

Nightlight® Christian Adoptions International  
Adoption Program Description

Ecuador



**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Ecuador is a country located on the coast of the Pacific Ocean in South America. It also includes the Galapagos Islands. It is considered one of 17 megadiverse countries in the world. It is a representative democratic republic and a developing country. Ecuador has a tropical temperate climate with little seasonal variation. The Hispanic culture is warm and friendly. There is a domestic adoption program available to Ecuadorian citizens – these families generally get preference in child placement before foreign adopters.

Ecuador is party to The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention). Therefore, all intercountry adoptions between Ecuador and the United States must meet the requirements of the Convention and U.S. law implementing the Convention. Ecuadorian adoptions are conducted through a collaborative effort of a Hague accredited adoption agency in the U.S. and by the Ecuadorian Central Adoption Authority (Autoridad Central de Adopciones Internacionales del Ecuador).

Information on international adoptions from Ecuador on the U.S. Department of State web site:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/Intercountry-Adoption-Country-Information/Ecuador.html>

Information on the country of Ecuador on the U.S. Department of State web site: <https://www.state.gov/countries-areas/ecuador/>

**CHILDREN AVAILABLE**

Single children who are school age and older, sibling groups, and children who are younger with more complex medical needs.

**ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT**

- Parents must be at least 25 years old and there must be at least 14 years and no more than 45 years between the younger parent and the child being adopted.
- Single women are accepted into the program.
- A couple has to be married for at least 3 years.
- They expect parents to have some basic Spanish skills.

**REFERRALS**

Referrals are provided by the central authority in Ecuador. The referral will contain basic information on child's medical and social background. Referral time depends on the profiles of the child(ren) a family looks to adopt.

**PROCESS**

1. Make application to Nightlight Christian Adoptions.
2. Begin your **adoption home study** and submit **form I-800A** to USCIS.
3. Begin to assemble your **dossier**. We will give you detailed instructions.
4. Once USCIS has approved your adoption home study, you will receive your **I-797C pre-approval notice**.

5. Once your USCIS approval has been received your dossier is complete, you will be registered to adopt in Ecuador.
6. The Ecuadorian Central Authority will add you to a list of waiting families and you will then wait for a referral.
7. Complete official referral review with Nightlight's Social Services Department
8. Upon referral acceptance, you will file your I-800.
9. You will then travel to Ecuador for approximately 8-10 weeks
10. Once you have received the adoption decree, the attorney will obtain a new birth certificate and passport for your child.
11. The final step is to obtain the US visa for your child and returning home.
12. The children reside in orphanages while awaiting adoption.
13. Ecuador adoptions can take on average 9 to 24 months to complete.

### **TRAVEL**

Only 1 trip is required for adoption from Ecuador. Once you are in country, you will meet your child and he/she will be with you for the duration of your stay. The first week with your child will be a bonding period. Then the adoption will be finalized while you are in country. A new birth certificate and passport will be issued. After an exit interview with the US Embassy you will be able to leave the country with your child(ren). You can estimate that you will be in country for about 8-10 weeks.

### **POST ADOPTION**

Within 30 days of your arrival home, you must have a home visit by your home study provider. Your home study provider will prepare post-adoption reports and submit them to Nightlight. The rest of your reports are due at 4, 8, 12, 18, and 24 months after your adoption finalization date. These reports include your child's developmental progress and pictures. This is a very serious commitment. Compliance with post adoption reports is also required by The Hague Convention. Therefore, Nightlight charges a fee to monitor and process these post placement reports and also requires families to pay for the cost of the post placement report in advance.

### **COSTS**

The agency program fees as well as other fees both in the US and in country for an Ecuador adoption are listed below. Your out-of-pocket expenses may further be reduced if you receive scholarships, grants or employer-provided adoption benefits. For additional fee information please see Exhibit A.

Please contact Rachel Roberts, [rachel.roberts@nightlight.org](mailto:rachel.roberts@nightlight.org) or (636) 797-4100 ext 182 with any questions.





# nightlight

christian adoptions

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[www.Nightlight.org](http://www.Nightlight.org)



## Getting Started CHECKLIST

### 1. Fill out Application Documents

- Fill out the Online Application
- Read and Sign International Agreement Forms
- Upload your family photo
- Pay the application fee

*\*Please Note: Keep the Complaint form for your records; you may want to make a copy of the Policy & Procedure to also keep for your records.*

### 2. Complete your Orientation

Once we review and accept your Application materials, we will send you an acceptance letter via e-mail. Shortly after that you will receive an invoice for the orientation phase and then begin your orientation with your adoption advisor.

