

International Programs
Participant Guide 2009-2010

México

CSU **The California State University**
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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This *Participant Guide* is designed to assist you with your preparation for your year abroad. We encourage you to share this information with your family and friends so that they can share in your experience. It is available online at www.calstate.edu/ip (Admitted Students). The *Guide* is revised annually and we welcome your suggestions.

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Introduction

The Participant Guide

Congratulations on your acceptance to the California State University International Program in Mexico. It will be an exciting and challenging year. We are pleased that you will be joining a unique group of CSU students and wish you the best for your time abroad.

This *Participant Guide* is designed to help you deal with the various requirements for participation in IP. Read the information that follows in the various sections. You should also take this with you when you go abroad. We know that there are a lot of facts to absorb and a lot of things you have to do. Bear in mind, however, that you are going to be spending an academic year at a different university in a different region of the world—assuredly, a very complex undertaking. We will try to make it as easy as possible, but it will still require considerable effort on your part.

Undoubtedly, you have a lot of questions and as you go through the process of preparation you will have more. In addition to this booklet there will be a Regional Orientation that we strongly urge you to attend. By now you should have received "Online packet #1," which includes forms you will need to complete and return. If there are additional materials for you, we may send you additional online packets. Please be sure that OIP always has your current e-mail address and please check your e-mail regularly between now and departure for any messages we may send.

Although this *Guide* is revised and updated each year, it is based on the advice, insight and experience of thousands of students who have studied abroad on IP. Your own experience will be a personal and independent one. Studying and learning in an unfamiliar educational system, exploring the neighborhoods, learning your way around, finding your own place to meet and socialize—these will be part of your discovery of Mexico, and we wish you all the best. One of the most common pieces of advice from returning students is to keep an open mind. Be flexible and use diplomacy and humor to gain a better understanding of your new surroundings.

The CSU International Programs: An Overview

The International Programs (IP) was established by the CSU Board of Trustees in 1963 as the systemwide study abroad unit of The California State University. Under the direction of the Office of International Programs (OIP), students are offered an opportunity to enroll simultaneously in one of the CSU campuses—where they earn academic credit and maintain campus residency—and in a host university or a special study program center abroad for a full academic year of study.

IP's primary objective is to enable participants to gain firsthand knowledge and understanding of other areas of the world through a year of academic study. Students have the opportunity to increase their communication skills through participation in the language and culture of other countries.

Some overseas study centers have a Resident Director charged with the academic, administrative and advisory aspects of the program. Resident Directors are faculty members in the CSU. Other centers have either a Resident Coordinator who performs the functions of a resident director but is not a CSU faculty member, still others are administered by a responsible officer of the host institution.

Eligibility is limited to students who have achieved an overall grade-point average (GPA) in all college work of 2.75 at the time of their application to the program (except for Australia, Canada (McGill), Chile, China, Ghana, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and specified programs where the minimum GPA is 3.0); who will have upper division or graduate standing during their year of study abroad (except for special learn language programs which are open to sophomores); who show ability to adapt to a new environment; who are, where required, sufficiently competent in the language of instruction at the foreign university; and who meet course preparation requirements where applicable. Selection is made by a faculty committee on the student's home campus and by a statewide faculty committee. Since more students apply than can be selected, selection is on a competitive basis.

Students assume costs for predeparture processing, insurance, transportation, housing and meals, the State University Fee, tuition on the home campus for nonresident students, personal incidental expenses and vacation travel costs. OIP collects and administers funds for those items that must be arranged or can be negotiated more effectively by a central office, e.g., the State University Fee (and nonresident tuition, where applicable), processing costs, insurance, and even housing in some centers. Students accepted by IP may apply for most types of financial aid available at their home campuses.

IP is supported by State funds to the same extent that such funds would have been expended had the students remained at their home campuses in California rather than going overseas.

IP has a faculty advisory body called the Academic Council on International Programs. It is composed of a faculty representative from each CSU campus. Representatives are appointed by their local Academic Senates and are eligible to serve two terms of three years. Four former IP participants are also appointed annually to full membership on the Academic Council.



Student Policies and Procedures

Your Acceptance to International Programs (IP)

The first thing we will need to know is whether you still plan to participate in IP. If you do, please sign and return the Agreement form by **May 15**. A copy for your records is included in the "Agreement" section of this *Guide*. If you do not plan to participate, please inform us in writing as soon as possible, so that an alternate participant may have the opportunity to take your place.

Alternate participants are selected for some programs when the number of qualified students exceeds the places available overseas. Alternates take the place of regular participants who withdraw before departure. If you were selected as an alternate, you must complete all requirements and make all payments just as if you were a regular participant. Based on previous experience, alternates have a good chance of ultimately becoming regular participants. You will be informed immediately when your status changes to that of regular participant.

Being an IP Participant

Being part of an established program, such as IP, involves commitments on the part of the participants as well as on the part of the program. At times, you will be expected to behave as a member of a group, such as at the on-site orientation and in other program activities. There are rules and regulations that you will be required to comply with as a program member that students who go abroad independently may not have to consider. While IP students generally have a great deal of independence while overseas, it is the case that your actions may affect your group or future groups of IP students. Thus, it is important to develop a sense of responsibility toward the program as well as your fellow IP participants.

The Systemwide Office of International Programs

Now that you have been selected for IP, you have become part of a statewide program. The details of your year overseas will be handled by the systemwide Office of International Programs (OIP) rather than by your individual CSU campus. **From now on, all questions about your participation in the program should be addressed to OIP.**

When making inquiries, we ask that you and not your parents contact us. Having supportive parents contributes to your success overseas; however, when it comes to the details of your participation, you must handle your affairs firsthand.

We are located in downtown Long Beach at the CSU Office of the Chancellor, not on the CSU, Long Beach campus as many assume. Our address is:

CSU International Programs
401 Golden Shore, Sixth Floor
Long Beach, California 90802-4210

Our telephone number is: (562) 951-4790. Please note that we are unable to accept collect calls from students.

OIP Staff:

Mr. Leo Van Cleve, Director
Ms. Jolene Colman, Department Secretary
Ms. Jan Terborg, Campus Relations Administrator
Ms. Sharon Okashima, Assistant Director, Finance
Ms. Joyce Cury, Student Funds/Scholarship Coordinator
Ms. Dana Rosón, Assistant Director, Student Services
Ms. Jeanine Beu, Student Services Assistant
Ms. Danielle Pattee, Student Affairs Assistant
Ms. Renata Bouwmeester, Assistant Director, Academic Services
Ms. Laura McCrary, Academic Services Assistant

Since IP participants come from all over the state, we will be communicating with you mostly in writing or by telephone. When calling or writing OIP, please make sure you indicate your CSU campus and overseas center so that we can identify you easily. Please also read your e-mail on a regular basis and inform us whenever you change your e-mail address. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about any aspect of your preparation for studying overseas.

