



Budget for Foreign Staff

All foreign teachers and staff are encouraged to come to El Camino Academy as missionaries who raise some of their support from their home church, friends, and family. ECA provides full-time certified teachers:

- A monthly stipend (in pesos), to offset living expenses, about **\$350 - 400/** month depending on the exchange rate, for 10 months (Aug – May)
- A bonus for July for those who commit to serving by June, or prorated based on the number of days serving at ECA
- A 12-month contract for subsequent years (Jul – Jun)
- Free tuition for up to three children.

For those who are not certified by ACSI or by a state, special arrangements must be made with the Director.

Our Finance Office sets up a bank **account** for each missionary, into which their stipend/salary is deposited on the 25th of each month.

To get **pesos** from bank accounts back home, missionaries use debit/credit cards at ATM machines here in town. Such withdrawals are based on the current exchange rate and usually come with transaction fees. To avoid such fees, see our online document **Avoiding Bank Transaction Fees**.

ECA also provides free school lunches, free teacher vans to and from school along a basic route, and free Spanish classes at school for its missionary staff. Staff who return for an additional year usually receive a Returning Bonus. **Missionary Life at ECA**, on our website under Get Involved / Potential Teachers/Staff lists other benefits that ECA offers its missionaries to help defray costs.

Due to the fact that close to 50% of our school families are heavily involved in ministry as missionaries, pastors, or full-time Christian workers, and have substantial scholarships, the tuition that is charged unfortunately does not allow us to pay full salaries. As our missionary staff raise support, they help subsidize the Christian workers whose children are able to receive a top-notch education and training to be future leaders.

Monthly Expenses

Singles should budget **\$900 - \$1,200** a month. Missionaries can count on the monthly ECA stipend, which means they need to raise \$550 - \$800 a month. This is based on 3 singles sharing an apartment.

Couples should budget **\$1,400 - \$3,000** a month, calculating an additional \$200 - \$400/child/month, depending on their ages and needs. Missionaries can count on one monthly ECA stipend per teaching spouse.

Rent and Utilities: Bogotá is set up in *estratos* 1-6, which determine the dependability of service and how much you pay per unit consumed (kilowatt, cubic

8. Check with your sending mission if they take out **Social Security** or if you have to file and pay at the end of the year.
9. There are usually at least 3-4 **trips** offered each semester to encourage you to get outside the city, especially around holidays.

One-Time Costs

You should also budget for:

A	Round-trip airfare to/from Bogotá	varies
B	Shipping of household goods – not recommended	
C	Apartment start-up costs	varies
D	Visa: \$295 for your initial visa, plus notary and apostille costs if you apply at a consulate in the U.S.	> \$295
E	<i>Cédula</i> (national ID card) expenses	\$15
F	End-of-term expenses (apt/furnishing repairs)	varies

Notes on the above One-Time Costs:

- A. Airfare depends on location, season, and whether 1-way or round-trip. Passengers entering the country on a tourist visa must have a round-trip or continuing ticket.
- B. Shipping goods and getting them out of Customs can be a complicated, drawn-out, and very expensive process. Many of our teachers pay for additional and/or overweight suitcases when they fly.
- C. ECA provides each household a refrigerator, washing machine, and made beds upon your arrival. Come prepared to supply, upgrade, or live without other furnishings. However . . .

Our PTF (Parent/Teacher Fellowship) has donated many household items for our missionary staff to use in ECA housing. Most of our apartments are fairly well furnished with mostly used items, including basic living/dining room furniture and kitchenware, some appliances, and bedding and towels. There is no guarantee what inventory is in ECA housing.

If you move into an apartment already rented by ECA, a rental application is not needed. Otherwise, the apartment study/application could cost around \$45, an expense you as future tenants would pay.

- D. See the document **Visa Information** on our website.
- E. Within 15 calendar days of your arrival, you need to apply for a *Cédula de Extranjería*, the national ID card for foreigners. See the document **National ID Card Needed - Cedula** on our website. ECA will pay the approximately \$85 fee for your *cédula*. You need only cover the photos and blood-type paperwork.
- F. Be prepared to pay for **repair** of damage to the apartment and furnishings beyond normal wear and tear. ECA will help coordinate moving personal furnishings, but payment for such **moves** is the missionary's responsibility.