### 3. Obtain a Home Study

- **If you live in Nightlight's licensed area**, we will perform your home study. Once your application is approved, your adoption advisor will notify you how to get started on your home study with one of our Nightlight offices.
- **If you are out of Nightlight's licensed area**, we will help you find a local agency.

Please read our [FAQs](#) before submitting your application. If you have any questions please call our office: at 502- 423-5780 or send us an e-mail at [info@nightlight.org](mailto:info@nightlight.org).

ATTACHMENT A  
NIGHTLIGHT® CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS  
INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS – FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS  
ECUADOR

**\*A grant of \$5000 to \$7000 is available after completion of a  
Nightlight Grant Application**

PROGRAM FEE	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>Application Phase</b>		\$600	<i>Due with application.</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #1</b>		\$3,500	<i>Due upon application acceptance</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #2</b>		\$3,500	<i>Due upon completion of Orientation Call</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #3</b>		\$7,500	<i>Due prior to submission of dossier to country</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$4,000		
<i>Foreign Fee #1</i>	\$3,500		
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #4</b>		\$6,500	<i>Due upon receipt of referral</i>
<i>Agency Fee</i>	\$3,000		
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$3,500		<i>\$500 for each additional sibling</i>
<b>Nightlight Program Fee #5</b>		\$4,000	<i>Due upon notice to travel</i>
<i>Foreign Fee</i>	\$4,000		
<b>Total Program Fee before Grant</b>		<b>\$25,600</b>	
<b>Grant applied</b>	<b>-\$5,000 to \$7,000</b>		<i>Grant will be given upon receipt of grant application and applied to your last program fee</i>
<b>Total Program Fee After Grant</b>		<b>\$18,600-\$20,600</b>	
OTHER COSTS (ESTIMATED)	COSTS	TOTALS	NOTES
<b>U.S.-Based Fees</b>		<b>\$9,545-\$15,655</b>	
<i>Monitoring and Oversight fee charged by accrediting entity. Per child</i>	\$850		<i>Due upon signing the Agreement for International Services \$850 for each additional child</i>
<i>Home Study</i>	\$1,500-\$2,500		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Home Study Supporting Documents</i>	\$100-\$225		<i>Cost for criminal clearances, obtaining physicals, and other misc. expenses</i>
<i>Parent Education/Training</i>	\$100-\$300		<i>Estimated cost of online education courses</i>
<i>Home Study Review Fee</i>	\$300		<i>Review of home study prepared by an agency other than Nightlight</i>
<i>USCIS Filing Fees</i>	\$920		<i>Includes I-800A application and biometrics for all family members</i>
<i>Home Study/USCIS Update Shipping and Translation Fees</i>	\$25-\$260		<i>Paid to Nightlight when applicable</i>
<i>Psychological Evaluation</i>	\$500-\$1,500		<i>Varies by provider</i>
<i>Dossier Authentication &amp; Courier Fees</i>	\$250-\$500		<i>Varies by state</i>
<i>Shipping/translation of Dossier</i>	\$2,000-\$3,000		<i>Paid prior to dossier submission to the country</i>
<i>Translation of child referral</i>	\$450-\$600		<i>Paid upon receipt of Referral. Fee per child</i>
<i>Post Adoption Reports</i>	\$1,750		<i>Costs vary by state/agency</i>
<i>Shipping and/or translation - of post adoption reports</i>	\$800		<i>Cost may vary depending on the number and ages of children you are adopting, due at receipt of referral</i>
<i>Medical Review of Referral</i>	\$0-\$200		<i>Some physicians do not charge for this service. International adoption clinics will usually charge a fee for this.</i>
<i>Certificate of Citizenship (COC)</i>	\$0-\$1,170		<i>Applies to families in guardianship countries, families living abroad, families coming home on an IR4 visa. Not applicable in some countries</i>
<i>Dossier prep/state certification for families</i>	\$0-\$800		<i>NCA offers dossier prep where our staff will gather the dossier documents and send off to the secretary of state for you. \$800 for entire dossier or \$50 per document. These fees do not include shipping or the apostille costs.</i>
<b>Other In-Country Adoption Costs</b>		<b>\$5,195-\$9,615</b>	<i>Estimates are for 2 people and 1 trip</i>
<i>Airfare (2 adults)</i>	\$1,600-\$2,500		<i>Paid directly to airline.</i>
<i>Airfare for child (one way)</i>	\$750-\$1,000		<i>Paid directly to airline.</i>
<i>In Country Travel &amp; Accommodations</i>	\$2,000 - \$5,000		<i>Estimated for 8-10 weeks. Includes housing, food, and non-adoption related transportation. Paid directly to providers.</i>
<i>Child's Passport, Visa &amp; Documents</i>	\$475		<i>Due to NCA prior to travel. Cost per child.</i>
<i>Child Visa Medical Exam &amp; TB Test</i>	\$70		<i>Due to NCA prior to travel. Cost per child. Not including vaccinations which are paid in country.</i>
<i>Adoption Documents</i>	\$300 - \$570		<i>Paid directly to providers while in country. Cost per child</i>
<b>Total Other Costs (Est.)</b>		<b>\$14,740-\$25,290</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES &amp; ESTIMATED EXPENSES</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$33,340-\$45,890</b>	

