



solstice

TAKE CLASSES IN
VALENCIA!

GAIAS by **USFQ**
EUROPA



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

ABOUT UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO

The Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) is a private, non-profit institution of higher education located in Quito. It is considered the number 1 university in Ecuador according to some rankings such as QS or Times Higher Education.

History and foundation:

Founded on September 1, 1988, USFQ has stood out for its focus on Liberal Arts, which implies that it offers a comprehensive education, that fosters the critical thinking, creativity, and multidisciplinary training following the educational model of some of the most prestigious universities in the United States.

Mission and values:

USFQ's mission is to offer a high quality education that promotes the integral development of its students, training them not only in their specific fields of study, but also as global citizens with a strong sense of ethics and social responsibility.

Academic fields:

USFQ offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in different fields, including:

- Engineering
- Business Administration and Economics
- Natural and Environmental Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Arts and Humanities
- Social Sciences

Research and transfer:

USFQ is recognized for its strong emphasis on biodiversity and sustainability research. The university has developed different research centers, including the Galapagos Science Center and Tiputini Research Station in the Amazon, which allows students and faculty to participate in cutting-edge research programs.



56
undergraduate
degrees



+10.000
students



+30.000
alumni



+800
professors



+150
international teachers
from 32 different
countries



+500
administration and
personnel services



+7.500
scientific contribution



+200
agreements with
universities around
the world



Scientific Station in
Galapagos



Scientific Station in
the Amazon



Best university in the
country according to
Times Higher
Education



+1.000
international students
per year

ABOUT GAIAS EUROPA



WHAT DOES GAIAS EUROPA REPRESENT?

GAIAS Europa - Global Academic Institute for the Arts and Sciences and Sciences, was founded in 2023 in Valencia, Spain, as a reference center based on transfer of knowledge through education, business education, business relations and research.



GAIAS Europa is the academic HUB of the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Valencia. It represents a knowledge transfer bridge between Europe, Latin America, and the US.

GAIAS Europa focuses on the development of projects based on:

Higher education:

- Development of academic programs for national and international students in collaboration with local universities, contributing to their internationalization.

Innovation and entrepreneurship:

- Development of projects with companies in Latin America and the United States linked to the business network of the Valencian Community.
- Support for strengthening the resources and capabilities of companies to improve their competitiveness through innovation.

Technology and sustainability:

- Development of sustainability-based projects with universities and research centers in Europe.

OUR MODEL BASED ON EXPERIENCES



+7

Nationalities in GAIAS Europa community



+650

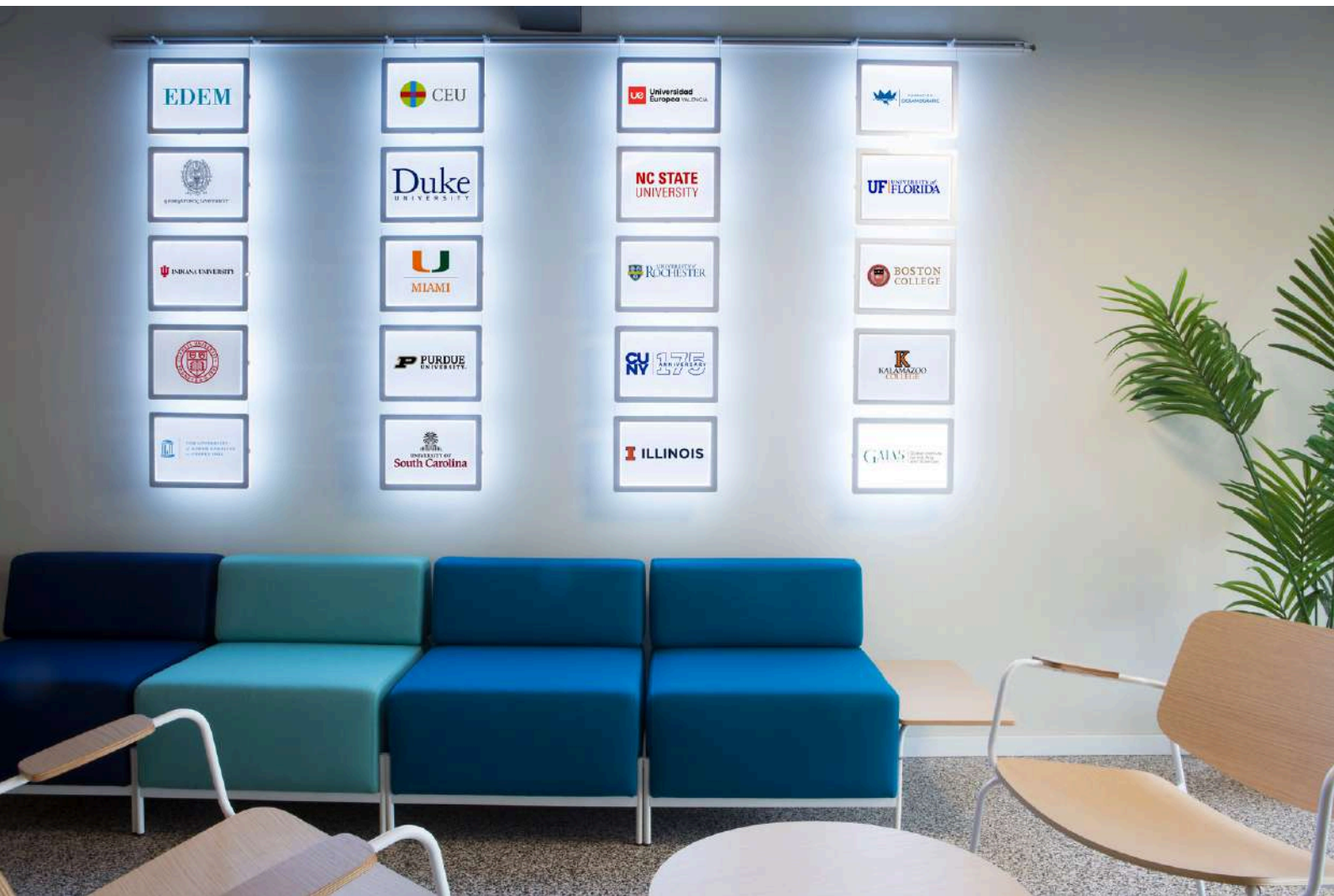
Students have lived the GAIAS Europa experience



