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Exams and Educational Events at University

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Salma Galvan
Spring 2022, Ecuador
May 6, 2022

Exams and Educational Events at Uni

These last few weeks have been very stressful since we are preparing for exam season to commence. During midterms, every class had an exam, and there weren't projects or essays. However, for the end of the semester, it's more essays and final projects such as group presentations or videos. We are currently seeing less content in classes as we prepare to turn in our finals.

If you take classes with Ecuadorians it's a much different experience than taking classes with international students. Not only is the difficulty level higher, but it's already hard enough to focus and do everything completely in Spanish. I generally like my classes with Ecuadorians much more than my classes with international students. The cons are that they are harder and there's more homework. On the other hand, I feel that I learn more and that it's more engaging and interesting than classes with international students. This is definitely something that depends on the level though and I'm a native speaker so I need more challenging classes as far as language goes.

An amazing part of USFQ is that they have themed weeks with corresponding events. For example, one week was diversity week and they had several activities, performances, and events that were hosted by diverse individuals including but not limited to race, sexual orientation, country, etc. During this week, I went to the book release event of an Ecuadorian activist and author. The activist was Purita, a trans woman who was one of the most influential figures in passing the law to decriminalize being LGBTQ in Ecuador. This was an amazing individual to listen to, and this is just one example of the way USFQ hosts interesting and educational events outside of the classroom.

It's super exciting to be nearing the end of the semester and being done with school but it's also stressful because it means the end of my experience is coming. It's disappointing that classes and leaving are so closely correlated because it's impossible to be carefree and enjoy the end because there is so much to do.

To be honest, I feel that I haven't explored all the places I want to, but I also think I've had a very authentic Ecuadorian experience. I study, I go out, I hang out with Ecuadorians, and I love the life I'm currently living. I haven't seen all the cool things a

tourist might, but I'm very happy with my choices. As the next few weeks approach, I will definitely work hard to manage my time to ensure that I'm able to maintain good grades while enjoying my last days here.

Until next time,
Salma Galvan



Views at Uni



Classrooms at Uni



The Lagoon at USFQ



The view from my host family's apartment



Purita's presentation



The rainy and busy streets of Quito