The cost of operating an international adoption program is substantial and increasing with the additional compliance requirements under The Hague Convention on Inter-

Country Adoption. The nature of international adoption makes it impossible to predict the exact costs you will incur, but we believe the estimates above are realistic. Although we strive to maintain a predictable fee schedule, unexpected increase in our costs may necessitate an increase in fees. Therefore, fees may be increased upon 90-day notice.

Program fees are paid in phases and are non-refundable. Nightlight establishes a budget for costs each year based on the number of adoptions it estimates completing, as well as revenue from grants and donations. Based on these estimates, we establish program fees to cover the costs of attorneys, facilitators, social workers, insurance, and other costs we incur. Of course it would be prohibitive to allocate all of the costs (payroll, rent, insurance, supplies, travel, etc) to one adoption in one program.

**A late fee of 12% annual (1% monthly) will be assessed for fees more than 30 days past due.**

**Please initial on both this page and the following page that you have received a copy of this List of Fees and Estimated Costs.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Adopting Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment B  
 Nightlight Christian Adoptions  
 INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS – FEES AND ESTIMATED COSTS  
 Ecuador

<b>SERVICES CATEGORIZED PER HAUGE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>Ecuador</b>
Home Study (including estimated out of pocket costs)	\$1,600 – \$3,025
Adoption expenses in the US (includes personnel costs, administrative overhead, operational costs, training and education, communications and publications costs and other costs associated with providing adoption services in the US)	\$10,100
Foreign country program expenses (includes personnel costs, administrative overhead, operational costs, training and education, communications and publications costs and other costs associated with providing adoption services in the child's convention country)	\$10,500
Care of the child (the expected total fees and estimated expenses charged to PAP's for the care of the child in the country of origin prior to adoption, including, but not limited to costs for food, clothing, shelter, medical care, foster care, orphanage care and other services provided DIRECTLY to the child.	\$0
Translation and Document Expenses: the expected total fees and estimated expenses for obtaining any necessary documents, translation of documents related to the adoption and information on whether the PAP's will pay costs directly or to a 3rd party either in the US or Convention country or through the agency. Category includes but is not limited to, costs for obtaining, translating, copying records or documents required to complete the adoption, costs for Convention court documents, passport, adoption certificate and other documents related to the adoption, costs for notarization and certifications.	\$2,725 – \$4,360
Contributions: any fixed contribution amount or percentage that the PAP expected or required to make to child protection or child welfare service programs in the Child's convention country or in the US along with an explanation of the intended use of the contribution and the manner in which the transaction will be recorded and accounted for.	\$0
Post placement (PP) and post adoption (PA) reports: the expected total fees and estimated expenses for any PP or PA reports that the agency or parents must prepare to comply with requirements of the expected country of origin (and NCA requirements)	\$2,250
Travel/Accommodation Expenses: Estimated 2 Adults, 1 child: includes hotel, food, fuel, and airfare estimates.	\$4,350 – \$8,500
Third Party Expenses: includes USCIS fees, courier services, in-country guide, and child medical or visa costs if paid directly by the family rather than through Nightlight.	\$3,215 – \$6,055

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