

10-12-2012

## Linfield College: Study Abroad in Ecuador

Lily Niland

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl\\_returnees](https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_returnees)

---

### Recommended Citation

Niland, Lily, "Linfield College: Study Abroad in Ecuador" (2012). *Letters from Returnees: Sharing the Value of Study Abroad*. Letter. Submission 23.

[https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl\\_returnees/23](https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_returnees/23)

This Letter is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield, with permission from the rights-holder(s). Your use of this Letter must comply with the [Terms of Use](#) for material posted in DigitalCommons@Linfield, or with other stated terms (such as a Creative Commons license) indicated in the record and/or on the work itself. For more information, or if you have questions about permitted uses, please contact [digitalcommons@linfield.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@linfield.edu).

Linfield College: Study Abroad in Ecuador  
Lily Niland

I thought I knew exactly what I was getting into when I left for a semester in Quito, Ecuador: most of my friends at the time were Honduran, and I was fluent in Spanish. I soon realized, however, that just as Australia is not the U.S., Ecuador is not Honduras. I encountered new words, foods, and dances. I talked to classmates, taxi drivers, host families, maids, and commuters. I fell in love. I personally had to deal with overt racism for the first time, and I saw how a narrow view of the world can make people miss out on what could have been wonderful friendships. When I came home, I realized how much progress still must be made on this issue, even in my liberal northwest corner of the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Four years later, I am a legal assistant at an immigration law firm, and I sell souvenirs for the Seattle Mariners. Every day I use what developed in part from my time in Ecuador: fluent Spanish, intercultural empathy, and an instinct to work for social justice.



