USFQ is a liberal arts university in Quito-Ecuador. The USFQ purpose is to achieve academic excellence through integrating the humanities and liberal arts.

Terrestrial birds of San Cristobal Island: natural history, distribution and population. Areas of focus: ornithology, conservation, biodiversity. Requires hiking in steep, rugged, mountainous terrain on/off trail, travel on dirt roads, very early mornings, and working outside for extended periods in cold and wet or hot and dry conditions.

The purpose of the Landbird monitoring program is to understand bird population trends due to impacts of habitat change. This is one the flagship programs of Laboratory of Terrestrial Zoology at University San Francisco de Quito, and it is developed with the Galapagos Science Center.

The location of this internship would be at two locations: (1) urban and suburban green areas in Quito; and, (2) urban, periurban, agricultural, and natural areas at San Cristobal Island, Galapagos Islands.

The student taking this internship will be part of a long-term monitoring program of the landbird communities of two localities in Ecuador, on the high Andes and on the Galapagos Islands. Intern duties include:
1) learn and conduct bird surveys along transects and point count through lowland dry and montane forest, urban and rural areas, and on dirt roads
2) learn and assist bird mistnetting, taking biometrics, and blood/feathers/parasite collection
3) learn and conduct bird-roadkill surveys along highways and roads
4) learn and conduct vegetation surveys around monitoring stations
5) learn and assist in data entry and samples curation

Training in Quito will include meetings twice per week, and fieldtrips during the weekends to green areas. Research fieldwork in Quito will take place 3-4 days per week, plus 1 day of lab work to process data. Research fieldwork in Galapagos is more intensive and will take place 4-5 days per week, plus 1-2 days of lab work. Students will receive training in different aspects of bird surveys, and will be able to work in two of the most amazing ecosystems on Earth: high mountains and oceanic islands.

USFQ will help arranging homestays for the student so that students can fully immerse in the Ecuadorian Culture.