While you are overseas, financial, academic, or other issues at your home campus may arise. In most cases, it is not in your best interest to contact your campus directly. It is often much simpler for us to solve such problems as we are aware of your special status as an IP student. You should write to OIP through your Resident Director, Resident Coordinator, or host university contact. As those individuals are in close communication with OIP, we can contact the campus on your behalf.

Information for Participants

All participants receive the following:

The Participant Guide - Outlines requirements, policies and procedures regarding various aspects of your upcoming year, and gives advice on personal preparation.

- **The IP Bulletin (included in this Guide)** - Describes the academic program and lists course offerings, or provides Internet links containing course descriptions. You will need this information in order to complete Academic Advisement form with a faculty advisor.
- **Student Experience Report (included in this Guide)** Input from the current year participants at your center provides helpful information about the year overseas from the student perspective.

Online Packet #1 - Includes the forms necessary for your participation in IP. Before completing the forms, be sure to look over the relevant sections of this *Guide*.

Deadlines

- To make sure that all processing is completed in time, there are deadlines that have to be met. To help you identify these due dates, a pointing hand symbol ☞ appears each time a due date is mentioned. You should mail all items to arrive by the dates indicated.
- In the front of this *Guide* there is a list of the due dates; failure to do so may jeopardize your participation in IP.
- If you have a problem completing a requirement, making a payment, or submitting any form on time, please call us for advice before the deadline. **It is not necessary to send materials and payments to OIP by overnight mail.**

Change of Address

Address • Telephone number
Cell phone number • Email address

It is your responsibility to notify us if your contact information changes.

It is very important that we always have up-to-date contact information on file for you. **It is your responsibility to let us know if this information changes.** Check the envelope this mailing came in to see that we have accurately recorded your name and current mailing address.

Anytime there is a change in your address, telephone number, cell phone number, or email address between now and departure, please send us a Change of Address/Contact Information form. This form is included in Packet #1 online.

Registration

Do not register for classes at your home CSU campus while you are studying abroad. OIP arranges for you to be concurrently enrolled at your overseas study center and at your home campus.

Home campus registration for the term you return is once again your responsibility. Check your CSU campus' website for information on registration for that term. You may need to contact the campus to make sure that they have you as a continuing student as well as a current address.

Nonresident Students

IP is designed to provide CSU students the opportunity for an in-depth intercultural experience within a structured academic program. Participants are selected without regard to national origin, citizenship, or residence status. In a competitive situation, however, priority is normally given to those applicants who have not had extensive intercultural experience.

Resident aliens are advised to check with the US immigration officials on the possible effects of residence outside the US. Visa students must check with both their home country consular offices and the consular officers of their IP country to determine if any restrictions exist that might preclude participation. Students who are, or have been, citizens of their IP country may have additional restrictions or requirements placed on their admission by the host government and/or university. As an example, German universities require German citizens to possess the *Abitur* to qualify for admission. In all these cases, OIP needs to be informed.

Nonresident US citizens who are otherwise eligible to participate may apply to IP. Such students are subject to nonresident tuition charges.

Transfer Students

If you are a transfer student (entering a CSU campus for the term you are going abroad), you must provide OIP with two items: **a copy of your letter of admission** to the CSU campus, and **an updated transcript** from your former college/university. These items must be sent to OIP no later than ☞ **July 1.**

Payment of CSU Fees

Do not pay fees to your home CSU campus during the year you are participating in IP. Instead, you will make program payments to OIP. Nonresident students are required to pay the nonresident tuition charges to OIP as well.

Extracurricular Activities

Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities are normally available at the overseas centers. Weekend trips, field trips or tours may be sponsored by student organizations or by the host university. Opportunities for individual or team sports may be available. Some of these activities are arranged under the auspices of the host university, and others may be available in the community. Cultural norms tend to determine the type and variety of athletic facilities, and few foreign campuses offer the athletic facilities and opportunities to be found on the typical CSU campus.

To some, international education is synonymous with travel. IP students are encouraged to avail themselves of the many opportunities they will encounter for recreational and educational travel abroad during and after their year of study. IP does not, however, give academic credit for travel, and such travel must not interfere with academic responsibilities. Recreational travel must be carried out during vacation and holiday time and not during class time. Students have the opportunity for extended travel at the end of the academic year. Costs for such travel are not included in the prepaid fees or cost estimates.

Hitchhiking is a dangerous practice and all IP students are strongly encouraged to avoid it.

Students are expected to maintain regular attendance in classes and to remain at the study center during the academic terms. During any absence from the study center, students should provide the Resident Director or host institution staff with details of their itineraries so that, if emergencies arise, the student can be contacted.

Housing & Meals

When housing and/or meal arrangements are made on a group basis by OIP, these must be used by participants. Request for exceptions to this requirement must be submitted in writing by **May 15**, and are reviewed by OIP on an individual basis. Married students and students with accompanying dependents may be required to make their own housing and meal arrangements even in cases where the program provides housing for single students. At study centers where students make individual housing decisions, they are individually responsible for fulfilling the financial and legal aspects of occupying their residences.

Changing Housing

If students begin the year in program-arranged housing, they may move out on an approved basis only if the following conditions are met:

- The host university dormitory authorities or other owner-managers concur and the student has met the terms of the lease or agreement.
- The move will not jeopardize the availability of housing for the following year.
- The Resident Director or Resident Coordinator, where applicable, approves.

- Any applicable penalty or quittance fees are paid.

Any refund to the student for prepaid housing fees will be made only to the extent that the housing authorities are willing to release IP from commitments made on behalf of the student.

In centers where IP places students in family-stay housing (e.g., Denmark, Japan, Mexico), termination of the arrangement before the end of the academic year may be accompanied by an assessment of two months' rent. The Director of International Programs will make the final decision as to whether this early termination charge will be levied; if so, it will be paid in full to the family affected.

If a student moves out of program-arranged housing for personal convenience, or is ejected from program-arranged housing as a result of misconduct, IP will not stand responsible for securing replacement housing for the student.