Various integration and recreation activities

SOME OF OUR GLOBAL STRATEGIC ALLIES

The Universidad San Francisco de Quito has collaboration agreements with more than 200 universities worldwide.



Every year, the USFQ receives around 1000 international students at its campuses in Ecuador, most of them coming from North American and European universities.

DISCOVER VALENCIA!



WHY VALENCIA?

Studying a GAIAS Europa program in Valencia offers a unique and enriching experience that goes beyond academics. Choosing this city as a destination not only guarantees a quality education, but also an opportunity for personal development in a multicultural environment full of possibilities.

- **Privileged location:**

Valencia is a vibrant city with a Mediterranean climate, beaches, and a rich cultural history that provides an ideal environment to live and study.

- **Multicultural environment:**

Studying at GAIAS Europa offers an international experience with students from all over the world, promoting cultural exchange and global connections.

- **Academic Excellence:**

Our programs are designed with an innovative and practical approach, with access to an expert faculty and high-quality academic resources.

- **Networking opportunities:**

Located in one of the most important cities in Spain, GAIAS Europa provides students with access to professional networks and career opportunities both locally and internationally.

- **Student support:**

We offer a strong focus on student welfare, with academic and personal support services that ensure a complete and rewarding educational experience.

STUDENT SERVICES

GAIAS Europa has a dedicated department focused on supporting students. The Student Services team offers cultural, social, emotional and administrative support promoting the well-being of our student community.

Our GAIAS team is committed to assisting international students, ensuring that their adaptation process is smooth and welcoming by providing support before, during and after the program.

We daily promote our values of Freedom, Truth, Goodness and Beauty with our community.





MEET OUR TEAM

At GAIAS Europa we carefully select our national and international tutors and teachers ensuring the best international experience both academically and culturally.

Rafael Jordà



GAIAS Europa Director

Andrea Peñaherrera



Academic and Student Services Director

Marta Mayordomo



Academic Programs Specialist

Elena Martínez



Student Services

Estefanía Guerrero



GAIAS Europa team - Quito

Camila Estrella



GAIAS Europa team - Quito

SOLSTICE PROGRAMME



PROGRAMME INFORMATION

The Solstice Programme trains future leaders to design innovative and sustainable solutions to global issues by applying:

- Social Innovation
- Systems thinking
- Intercultural communication

It promotes multicultural collaboration and inclusive leadership to generate social, environmental, and economic impact through creative, technology-integrated initiatives.

Students will collaborate in multidisciplinary teams to create innovative projects and proposals addressing global challenges during an intensive two-week Summer School in Valencia, Spain.

This unique experience combines academic learning, social impact, and cultural immersion, fostering leadership, teamwork, and global awareness.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The **Solstice Programme** is an international and intercultural learning experience designed for **USFQ students and Edinburgh University from all majors**, starting from their **second academic year**.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Joint Academic Experience:** Participate in classes alongside students from the University of Edinburgh and USFQ.
- 2 Applied Learning:** The program offers both theoretical and practical learning.
- 3 Real-World Case Study:** Engage in a hands-on, real-world case study project in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Students will collaborate in multidisciplinary teams to create innovative projects and proposals addressing global challenges.
- 4 Cultural Immersion:** Experience the rich Spanish culture through exciting activities, including a traditional paella cooking experience, a visit to the Oceanogràfic aquarium, and a comprehensive city tour of Valencia.
- 5 International Certification:** Upon successful completion, participants receive an International Certificate signed by The University of Edinburgh and GAIAS Europa.





Requirements

- English level B2 / Level 6 or higher
- GPA 3.0/4.0 minimum
- Good academic standing (no honor code violations)

- **Programme Fee:**

This fee includes the registration fee and student residence, as all students are required to live together for the duration of the programme.

- **USFQ Course (Optional/Applicable to USFQ students):**

3 credits (REL 3087E – Social Innovation).

- **Limited to 20 selected participants.**

Included in the Programme:

- Academic registration and student services
- Student accommodation in residence (mandatory)
- Academic follow-up and support
- Acceptance and invitation letters
- Cultural and integration activities
- Visa process guidance (Note: Visa handling is managed by the Spanish Consulate)

Not Included:

- Health insurance
- Flight tickets
- Visa fees
- Personal expenses



IMPORTANT

Make the registration payment to reserve your place.

Check the application deadlines with GAIAS Europe.

To apply for the programme you need to have a type D study visa.

Visit our website:

www.gaiaseuropa.com

GAIAS Europa address :

[www.maps.app.goo.gl/
prkbSCGabW2fEPpG7](https://www.maps.app.goo.gl/prkbSCGabW2fEPpG7)



Don't miss this opportunity to study, connect, and create global impact in one of Europe's most vibrant cities!

GAIAS EUROPA



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