

“Ecuadorian Sign Language [ecs] (A language of Ecuador)

- **Alternate Names:** Lengua de Señas de Ecuador, LSEC
- **Population:** 231,000 (2011 Consejo Nacional de Discapacidades).
- **Location:** Scattered
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing).
- **Dialects:** Regional variation between coastal dialect (centered in Guayaquil) and sierra dialect (centered in Quito). Ecuadorian deaf community reports variation based on age. Variant used by young signers shows borrowing from American Sign Language [ase] (30% of signs) and Spanish Sign Language [ssp] (20% of sign). (Eberle, Parks, Eberle and Parks 2012).
- **Language Use:** While LSEC is the primary language of communication for most deaf people, widely varying degrees of bilingualism (spoken and written) in Spanish [spa] are common. Spanish literacy for access to mainstream society and employment is valued. All domains. All ages.
- **Language Development:** LSEC dictionary (Federación Nacional de Sordos de Ecuador). Several deaf schools have developed their own LSEC teaching materials. Videos. Dictionary.
- **Other Comments:** Instituto Nacional de Audición y Lenguaje, located in Quito, the largest deaf school in Ecuador, regards LSEC as the natural language and first language of deaf people in Ecuador, while Spanish [spa] is their second. Ecuadorian Sign Language has the most regular contact with sign languages from Peru, Colombia, and the United States. (Eberle, Parks, Eberle and Parks 2012).”

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.)

2015. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Eighteenth edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

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