The terms of lawful leases, signed by students who occupy accommodations at IP study centers, and as interpreted by local officials under the terms of host country law, take precedence over IP's housing regulations. Students are subject to the full range of civil penalties for abuse of property or evasion of contractual obligations abroad in the same way they are subject to such provisions at home. Where legitimate debts arise from accepting accommodations owned or managed by the host universities, or other public entities associated with these universities, such debts may become debts owed to the Board of Trustees of The California State University and to the State of California.

Withdrawals

Prior to Departure

Students who decide not to participate in IP must complete the Predeparture Withdrawal Notification form and submit it to OIP as soon as possible so that alternate students may be offered the opportunity to participate. Refer to the next section for information on possible refunds. These students retain their status as continuing students at their home CSU campuses. It is their responsibility to contact their home campus regarding registration for the upcoming term.

After Departure

Because of the extensive commitments made by the State on each student's behalf, withdrawal after departure is a very serious matter. Students who request withdrawal at any time after arrival at the overseas site must consult with the Resident Director or Coordinator or host university representative, and complete the Program Withdrawal form.

Students who discontinue their academic programs without notifying the overseas staff or OIP may receive failing grades in all courses. Withdrawal after departure constitutes withdrawal not only from IP, but also from the student's home CSU campus for the remainder of the current term.

Students who are receiving financial aid should consult their home campus Financial Aid Office regarding any return or repayment of grant or loan assistance received.

Financial aid recipients should work closely with OIP and their home campus financial aid counselor regarding funds that may need to be repaid and/or debts owed to OIP as a result of their withdrawal.

In some instances, a change in visa status as a result of withdrawal from IP, and thus no longer having student status, may mean having to leave the host country immediately.

In all cases of withdrawals and disenrollments, students assume full responsibility for their return to their home, and thereby remove all liabilities and responsibilities from OIP representatives and staff and the Trustees of The California State University.

Refunds

Students are entitled to a full refund of funds paid, less any funds already committed or expended on their behalf, provided that written notice of withdrawal is received by OIP **prior to June 15**.

Students who withdraw or are disenrolled **after June 15**, but before the beginning of instruction, will receive a refund of all monies paid to OIP less \$500 or an amount equal to funds committed or expended on their behalf, whichever is greater.

Students who withdraw or are disenrolled **after the beginning of instruction** will receive a refund of funds not already committed or expended on their behalf.

State University Fee (SUF) refunds will be based on the amount paid to OIP, the effective withdrawal date and whether or not a student will receive course credit for the term at the overseas university.

No refunds will be made for the IP student Abroad fee after departure.

No refunds will be made for health insurance cancellations after departure.

No refunds will be made for nonparticipation in IP group activities.

Determinations concerning eligibility for refunds and the amount and date of refunds shall be made at the discretion of the Trustees.

If students who receive financial aid withdraw, they may be required to make immediate restitution of monies awarded for participation in IP.

For those students who fully participate in the program, a separate accounting is made to each participant of all funds collected and expended on their behalf by OIP. As OIP makes liberal estimates of costs to cover all likely contingencies, there is usually a small amount of money left in each student account. These funds are normally returned to the students as a post-program year refund. Refunds to students are made at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees. The Director of the International Programs, as agent for the Trustees, may make exceptions to this policy

at any time without advance notice, and may make individual determinations. In particular, the Director may withhold refunds in those cases where students have not appropriately discharged their legitimate debts and claims to host institutions overseas. Refunds are processed at the end of the academic year, when a full accounting can be made. Completing this final accounting may take up to three months or more after the end of the academic year, depending on billing practices in the host country.

Renewal Students

IP is designed as a one-year academic experience; however, some students will want to spend a second year overseas. Renewal applications will be considered taking into account the following factors:

- The renewal applicant does not take the place of an eligible first-time participant.
- Graduate students are not eligible to renew.
- The overseas center and host university can accommodate the student and assume the additional academic and administrative responsibilities.
- The renewal applicant has the support of the overseas Resident Director or Coordinator or host university representative, home campus administrators, and the academic advisor.
- The renewal application is received in OIP by March 1.

Students with Dependents

If you indicated on your application that you will be accompanied overseas by your spouse and/or children, you must complete a copy of *Information for Students with Accompanying Dependents* which you will find in Packet #1 online. It discusses some topics such as housing and child schooling, and the attendant extra expenses. Also included are *Instructions for Students with Dependents* listing the items that OIP needs from you and a worksheet for you to calculate the extra expenses for your dependent(s). The *Application for IP Group Health and Accident Insurance for Accompanying Dependents* (also in Packet #1) should be sent to OIP by **May 15**.

If you are planning on having your dependents with you overseas and have not received this information, please contact OIP immediately. Note: OIP can provide assistance to **legal** dependents only, i.e., spouses and children.

Student Conduct

General

During their stay overseas, IP participants are not only responsible for their own personal conduct, but how their actions reflect on IP, the CSU, the State of California, and the US. Abuse of the hospitality of a host university or community on the part of a few can result in the loss of opportunities for many. It is important, therefore, that participants pay particular attention to the acceptable norms of conduct

in their respective host countries and abide by those standards. Under most circumstances simple honesty, courtesy, restraint and respect for the law are usually sufficient guides for proper conduct anywhere.

Standards of student conduct for IP students are established both in domestic and host country law, policy, and practice. The standards of conduct also form part of the agreement signed between the student and the CSU Board of Trustees. In some cases, host countries and institutions apply standards that differ substantially from those normally applied within the CSU. The CSU has concluded agreements with host institutions abroad that recognize the authority of those institutions to apply their own standards to CSU students. It is incumbent, therefore, on students to be fully aware of their responsibilities to the CSU as well as to the host university and country.

