



Serving at El Camino Academy in Bogotá, Colombia

El Camino Academy

Training for Life Since 1980



About El Camino Academy

El Camino Academy (ECA) is a non-profit, interdenominational Christian school founded in 1980 in the city of Bogotá, Colombia to serve foreign missionary and other Christian families. Almost 85% of our students speak English as a second or third language. All graduating students who complete the requirements receive both an American and a Colombian high school diploma.

Core Values

Integrity
Service
Responsibility
Love
Respect

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Vision Statement

El Camino Academy is a Christ-centered educational community biblically equipping bilingual servant-leaders to transform their world.

Mission Statement

- Provide a Bible-centered education primarily in English, using a U.S. curriculum that meets Colombian and U.S. educational requirements
- Foster spiritual growth within the educational community by promoting vibrant personal relationships with God
- Influence students and the community through modeling Christ-likeness and discipling intentionally
- Encourage participation in service and mission opportunities

Mission trip to La Guajira: To support the church leaders and the Wayuu community in rural areas.



MINEDUCACIÓN

El Camino Academy is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Middle States Association (MSA), and recognized by the Colombian Ministry of Education.

ECA is a great place to teach right out of college because your principal is easy to access. You don't have to compete with like 20 other elementary teachers for input like at a public school. You can get feedback from administrators and work closely with specialists to best figure out how to meet the needs of our students. It's a super supportive environment. You get to live with other teachers who understand what you're going through your first year, and can provide support as well as friendship.

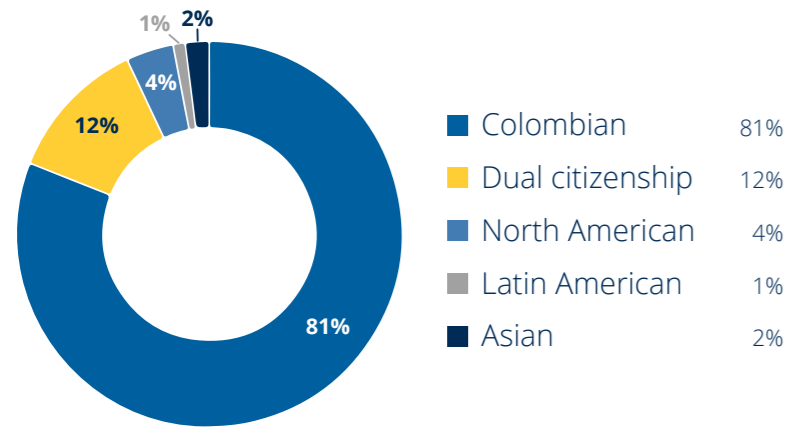
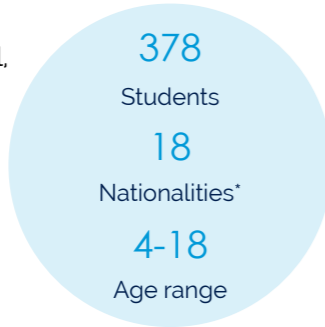
Hannah, 3rd grade teacher

Service and Missions

All students are involved in some type of regular outreach throughout the year. Service and mission opportunities have expanded through the years. As of 2019, we have almost 100 students, staff, and alumni on seven different mission outreaches during Holy Week, trekking to various regions and people groups within Colombia.

Student Profile

Each student is a whole being with spiritual, intellectual, emotional/personal, social, and physical needs that must be considered in the formulation of goals, objectives, and curriculum. We strive to encourage and model biblical standards as far as attitudes, speech, and conduct, desiring that each student pursue a lifestyle of moral and sexual purity.



Academic Program

All graduates receive a U.S. high school diploma of international recognition. ECA's curriculum is designed to ensure that students from Pre-K to 12th receive classes in the nine fundamental areas required by Colombian law.

The ECA curriculum is taught primarily in English, while Spanish language and literature classes and some social studies classes are taught in Spanish. The school is divided into three levels:

Elementary

The elementary program goes from Pre-K to 4th grade. Pre-K students begin at age four. By the end of elementary, students are expected to be reading and writing fluently in both English and Spanish, and be proficient in basic math computation skills. The six core subjects are Bible, English, math, science, social studies, and Spanish.

Middle School

The middle school program goes from 5th to 8th grade. Students have eight 45-minute class periods each day except Friday, which has an adjusted schedule. All classes are taught in English except for Spanish class.

High School

The high school program goes from 9th to 12th grade and assumes that all students are preparing for further studies. All classes are taught in accordance with U.S. high school standards and in preparation for U.S. College Board exams such as the PSAT and SAT.

All Colombian students and those international students who choose to be in the Colombian diploma program take classes to meet Colombian graduation requirements, and are prepared for the SABER standardized test.



Students at ECA take the SAT and the Saber 11 exams. Taking these exams allows students to explore the possibility of studying in both the U.S. and Colombia, as well as other parts of the world.

Technology Support

ECA provides substantial technology for use in the classroom and work areas. It is recommended that teachers also bring their own laptops, which all desks in the Teacher Office can support. It is also recommended that laptops have an HDMI output and/or adaptor that converts to HDMI. Wireless is available throughout the school.

We have about 60 members on our academic staff, including teachers and classroom aides (for elementary and MS) plus different academic support personnel. Of our full-time teachers, about 60% are from the USA, 1 South African, and the rest are Colombians.

We have 5 full-time academic administrators. Many of our foreign teachers are in their twenties (though we do have some gray hair each year) and we have both singles and couples.

Teacher Profile

1. Committed Christian who:
 - Models Christ-like character and so demonstrates the reality of God's truth
 - Guides the student in the study of God's truth as revealed in His creation, His incarnate Word, and His written Word
 - Incorporates a variety of teaching methods that stimulate different learning styles
2. Academically competent
3. Ever-learning and ever-growing in his/her academic disciplines, skills, and knowledge through personal study
4. Committed to helping each student incorporate God's truth into his/her life

Application

If you believe God is leading you to join our team, [click here](#) to submit an application.

Staff Reflections

ECA has a great support system for a first-year teacher. While the principals push us to grow professionally, they are also incredibly supportive and understanding, remembering what it's like to start out teaching. Having a teacher aide is also wonderful. They have so much to teach us and offer. They allow us to grow in classroom management, but not have to do it by ourselves so that we can focus more on instruction. It's a great first teaching job.

Ilana, 2nd grade teacher

ECA is a great place to begin your career because of the community and support. There is also a lot of grace and resources for first-year teachers.

Victoria, 5th grade teacher

Living in Bogotá

- Located in the center of the country at an altitude of about 8,660 feet, Bogotá enjoys an almost perfect climate with average highs from 60-70°F and lows in the 40's and 50's.
- The Role of the Family
 - » The family takes center stage in the social structure.
 - » It acts as a source of support and advice, and therefore great loyalty is shown among family members. Although extended families rarely live under one roof (aside from in rural areas), many still live very close and frequent one another's houses often.
 - » It is still common for children to remain at home until they marry.
 - » The elderly are generally revered for their age and experience.
- Colombia has 18 national holidays throughout the year, often on long weekends, which are ideal times to travel around the country. While serving in Colombia, make time to travel to a new city, the countryside, the coasts, or even the Amazon rainforest.
- Each Sunday and holiday from 7:00-2:00p many main streets in Bogotá and other big cities are blocked off for runners, skaters, and bicyclists to use. At that time, platforms are set up in the city for aerobics and line dancing. Bogotá has South America's largest network of bike paths – over 300 km.