s system at least three weeks prior to the intended date of arrival. The *Consejo de Gobierno* has implemented a new digital system, so it is taking a little longer to issue the certificate. The CDF's Visiting Scientists Program office submits the requests in the system on visiting scientists' behalf and follows up on the process. Due to processing times and high demand, it is relatively common that the *transeúnte* certificate is only ready the day before your trip.

For clarification or additional information on any of the above, please contact Mariuxi López, Visiting Scientists Program Coordinator at cientificos@fcdarwin.org.ec

Update August 2026