Unacceptable Conduct

IP students are selected for their maturity and seriousness of academic purpose. These qualities are inconsistent with inappropriate or unacceptable conduct and such conduct is exceedingly rare among the members of this group. To be clear, however, the following constitute unacceptable conduct:

- cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program;
- forgery, alteration, or misuse of official documents, records, or identification, or knowingly furnishing false information;
- misrepresentation of oneself or of an organization to be an agent of the CSU International Programs;
- obstruction or disruption, on or off International Programs property, of the educational process, administrative process, or other official function;
- physical abuse, on or off International Programs property, of the person or property of any member of the International Programs staff, faculty, or student body, or the threat of such physical abuse;
- theft of, or non-accidental damage to, International Programs property, or property in the possession of, or owned by, a member of the International Programs faculty, staff, or student body;
- unauthorized entry into, unauthorized use of, or misuse of International Programs property;
- the sale or knowing possession of dangerous drugs, restricted dangerous drugs, or narcotics, as those terms are used in California statutes, except when lawfully prescribed pursuant to medical or dental care, or when lawfully permitted for the purpose of research, instruction, or analysis;
- possession, or use of, explosives, dangerous chemicals, or deadly weapons on International Programs property;
- engaging in lewd, indecent, or obscene behavior;

- abusive behavior directed toward, or hazing of, a member of the International Programs community;
- violation of any order of the Director of International Programs, or of the Resident Director;
- violation of International Programs rules and regulations as specified in official International Programs publications and correspondence;
- failure to attend classes to the extent normally required;
- failure to carry out a required portion of the program;
- violation of the laws of the host country or the political subdivisions thereof;
- violation of the rules and regulations of the host university institution;
- violation of the terms of stay or visa restrictions imposed by the host country;
- participation abroad in any event, activity, or conspiracy of a political nature, or the making of any public statement which might tend to embarrass or inconvenience the CSU International Programs or endanger the welfare of participating students;
- conduct which might be harmful to the International Programs or infringe upon the opportunities and benefits available to participating students;
- failure to discharge lawful debts abroad in a responsible and timely manner;
- conduct which represents a danger to the personal safety of the student involved or to other students, faculty, or staff members;
- flagrant disregard of local customs, mores or beliefs which might result in offending or antagonizing host country citizens or officials;
- violating the rights of any other participating student or students, faculty or staff members;
- soliciting or assisting another to do any act described above.

Sanctions

Each International Programs student signs an agreement with the CSU Board of Trustees which recognizes the authority of the Director of International Programs as the agent of the Board of Trustees, and at the sole discretion of the Director, to apply appropriate sanctions for the violation of the above items of unacceptable conduct, or other items of unacceptable conduct which the Director, again at the sole discretion of the Director, shall establish. Such sanctions are rarely applied, but must be brought to the attention of program participants:

- **Reprimands** – Verbal or written notice of unacceptable conduct. Reprimands set forth requirements for improvement of behavior and are intended to assist the student in correcting that behavior as part of the educational process where the conduct is remediable;

- **Probation** – Written notice of unacceptable conduct which sets forth specific terms required to avoid termination of enrollment where such conduct is deemed remediable, but of a serious nature;
- **Disenrollment** – Disenrollment and expulsion of a student from IP is the final sanction available to the Director of International Programs as a means to remove students from the program who have committed serious infractions and whose unacceptable conduct is deemed unremediable. Students being considered for disenrollment are provided a fair and timely opportunity to explain, justify or deny the behavior in question, or to raise matters of mitigation prior to any decision to disenroll. Disenrollment means termination of status as an enrolled student, the probable termination of legal status in the host country, and withdrawal from the academic program at the host institutions abroad with all of the attendant academic and personal consequences thereof. Disenrollment from IP is not necessarily prejudicial to a continuation of enrollment at the student's home CSU campus; depending on the seriousness of your action, students may be subject to additional action.
- **Summary Disenrollment** – On those occasions where serious incidents of unacceptable conduct are combined with any form of imminent danger to the personal safety or health of the student involved, or where any threat to the safety, health or well-being of any other student participant, faculty member or staff member is involved, or where the continued operation of the International Programs is placed in imminent jeopardy by the conduct of the student involved, the Director of International Programs may carry out, at his sole discretion, an immediate disenrollment of the student involved without opportunity of appeal or mitigation.

Grievances

Students who believe that they have been treated unjustly, or have been victims of an error on the part of the staff or the administration of IP, should make every effort to resolve the issue by consulting the Resident Director, if applicable, or the Director of International Programs. Should there be no satisfactory resolution of the problem, it will be the responsibility of the Director of International Programs to advise students with grievances in a timely manner on the availability of additional channels of appeal or assistance as may be appropriate and applicable to the circumstances involved.

CSU International Programs Alcohol Policy

IP does not tolerate alcohol abuse by its participants. Alcohol may be consumed by IP participants of legal drinking age (in the host country). Students must understand that, if they choose to drink alcohol, they remain accountable for their actions and, therefore, must drink responsibly, following all host university and country rules and laws related to alcohol. Prior to departure, students are advised to research their host country's alcohol-related customs and laws.

The intent of this alcohol policy is to help IP achieve the following goals:

- Ensure that alcohol is never the primary focus of an IP event.
- Communicate to IP participants that they are expected to act responsibly regarding their consumption of alcoholic beverages while living abroad.
- Raise student awareness that, when choosing to consume alcohol abroad, students are subject to the local laws related to alcohol consumption.
- Remind IP Resident Directors and staff overseas that they should strive to create an atmosphere that does not encourage students to drink alcohol and that respects those who choose to abstain.
- Warn students that excessive drinking or drunkenness is not condoned and will never serve as an excuse for misconduct.
- Encourage students to be aware of local customs and laws related to alcohol consumption.

CSU International Programs Statement on Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of the CSU to maintain a working and learning environment free from sexual harassment of its students, employees, and applicants. All students and employees should be aware that the CSU is concerned and will take action to eliminate sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is conduct subject to disciplinary action.

As a CSU program, IP is concerned about sexual harassment abroad. This policy statement and the procedures below apply to students and employees of the CSU. Students should be aware that this policy does not apply to faculty, students and staff of host institutions abroad.

IP emphasizes the importance of orientation and open communication in order to promote a preventive approach that addresses and explains issues before they escalate into more serious problems.

Is There an International Definition of Sexual Harassment?

IP participants should understand that a definition of sexual harassment abroad must take into account the legal system and culture of the host country. Legal standards and cultural norms may be different than those in the US and this can make harassment difficult to identify abroad.

During orientations before departure and once abroad students will receive information regarding the host country and culture. In some cultures verbal comments that may be offensive in the US may be acceptable abroad. At the same time some types of dress that are considered appropriate in the US may send different messages abroad.

Reporting Sexual Harassment

All alleged incidents of sexual harassment should be reported to the Resident Director, Resident Coordinator or host university contact person. That person will consult with OIP regarding the issue. OIP will consult with other appropriate staff as necessary. On-site personnel and OIP staff should keep a written record and notes of any conversation surrounding these allegations.

Responding to Sexual Harassment

Staff should respond to complaints in accordance with IP policies and procedures for responding to such allegations.

Intercultural Gender Relations

It is equally important for both men and women traveling abroad to understand issues surrounding intercultural gender relations. Gender relations may be initiated differently in different cultures and all students traveling abroad should educate themselves about their host country's customs and norms before they go. Knowledge increases competent behavior, which can also be important for personal safety.

