

# ECUADOR

## A DYNAMIC PRESENCE: GROWTH AND CHARACTERISTICS OF IB WORLD SCHOOLS

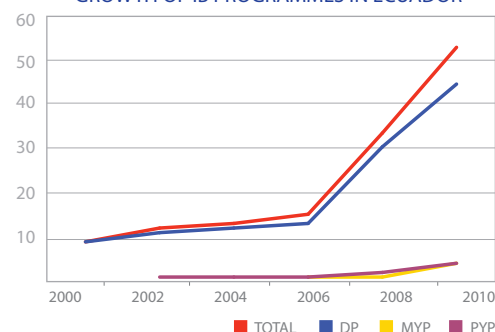
### *When was the first IB programme authorized in Ecuador, and how has the IB grown in the country?*

The first IB Diploma Programme (DP) was authorized in 1981 at Academia Cotopaxi American International School, a private school in Quito. Over the next 16 years, the IB expanded slowly, with 7 more private schools adopting the Diploma in Quito and Guayaquil.

In the decade between 1998 and 2007, IB programmes in Ecuador doubled. During this period, the first Middle Years Programme (MYP) was authorized at the Colegio Americano de Quito (in 2001), and the first and only Primary Years Programme (PYP) in the country was introduced at Academia Cotopaxi (in 2005).

The IB presence in Ecuador doubled again in 2008. In that year alone, 16 new programmes were authorized, largely due to government support for public IB programmes. This rapid growth has continued, with 19 more programmes added in 2009/2010.

GROWTH OF IB PROGRAMMES IN ECUADOR

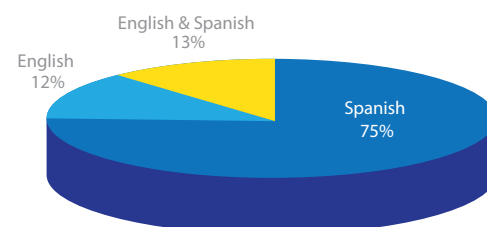


### *Which IB programmes are currently implemented, and what is their main language of instruction?*

There are currently 46 IB World Schools in Ecuador, implementing 52 IB programmes (given that some schools implement several at once). The Diploma accounts for 85% of all programs, since there are only 4 MYP and 4 PYP in the country.

Three-quarters of Ecuador's IB programmes are taught primarily in Spanish. Academia Cotopaxi, the Colegio Americano de Quito and the British School implement their IB programmes primarily in English, while 7 other schools use both English and Spanish as their main languages of instruction.

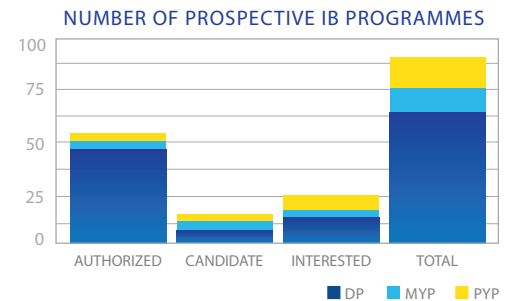
MAIN LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION OF IB PROGRAMMES



### What are the prospects for future growth of IB programmes in Ecuador?

The total number of IB programmes in Ecuador may grow substantially in the near future, crossing 80. Thirteen programmes are currently candidates for authorization, and 23 have expressed interest in becoming candidates.

With six current candidates for authorization and 12 expressing interest, the Diploma is likely to remain the most numerous programme in Ecuador. Nonetheless, the MYP and PYP may both triple in size, increasing their presence substantially in Ecuador.

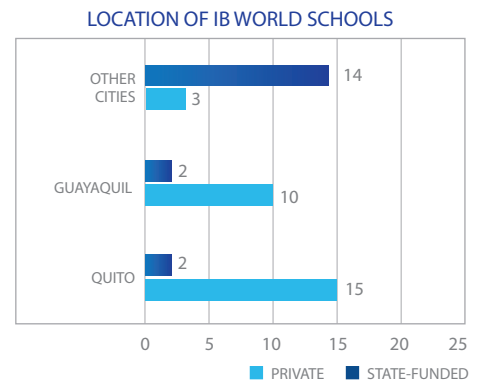


## A COMMITMENT TO EXPANDING ACCESS: GROWTH OF PUBLIC IB SCHOOLS

### How many IB World Schools are state-funded, and where are they located?

As a result of the Ecuadorian government's support, more than one-third (39%) of all IB World Schools in the country are state-funded. Although 63% of all IB World Schools are still concentrated in the two main cities of Quito and Guayaquil, the government's effort to implement the IB in each province has contributed substantially to the spread of IB programmes to other regions.

