



Missionary Life at ECA

Following are some of the ways ECA fosters a positive atmosphere for our missionary staff.

School Life

1. We have weekly **devotional** and **worship** times in English, coordinated by our chaplains.
2. Our chaplains connect staff with a weekly **prayer partner** for the year, and provide opportunity for **spiritual accountability** and **mentoring**.
3. We have an annual 3-day spiritual **retreat** outside of Bogotá with Board members who are able to join us, which ECA pays for. Every other year the entire school staff joins us.
4. We provide **professional development** throughout the year and offer scholarship opportunities for approved programs, classes, and workshops.
5. Pre-Kinder – 8th grade teachers have **classroom aides** who help with supervision, clerical work and small group activities, as well as serve as a translator when necessary (e.g., parent conferences).
6. We provide a **cell phone** with \$10.000 pesos (about \$3.50) worth of minutes when missionary staff arrive.
7. We have a few **U.S. phone lines** at the school for use at no cost to staff.
8. **Wi-Fi** is provided throughout the school for high-speed Internet access.
9. We provide licensing so all our missionary staff can have the latest version of various types of **software** on their personal computers (Microsoft Office, etc.).
10. Our system administrator and other advanced computer users on our team provide **technical support** for many personal computer issues.
11. We offer annual group **computer damage and theft insurance** at a very low cost.
12. We provide free daily **lunches** on all work days. This usually includes choice of entrée, soup, salad bar, and drink.
13. We have **bread** and **hot chocolate** each Friday morning before teacher meetings.
14. Up to 3 children of missionary staff receive around 95% **scholarship** for an ECA education.

15. We provide leveled **Spanish** classes. There are also Spanish Conversation Club opportunities for interacting with ECA families in their homes.
16. We provide **transportation** to and from school in chartered vans, with pick-up points near where most of our missionaries live.

Housing / Logistics

17. We arrange **airport** pick-up and drop-off, usually through ECA parents.
18. We help missionaries through the **legal paperwork** process for being in Colombia, which includes walking you through the visa application process here in Bogotá or sending you the necessary paperwork to apply at a Colombian consulate in the U.S., and getting your national ID card.
19. We find and rent **apartments** in safe neighborhoods. These apartments are then subleased to our missionaries. ECA is responsible for doing the legal paperwork and ensuring timely rent payments, while the missionary is responsible for paying the rent and paperwork costs.
20. We provide each household basic **furnishings** such as a washing machine, refrigerator, and beds/bedding. ECA parents contribute to a stock of furnishings that missionaries share.
21. We *coordinate* **moving** into and out of apartments, along with related cleaning.
22. We provide regular **apartment maintenance**, and cleaning twice a year. We help coordinate more regular maid service.
23. We help missionary staff with the **payment process** of rent and utilities.
24. We provide administrative and communication **support** dealing with apartment owners, rental agencies, utilities, Internet providers and other entities.

Community

25. We provide organized opportunities for **service/outreach** on a monthly basis for those who want to work with those in need.
26. We provide help in getting connected with a **local church**.
27. We provide opportunity for joining small group **Bible studies**, on and off campus.
28. Working at ECA provides opportunity to **interact** with a diverse, multi-age staff and community focused on the same goals and who rely on one another, help one another, and encourage one another.

29. Many of our students are from families with generous **parents** who often include teachers in their lives and special events.
30. Many of our missionaries live within walking distance of other missionaries. In addition, Bogotá boasts some of the most beautiful malls in the country and most of our missionaries live a short distance from one of these **commercial centers**, which provide shopping, entertainment, restaurants and banks.
31. Most missionaries live within a 15-minute drive of the school, and close to various forms of **public transportation**.
32. We have a festive **Christmas dinner** for all staff, both missionaries and Colombians, and their spouses – one of the few times we are ALL together.
33. We celebrate **Teacher Day** in May with a half day of school and a special lunch courtesy of the Board, followed by an activity such as bowling, horseback riding, or visiting a tourist attraction.
34. The Board gives special Christmas and Teacher Day **bonuses** which are often coupons that can be used at local stores.
35. Missionaries can **earn extra income** by tutoring, or teaching in ECA's Music Academy.
36. We have a revolving **emergency fund** available in the form of both loans and gifts in cases of unexpected missionary needs.

Health

37. We have a **full-time nurse** at ECA who helps with all minor health issues and networks with over 10 doctors and other **medical professionals** among our students' parents when needed for consulting, prescriptions or services.
38. Our nurse helps set up **medical appointments**, accompanied if needed by an **escort** who can manage both languages, and oversees home and hospital **visits** when necessary.
39. We provide **Colombian health insurance**.

General Perks of Living in Bogotá

The following are some general perks of just living in Bogotá.

1. Bogotá is the capital city of a fascinating country, with **history** and **fine arts** experiences at our fingertips -- and often inexpensive or free.

2. **Travel** in Colombia is safe in most areas and relatively inexpensive. The ECA community knows people all over the country.
3. On Sundays and holidays we have *ciclovía* when major arteries through the city are closed to motorized traffic so bikers, skaters, walkers, and joggers can enjoy some outdoor exercise. **Gym** membership is fairly inexpensive, so it's easy to stay in shape. Our staff is affiliated with CAFAM several blocks from the school where you can swim, exercise, etc., for a small fee.
4. Colombia is the best place in the world to learn and perfect your **Spanish** – Colombian Spanish is considered the purest.
5. There is a variety of good **church options**, including one in English (United Church of Bogotá), with good young singles groups and opportunities to mix and travel with Colombian young people.
6. There are incomparable **ministry opportunities** both within ECA and without. Foreigners can mold the future of Colombia through ministries.
7. There is a large variety of affordable **fruits** and **vegetables** available year round.
8. Exporting flowers is big business here, so there's an abundance of **flowers** at excellent prices.