Before going abroad, students are encouraged to learn about how interpersonal relationships are initiated in their host country. Understanding the meaning behind certain behaviors that are second nature in the US may drastically affect your experiences with host nationals abroad. Such things as clothing styles, make-up, cologne, eye contact, facial expressions, distance between people talking and even hairstyles may send unintended messages in another culture. Students who are unaware of these cultural differences may inadvertently find themselves in uncomfortable or dangerous situations.

Therefore, students are urged to learn as much as possible about the cultural norms of their host country. Your IP Campus Coordinator may be able to point to some valuable reading material on the subject of culture. Another way to learn about your host country's culture is to talk to former IP participants or to international students from that country. Every CSU campus has an international student office that may be able to introduce you to students from the country you will be going to. Again, knowledge increases culturally appropriate behavior.

Privacy of Student Information

Section 7(b) of Federal Public Law 93-579, popularly referred to as the Privacy Act of 1974, became effective January 1, 1975. This section of the statute requires that any federal, state, or local government agency which requests an individual to disclose his Social Security account number shall inform that individual whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by what statutory or other authority such number is elicited, and what uses will be made of it.

The application for admission to The California State University International Programs requires each applicant to provide his or her Social Security number. Authority for this requirement is found in Section 41201 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, and Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The student's Social Security number is used as the individual identifier in all student records which may include application files, registration records and certification documents, academic records, financial aid and transaction records, and transportation and insurance documents. Also, the Internal Revenue Service requires the University to file information returns that include the student's Social Security number and other information such as the amount paid for qualified tuition, related expenses, and interest on educational loans. That information is used to help determine whether a student, or a person claiming a student as a dependent, may take a credit or deduction to reduce federal income taxes.

It is IP policy to protect the personal information of participating students from unnecessary or inappropriate disclosure. Personally identifiable records are not shared or distributed to private individuals or agencies unless such sharing or distribution is authorized by the student or unless otherwise provided for in law. In circumstances where the safety or well-being of participants may be involved, information derived from official files, reports or records relating to participants individually or collectively may be utilized as deemed appropriate by the Director of International Programs for official purposes. Such information may be disclosed pursuant to host country law or regulation whether or not such disclosure is consistent with the laws or regulations of the US or the State of California.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The CSU International Programs welcomes diversity in its student body and seeks to include all who share its values of improved intercultural communication and international understanding. No person shall on the basis of race, color, sex, disability or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to unlawful discrimination under the International Programs.



Preparing For Your Year

Passports

You must have a passport to leave from and return to the United States. **Apply now for a passport if you do not have one**, or renew your passport if it has expired. If you already have a passport make sure that it is **valid six months beyond your stay abroad**. Do this **now**, as the process can take several weeks.

If you are applying for a passport for the first time, you must apply in person. You can apply for or renew your passport at over 4,500 passport acceptance facilities nationwide that include many federal, state and probate courts, many post offices, some libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. These designated facilities are very convenient because they are located near your home. We recommend that you start by contacting the largest post office or courthouse in your area. You can find information on the web about how to obtain a US passport at:



Passport Services and Information:
<http://travel.state.gov/passport/index.html>

If you need your passport urgently, you are advised to go to one of the passport agencies listed below in person. Note: you will probably need an appointment, so we advise you to call ahead.

Los Angeles Passport Agency

Federal Building
11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1000
Los Angeles, California 90024-3615
Telephone: (310) 575-5700

San Francisco Passport Agency

95 Hawthorne Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105-3901
Telephone: (415) 538-2700

The following items are needed to obtain a US passport:

1. Proof of citizenship: A previous US passport, naturalization papers, or if you were born in the US, a CERTIFIED copy of your birth certificate bearing the seal of the city, county, or state custodian of records. Hospital birth

records are not acceptable. Make sure that you have the proper documents to avoid delays in getting your passport. Bear in mind that obtaining out-of-state birth records can take as long as six weeks.

2. Proof of Identity (previous passport, current and valid Driver's License, government ID, military ID, student ID).
3. Two recent identical passport photos.
4. Be prepared to pay a fee (\$100 as of 2/1/08) by cash, check or money order. Not all passport agencies accept credit cards.
5. Complete application form DSP-11 (Do not sign it until the Passport Acceptance Agent tells you to do so.) These are available from passport agencies, acceptance facilities, and on the internet from the US State Department.
6. Know your Social Security number. You do not need your card, but you do need to provide your Social Security number.

After you receive your passport, sign it and keep it in a safe place until your departure. Send two photocopies of the pages of your passport with your photograph and personal information to OIP by **May 15**. It is also a good idea to make yourself a photocopy of the pages with your photograph and personal information. Keep this copy separate from your passport.

Visas

The Tec recommends that all US students enter as tourists and apply for the student visa once they are in Queretaro. Visa fees are approximately \$100US.

The International Programs Office at the Tec will assist students with the student visa application in Mexico. More information is available on the Tec's website for International students <<http://www.study-in-mexico.com>>. Click on "Study Abroad Mexico" in left hand blue column; then choose "Visa information" in the blue box. Scroll down to "*Students who come for one semester or a year without a Student Visa.*" If you have questions, you will find information on this website about how to contact Arturo Bravo, an immigration attorney at the Tec.

The Visa Application Process: Your Responsibility

NOTE: You may follow all of the instructions to a tee and you may even submit your visa application and all of your documentation beautifully, early and in duplicate. However, you must realize this: **No one has the right to be issued a visa.**

The issuing of a visa, or a residence permit (as it is called in some countries) is acknowledgement by a foreign government that they trust you. It may sound simplistic, but trust is getting harder and harder to come by in the world of international travel. Remember, the government official who issues you a visa or residence permit is giving you permission to enter his/her country for the purpose you report on your visa/residence permit application and with the understanding that you intend to leave on the date you state on your application.

Tracing the movement of people is becoming a more important task for government officials. This is true for every government around the world. Your request to go live in another country for a full academic year is no small request. You should value the receipt of such approval by another government and honor their decision to allow you to enter by always showing respect to the country where you have been given permission to live for the academic year.

Every year, the Office of International Programs (OIP) contacts the foreign government offices of the countries where it sends students to request information about the student visa application procedures. This is what we print for you in this Participant Guide. It is possible that regulations will change. If we are made aware of any changes, OIP will notify you. Providing information and relevant documents is essentially our only role in the visa application process.