There are now two IB World Schools each in Ambato and Manta, and the following thirteen additional cities have one IB school each: Azogues, Cuenca, Esmeraldas, Ibarra, Latacunga, Machala, Portoviejo, Puerto Ayora, Puyo, Riobamba, San Gabriel, Santa Elena and Tena.



### How have government policies and legislation supported IB programmes?

- According to the Acuerdo Ministerial (Ministerial Agreement) No. 287, dated 12 June 2006, the Ecuadorian government authorizes schools in the country to offer IB curricula, as long as courses referring to national topics are also included. It also recognizes the IB Diploma as equivalent to the national Bachillerato en Ciencias (High School Diploma in Sciences).
- In this Agreement, the government goes beyond mere recognition, by suggesting that "educational institutions adapt the components of the IB curricular structure and include them in their institutional projects as a strategy for qualitative improvement of the different levels of Ecuadorian education."

- In 2006, the Ecuadorian Ministry of Education also signed an MOU with the IB which has actively supported the IB Diploma Programme's expansion to public schools throughout the country. According to the Proyecto de Inserción del Bachillerato Internacional en Colegios Fiscales del Ecuador (Project for the Insertion of IB in Public Schools of Ecuador), the federal government commits itself to supporting the IB authorization process at 22 state-funded schools in 19 provinces, chosen according to their demonstrated high levels of quality and achievement.
- The Ministry of Education has assigned a team of professionals to coordinate this project, designated government funds to support these new IB schools, and devised a "mentoring strategy," through which private schools that already implement the DP provide guidance to public schools currently seeking authorization. The project has taken place through several stages, and 18 schools have already been authorized, as of October 2010.

## COLEGIO MUNICIPAL EXPERIMENTAL "SEBASTIÁN DE BENALCÁZAR:" A MODEL FOR BROADENING ACCESS TO IB

Founded in 1951, the public school "Sebastián de Benalcázar" in Quito has always enjoyed a reputation for high quality education. Thanks to municipal support for innovation, the Diploma Programme was adopted in 2003, and it rapidly transformed teaching and learning throughout the school. Most of Benalcázar's 1,420 students do not come from affluent families, and the school has become a model for other public schools. Teodoro Barros, a member of the school board and also the Ecuadorian Director of Education, was instrumental in negotiating the 2006 agreement between the Ministry of Education and the IB which has subsequently supported the expansion of IB programmes to state-funded schools in every province.

In the school's first IB cohort, 25 students became full Diploma Programme students. Attempts have been made to broaden access further and encourage student's success in the IB. In 10th grade, for example, potential Diploma students are familiarized with the active learning strategies and research methods that they will need to use in the Diploma, and they also develop English language fluency. In light of the effects of the Diploma on the whole school, it has now decided to prepare for MYP authorization.

In 2009, Benalcázar received an award from President Correa for having obtained the best results on national assessments. Augusto Abendaño, the metropolitan director of education, made this announcement at a ceremony during which a new director, Oswaldo Caviedes Vallejo, took charge of the school. Caviedes Vallejo, who will occupy this post until 2013, pledged to maintain the school's high quality and to improve accountability and access. Echoing President Correa's words, he exclaimed "Benalcázar belongs to everyone!" He pledged to determine access to the school on the basis of previous academic achievements, rather than on a series of psychological and academic tests.

