Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

AUSTRALIA AND

Ecuador

Growing partnership with increased investment and mining links.

Key engagement

Australia is a major investor in Ecuador's developing mining sector. Education links are growing. Australia and Ecuador work closely at the international level.

Outlook

Increased engagement by Australian companies as Ecuador continues to develop a sustainable and responsible mining industry.

Bilateral relations

Australian consular representation in Ecuador was established in 1968, seven years after the trade commission.

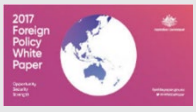
Australia's Ambassador to Chile holds non-resident accreditation to Ecuador. Australia has an Honorary Consul in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Ecuador has an Embassy in Canberra and Honorary Consuls in Victoria and South Australia.

People-to-people links between Australia and Ecuador continue to increase, including students, travellers and a large cohort of Australian alumni in Ecuador. A new Work and Holiday Visa arrangement commenced in 2019-20, giving young Australians and Ecuadorians the opportunity to travel and work abroad.

Foreign relations

Australia and Ecuador are members of the UN, WTO, IMF, and the World Bank. Ecuador is a Pacific Alliance Observer State, an associate member of Mercosur and a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty, of which Australia is an original signatory.

Ecuador is a member of the Organization of American States (OAS), Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Forum for the Progress and Development of South America (PROSUR), and the Community of Andean Nations (CAN).



Foreign Policy White Paper: https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au

FAST FACTS

Ecuadorian visitors to Australia (2020 Dept of Home Affairs) #	400
Australian visitors to Ecuador (primary destination) (2020 Dept of Home Affairs) #	900
Resident Australian population born in Ecuador (2016 Census)	2,225
Australian residents of Ecuadorian descent (2016 Census)	2,153
Ecuadorian Working Holiday Makers visas granted (2020 Dept of Home Affairs)	57
Ecuadorian students in Australia (2020 Dept of Education)	443

Australian Embassy in Chile

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This data is owned by Home Affairs. It provides quarterly updates to this data on its website.

High level engagement

2019	May – Ecuador Minister for Agriculture Xavier Lazo Guerrero visit to Australia.
2019 & 2018	October – Ecuador Vice-Minister for Mines Fernando Benalcázar visit to Melbourne.
2018	July – Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Steven Ciobo visit to Mexico.
2017	November – Ecuador Minister for Mining Javier Córdova visit to Australia.

Public diplomacy

Australia has supported Ecuador during the COVID-19 pandemic through the Direct Aid Program (DAP). In 2021, the program helped strengthen the COVID-19 response capacity of a small medical clinic in Ecuador that provides medical surgical care to marginalised and indigenous communities in their region. Another project supported local textile workers to produce 34 000 facemasks to assist the government's response to the pandemic.

In October 2019, the Australian Embassy supported two Ecuadorian Alumni Ambassadors to attend the International Mining and Resources Conference in Melbourne.

The Council on Australia-Latin America Relations (COALAR) provides grants to enhance Australia's economic, political and social relations with Latin America.

Economic diplomacy

In January 2020, CSIRO helped deliver a course for journalists on responsible mining practices in three cities in Ecuador. The course covered the differences between small and large-scale mining, environmental issues, and Australian approaches to community engagement.

In November 2017, the Australia-Ecuador Business Summit was held in Quito to promote Australia's expertise and capacity to support Ecuador's growing mining sector. The summit focused on Australian capability in mining exploration and early construction phases, particularly skills development, drilling and responsible resource management including water, the environment and community relations.

Further economic and trade information can be found in our Economic Factsheet for Ecuador.

Agreements with Ecuador

2019	Work and Holiday Visa (WHV)
2015	MoU on Mining Cooperation
2014	MoU on Air Services
2011	MoU on Establishing Political Consultations

Business

Austrade aims to attract foreign direct investment into Australia. It also identifies market opportunities and promotes the capabilities of Australian exporters and education providers.

Promising exploration results, abundant energy and water resources have made Ecuador an increasingly attractive destination for Australian companies, particularly in the mining sector.

Ecuador's government is pro-business and has indicated it will seek to expand Ecuador's FTA network.

Opportunities to increase bilateral trade and investment ties exist in the energy and mining sectors once the government lifts a freeze on new mining tenements, as it has indicated. Ecuador has developed a public policy on mining to attract greater investment to its underdeveloped mining sector and take advantage of its geology. The mining sector became Ecuador's primary FDI destination during 2020. There may be opportunities in related sectors, such as educational services.

Austrade
https://www.austrade.gov.au/contact/offices/country-index

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