Please understand that applying for a visa or residence permit from a foreign government is one part of the international experience that OIP does not have any control of. This is a personal request from you, a citizen, to a foreign government. OIP and the California State University cannot act on your behalf. This is a transaction that happens between you and the foreign government. OIP cannot intervene or persuade the foreign government's decision in any way.

In nearly all cases, CSU students participating in the International Programs are issued visas/residence permits in time to participate in their study abroad programs. In some cases there may be delays, and in very rare cases, students have been denied visas. The visa/residence permit application process is entirely your responsibility. Please follow instructions exactly and carefully.

Non-US Citizens

If you are not a citizen of the United States, special travel restrictions and/or requirements may affect you.

1. Inform OIP of your citizenship status not later than **May 15**. If you are a permanent resident, you must

send OIP a copy of your alien registration card (green card).

2. Contact the consulate of your host country to find out about special visa fees or requirements.
3. Before you can apply for a visa or residence permit, you need a passport (or travel document) that is **valid six months beyond your stay abroad**.
4. If you are a permanent resident of the US or visiting the US on a student visa, you must consult the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) about the documents you require for reentry to the US

Keep OIP informed of your progress in dealing with these issues. It is your responsibility to determine and comply with all USCIS and host country requirements necessary to study in México.

Transportation

Group Flight

You have the option of purchasing a ticket on a group flight arranged by OIP for your convenience through a travel agency specializing in student travel. Participation in the group flight is voluntary. You may choose to travel independently if you prefer (see below).

Students who participate in the group flight will be met by the Resident Director at the airport and transported to the CSU study center. There are advantages to traveling with a group to your study center. First, it is always a good idea to travel with at least one companion. In addition, it makes arrival much easier for you since you will be met at the airport and provided ground transportation.

You will be dealing directly with the travel agency to make your reservations and payments for the group flight. When making a reservation on the group flight YOU choose your return date. Your ticket will be issued for the date you request to return home. If you decide to change that date after purchasing the ticket, you will be required to pay a fee to the airline. We mention this to remind you to plan ahead. If you have budgeted to travel around after your year abroad, book your return flight accordingly to avoid having to pay an extra fee.

Travel Cuts Group Flight Information:

www.travelcuts.com/csuiip



Independent Travel

You may wish to shop around and find your own flight to the study center, and you are welcome to do so. You may very likely find airfares on the internet for lower rates than the group flight. Keep in mind, however, that it has been our experience that bargain-priced tickets do not usually save students money in the long run. There are several words of caution to keep in mind:

1. If you decide to travel abroad independently, you will be required to arrange your own ground transportation upon arrival. (What time will you be arriving? Do you speak the

language? Will you take a taxi? Where will you have the taxi take you?)

2. If you arrive before the group, you will be responsible for finding and paying for your own lodging and meals before the program starts. The group housing is not available until the program starts.
3. You will be mailed reporting instructions about exactly when and where to arrive. You must arrive on time. OIP will not approve late arrivals. You should plan on arriving on or before the group arrival date.
4. Most visa regulations require that you show proof of round-trip transportation when you apply for your student visa. Your visa may not be approved if you only purchase a one-way ticket or have a "stand-by" reservation. You will need to purchase a round-trip ticket.
5. **DO NOT PLAN TO LEAVE PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM START DATE AS VISA PROCESSING MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TRAVEL ABROAD EARLY.**
6. In the event that there is a change to the start date of the program, it will be your responsibility to make modifications to your transportation plans to accommodate such changes. OIP is not responsible for any non-recoverable transportation charges you may incur for independent travel arrangements.

Air travel involves risks and could result in damage to property, injury to persons, and death. Please be informed that the California State University assumes no liability for damage, injury, and death which may occur during air travel required by the California State University-affiliated programs. Your participation in the program is voluntary, and you participate at your own risk.

Prior to departure you must sign an agreement, which includes a release from liability (see Agreement section of this book).

Photographs

The photographs you submit to OIP must be official passport photos.

Print your name and country on the back of each photo. Be careful that the ink is dry and does not smear the other photos **or** put a blank piece of paper between each photo so the ink does not imprint on the photo below. When we receive your photos, if there is ink anywhere on your face, you will be asked to send new photos.

You will need **6 identical** photographs as follows:

- Send **2** photos to OIP for official use.
- **4** photos are needed for the ITESM application.
- Additional photos may be needed by the host university.

The photos **MUST** meet these requirements:

- 2" X 2" high-resolution color or black and white photos.
- Full face view and have only your head and shoulders at the center of the photo

- Taken on a white background and printed on photo paper.
- Photocopies, scanned or digitally altered photographs **will NOT be accepted.**
- The most convenient way to get acceptable photos that will not cause any delays is to obtain them at a passport photo service. In the past, students have purchased passport photos from places like: AAA, Costco and Walgreens.

International Student Identity Card (ISIC)

OIP recommends that you purchase the ISIC, a card internationally recognized as proof of student status. The card provides cardholders with discounts and travel benefits around the world.

The ISIC also provides basic health and accident insurance while you are traveling abroad, which will supplement the mandatory IP health insurance. Cardholders also have access to a toll-free Traveler's Assistance Hotline for assistance in medical, legal, and financial emergencies.

If you are interested in obtaining the ISIC, you must purchase it on your own. OIP does not provide students with the ISIC. You may purchase the ISIC online <www.myISIC.com>.

The website also provides a list of available discounts in each country.

Packing

Refer to the *Student Experience Report* for suggestions on clothing and other personal items to take with you. In general, you will find that what students wear in California is acceptable overseas, taking into account the local climate, particularly the fact that winter is usually harsher than at home. It is important to take clothes that demand little care, since you may not have easy access to washers, dryers, and ironing boards.

Many students wonder about taking musical instruments, bicycles, skis, or surfboards. When making this decision, consider that airlines may charge extra for these items and remember that you must be able to carry them in addition to your other luggage. Also consider the possibility of damage enroute, the problem of storage, and how much you will actually use the item. If you will only use your skis for a two-week winter vacation, it might be simpler to rent a pair. Similarly, it might make more sense to buy a secondhand bike overseas and sell it before you come home instead of risking damage to the one you own.

Whatever you decide to take, try not to take too much. There are several reasons for this advice: it is likely you will have limited storage space overseas, you will have to carry it all in your luggage (or have it shipped), and you will have to ship or bring it all home at the end of the year—along with everything you have bought while overseas.