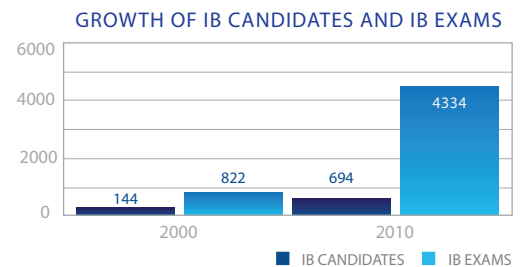
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Sources: IB, Case study of Colegio Municipal Experimental "Sebastián de Benalcázar," at: <http://www.ibo.org/school/casestudy/001492/slided.cfm>. "O. Caviedes dirigirá el Benalcázar," El Comercio, May 19, 2009, at: [http://www.elcomercio.com/noticiaEC.asp?id\\_noticia=278043&id\\_seccion=11](http://www.elcomercio.com/noticiaEC.asp?id_noticia=278043&id_seccion=11)

## A RECORD OF SUCCESS IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION: ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

*How has the number of IB candidates and IB exams taken grown over the past decade?*

The total number of IB candidates in Ecuador has grown by 382% over the past decade, while the total number of IB exams taken has also grown by 427% over the same period.



*How have IB students shown academic excellence and contributed to the community?*

- The Colegio Alemán Humboldt, an IB World School in Guayaquil, has opened afternoon preschool, primary and secondary school shifts, in order to serve lower-income children who attend the school thanks to a scholarship fund. IB students help teachers in these afternoon sections, and also teach at the Escuelita Primaria de Daular, a village school in a lower-income coastal region of the country.

### ACADEMIA COTOPAXI: ECUADOR'S OLDEST IB WORLD SCHOOL MAINTAINS HIGH STANDARDS

The Academia Cotopaxi American International School in Quito was established by a group of American Embassy employees in 1958, when a US A.I.D. development aid mission was sent to Ecuador. In the early 1980s, the school received the highest level of accreditation and recognition from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and also began implementing the IB Diploma Programme, becoming the first school in Ecuador to do so. It was also the first to adopt the PYP, in 2005. Currently, it enrolls more than 400 students, and 70% of its teachers hold graduate degrees and have an average of 7 years of teaching experience.

Between 85 and 100% of Academia Cotopaxi's IB students have obtained their full Diploma over the past 5 years. In 2008-09, 95% of the school's IB students obtained their Diploma, higher than the world average of 79%. Cotopaxi graduates enroll in well-recognized universities in Ecuador and abroad; in 2010, graduates were awarded 43 scholarships totaling \$3,067,846 over the next four years. Student's community projects have included restoring a local 130-year old house to convert it into a community building, providing relief aid to communities affected by natural disasters, and participating in an annual Habitat for Humanity project.

Sources: Academia Cotopaxi, <http://www.cotopaxi.k12.ec> and "Doing Your Share," IB World, May 2008, at: [http://www.ibo.org/ibworld/may2008/making\\_a\\_difference.cfm](http://www.ibo.org/ibworld/may2008/making_a_difference.cfm)

- In 2009, 42 students at Colegio Intisana obtained an IB Diploma. In 2010, an Intisana student won first prize in the National Mathematics Competition, and another two students obtained first and second prizes at the National Inter-colegial Physics Competition.

## RECOGNITION OF THE IB ADVANTAGE: UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### *How do universities and colleges in Ecuador recognize the rigor of IB courses?*

The following nine Ecuadorian higher education institutions recognize that IB graduates fulfill the requirements for entry, often granting automatic admission. The rigor of IB courses is also recognized; credit is given for Higher Level courses, and in some cases, to Standard Level courses as well.

University	IB Diploma accepted as basic credential for admission	Admission or exemption from entrance exams for IB Diploma holders	Course credits possible for some or all Higher Level IB courses	Course credits possible for some or all Standard Level IB courses
Blue Hill College	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Universidad Casa Grande	Yes	Not specified	Yes	Yes
Universidad Internacional SEK Ecuador, Quito	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Universidad San Francisco de Quito	Yes	No	Yes	No
Universidad Santa María de Chile, Campus Guayaquil	Yes	Yes	Not specified	Not specified
Universidad Tecnológica ECOTEC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Universidad de las Américas, Quito	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Universidad del Pacífico – Escuela de Negocios, Quito	Yes	Yes (for students from Ecuador)	Yes	Yes