Lightweight, easy-to-carry luggage is recommended. Check for sturdy construction; a broken zipper can be very frustrating on a trip. Consider also that you will use at least part of your luggage on vacations during the year. If you take a backpack, consider an internal frame pack or one with no frame at all; these are useful for vacation travel and can be carried comfortably for two or three miles. Packs with external frames are easily damaged on overseas flights and are unwieldy on trains and buses; take one only if you plan extensive backpacking trips while overseas.

Airlines require that you have a name tag on each piece of luggage.

Based on past experience, it is a good idea to pack your carry-on bag to include everything you might need for a couple of days. If the rest of your luggage is delayed, you will at least have your necessities. Anything of great monetary or sentimental value should travel in your carry-on, or be left at home. No matter what the maximum baggage allowance is for your flight, keep in mind that you must be able to carry all of your own luggage on the trip overseas. Being able to pick up all of your bags at one time is not enough; **try carrying them outside and around the block.**

Shipping

Mail services in Mexico are not as reliable as they are in the US. Therefore, we advise you not to mail anything of value between the US and Mexico. Letters and postcards usually get delivered but take longer, but sometimes letters get lost in the mail altogether. Before you go you may want to investigate. There are some delivery services that specialize in delivering packages between the US and Mexico. For example, "La Conexión" <www.laconex.com> is a possibility. Contact these kinds of delivery services and ask them about their services before you go.

Electrical Appliances

The US operates on 100 volts AC (alternating current) at 60 cycles. Mexico does as well. Therefore, you will not need an adaptor or converter in Mexico to use the electrical appliances that you use in the US.



The Mexico Program

During your year in Mexico, you will be part of a group of about 30 CSU students who will be studying in one of four different programs: The Spanish & Culture Program; The Study in English Program; The Advanced Program and the LA META Program. All are operated in cooperation with the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), also known as “the Tec,” a private university in Querétaro.

The staff of the *Programas Internacionales* at the Tec will serve as your primary source of assistance during your stay in Querétaro. The director of that office is Ms. Carla Diez de Marina Salcedo.



ITESM, Querétaro:

<http://www.study-in-mexico.com>

ITESM is part of a nationwide system of 30 campuses that are internationally recognized for their high academic standards. There is opportunity for interaction with students from Mexico as well as from other parts of the world. State of the art technology and computer facilities are present on the campus.

The *Programas Internacionales* (PI) department offers a complete program for learning Spanish and Mexican culture. Besides six levels of Spanish, the campus offers language courses for native speakers, academic Spanish, and Spanish for business. For students with advanced Spanish skills, additional coursework is available in the Tec departments of business, agriculture, communications, architecture, and engineering. Students from a number of other countries are also studying at the Tec and you will get to know them over the course of the year.

Bookstore: There is a small bookstore. Students will buy books for their courses at the bookstore. It is highly recommended to bring an approximate amount of \$200USD per semester to buy books. The library has 65,000 volumes and an online catalog system that is now used at 14 Tec campuses. Periodicals are on CD ROM. The library has extensive hours: 7 AM to 9 PM on weekdays and to 5 PM on Saturday during the academic year.

Internship Program: Strong ties with the public and private sectors make it possible for the school to sponsor the

ever-expanding internship program. Many IP students have participated in this program over the years. Retailers, manufacturing plants, schools, government agencies, and other organizations provide a variety of settings in which students do internships. Students may enroll in a supervised internship worth 3 or 6 credits. These experiences permit students to go beyond the campus experience into the community for invaluable practical training, giving them a real added value to their formal education.

Specific requirements and information for Mexico participants are in this section, so please read it carefully and comply with the deadlines. Please feel free to contact OIP if you have any questions.

ITESM Application

All students must complete the ITESM application: <<http://www.study-in-mexico.com/uploads/application%20form.pdf>> and send to OIP by **May 1**. Carefully follow the instructions in Online Packet #1.

Spanish Placement Test

The Spanish Language Placement Test is a requisite of acceptance and must be completed online prior to arrival in Querétaro. Once admitted to the Tec, you will receive information about how to take the exam online via email. The results are used to place you in the appropriate level Spanish class.

Arrival

Before your departure to Mexico, you will receive e-mail communication from the ITESM *Programas Internacionales* (PI) with information pertinent to your study programs in Mexico. Therefore, if you change your e-mail address from what you indicated it was on your IP application, please inform OIP immediately.

Upon the designated date of arrival, staff members from the PI will meet the group flight at the international arrivals gate at the airport. You will be transported in a chartered bus to Querétaro where you will be greeted by your host family. There is an international airport in Querétaro now so you can take a direct flight.

Independent travelers who arrive before the scheduled date/time must travel to Querétaro on their own. Public buses (Primera Plus) leave directly from the Mexico City airport on a regular basis. Travel time to Querétaro by bus is approximately three hours and costs approximately 220 pesos (US dollars may be accepted). If you get to Querétaro early, you should contact the *Programas Internacionales* Office at the Tec in advance and advise them about your arrival so that they can make special arrangements for you to meet your host family. Tel: 52 (442) 238-3287/FAX 52 (442) 238-3288; Email: <mbanales@itesm.mx>.

Orientation

The Tec will provide an orientation, which will serve as an introduction to the campus, to Querétaro, and to life as a student in Mexico. Topics include an orientation to the *Programas Internacionales* Office and staff, academic information, financial matters, housing, visa, campus services, health recommendations, survival information and cultural information. The orientation material is summarized in the Tec's International Student Orientation Handbook, a copy of which you will receive after your arrival at the Tec. You may also browse their website at: <<http://www.study-in-mexico.com>>.

Registering for Classes

WARNING: It is your responsibility to remove all CSU home campus "holds" on your records before you go abroad. A "hold" on your records will prevent you from registering for classes. This includes holds from the Library, Records Office, Financial Aid Office, your own academic department and any other campus office. Before you leave, be sure to clear all "holds." This is your responsibility and will prevent problems in the future.

IP students are required to enroll in 15 units each semester.

An advisor from the Tec will assist you in choosing your courses. Bring a copy of your Academic Advisement form (enclosed), which you complete in consultation with an advisor at your home CSU campus, and a list of approximately 10 courses that you are interested in taking, from which five will be selected for enrollment in each semester.

Results of the Spanish Language Placement Test will be used to help select appropriate courses. Students who are at a basic or intermediate level of Spanish, as determined by the placement test, are limited to the PI courses. Students who score at the advanced level of Spanish are eligible to select from the full array of courses offered at the Tec.

Housing

Upon Arrival

Upon arrival, all CSU students will stay in temporary host family accommodations prearranged by the Tec for fifteen days, during which time, you will search for your permanent housing for the academic year. The costs for the host family arrangements are included in your prepaid program costs. The host family stay includes room and board, laun-

dry, room cleaning, and may include limited use of the family telephone. Please understand that some host families only want to open their homes to students for this temporary 15-day period. You will have to discuss staying for the academic with them after you arrive. Return the completed *Temporary Housing Upon Arrival* form in Online Packet #1 to OIP by **May 1**.

Permanent Housing for the Academic Year

Because you will only have fifteen days to find permanent housing, it is important that you start looking immediately. You have the option of staying with your host family (if they are open to hosting a student for the year) or finding other housing. During your initial orientation program, you will be given detailed instructions on how to go about finding and contracting for housing. Remember that you may need to pay first and last months' rents plus a deposit when renting a room or apartment, so plan accordingly.

The *Programas Internacionales* Office at the Tec has a website that includes housing information <<http://www.study-in-mexico.com>> (click on FAQ in the left hand column, then on Housing options). You have several options:

- Home Stay Program
- Campus Residence Hall
 - If you choose to live in the Residence Halls, you must apply online by April 30: <http://webmail.rzp.itesm.mx:7777/saparesq/admision.application_form>.
- Renting an individual or shared room or apartment

You may read about these options on the Tec's website. It is important to think about the advantages and disadvantages of each. Do not choose one option too quickly just because it sounds like the least expensive. Sometimes students do not realize rent is low because the apartment has no furniture or refrigerator. You must also keep in mind that if you rent an apartment or house, you will need to pay utilities and go grocery shopping and cook for yourself, whereas this is not the case with a host family. While the cost of the host family program may appear higher than renting an apartment, one should think about what is included before rushing to judgment. The dormitories are attractive because they are so close to campus. You can walk to class from the dormitories, whereas in most other living situations, you will have to use public transportation to get to campus. There are many factors to weigh. Take your time, look at all of your options and make the decision that seems best for you.

Special Events/Planned Activities

The Tec *Programas Internacionales* Office offers a number of trips and special events throughout the year that you are expected to participate in as part of your CSU educational program. Two trips are planned for each semester, with the cost paid for out of the prepaid Group Activities funds. Information about these events is available through the PI Office. In addition to these activities, there is an active sports program at the Tec in that you may participate in, as well as student clubs, cultural workshops and competitions. Stu-

dent groups at the Tec also sponsor student excursions in which you may participate for an additional fee paid for by you.

Computer/Internet Access

As a Tec student you have access to a wide range of up-to-date technology resources and services, including a modern computer lab, printers, scanners, and free internet access, with services usually available all day and most of the night. Stand-up e-mail facilities are scattered around the campus and direct internet access is even available through the campus-wide wireless system or by plugging your laptop into outlets at outdoor tables. Computer equipment is readily available for purchase in Querétaro, although at higher prices than in the U.S. It is not necessary to buy a laptop before you go, but if you already have one, bring it with you, as it may prove very convenient as well as economical. Please note that Macs are less common in Mexico, so parts and accessories are less available and more expensive. If you have a Mac that uses headphones with a USB connection, it is a good idea to bring them with you for international communication via the Mac.

If you have a laptop we recommend that you bring it with you for convenience sake. However, keep in mind that your CSU health insurance policy does not cover theft. You may want to purchase property insurance independently.

Telephones

The Tec International Student Orientation Handbook that you will receive at orientation in Mexico contains detailed information about telephoning in Mexico. Points to remember are, first, that long distance phone calls originating in Mexico are expensive and there is a charge for exceeding a set number of local calls per month. Therefore, host families often restrict student use of the telephone to a limited number of local calls. Second, if you decide to rent an apartment, you'll learn that many rentals do not come furnished with a telephone line.

You may want to get a cell phone to use throughout the year. They are convenient and allow you to make as many calls as you wish without bothering your host family or roommates. You choose the phone you want and pay the monthly charges.

Money Matters & Banking

Before you go, you should have enough money in a bank account/ATM to cover your first two months worth of expenses.

The major banks used by students are Banamex, BBVA Bancomer, and HSBC. Exchange houses (casas de cambio) are also convenient. Be aware that it can take between two and four weeks for checks written to you in US dollars to clear in Mexico and that it is not easy to cash checks written in US dollars unless you have a Mexican bank account or a US affiliated bank such as City Bank.

Some students strongly suggest that you keep your bank account in California and assign Power of Attorney to someone in California and arrange for checks to go directly to that person. When those checks are deposited in California, you can draw on the account with an ATM card in Mexico. Another way to get money from the States is to have it transferred through Western Union or American Express.

In addition, you should know the following as you plan for the year ahead:

- Be prepared to pay approximately \$75-120 for photographs and fees for your Mexican immigration documents, depending on whether you arrive in Querétaro with a student or tourist visa. There are additional fees for renewing a 6-month student visa issued in the US.
- Bring about \$100 US in Mexican pesos with you. Remember that in Mexico, the dollar sign refers to pesos. US currency is often referred to as USD.
- Traveler's checks (American Express, Cooks, Bank of America) are readily convertible to pesos in most banks for a fee. You need to show your passport when cashing traveler's checks.
- ATMs are widely available for a peso withdrawal using US bankcards for a fee (maximum withdrawal amount is usually about \$300 US per day). Both Bital and Banamex accept cards on the Plus system. Banamex also accepts cards for the Cirrus system. All the bank machines will accept debit cards from MasterCard and VISA. (Be sure that you know what steps to follow should you ever lose your ATM card. Keeping a photocopy of the front and back of the card in a safe place is advisable.)
- Major credit cards are widely accepted for purchases. It is advisable to bring one major credit card. Credit cards, however, are not accepted on the Tec campus for making purchases or for paying for lodging with host families.
- Bring enough money to last several months or plan to use ATMs. Financial aid checks do not usually arrive until October, so please plan accordingly.

Currency Exchange Rates

<http://www.oanda.com/converter/classic>



Books & Films about Mexico

The Lonely Planet and *Moon Guides to Mexico* provide practical, budget-oriented advice on travel within Mexico. There is also considerable cultural content within these guides.

Many Mexicos by Lesley Byrd Simpson, one of the best general books on Mexico, is a classic in its field. An interesting discussion of the paradoxical relationships between Mexico and the United States is *Distant Neighbors* by Alan Riding. John Condon's book *Good Neighbors* offers another general comparison between the two countries. *The Labyrinth of Solitude* by Nobel prize-winning author Octavio Paz addresses the complexity of the Mexican character originating from Indian and Spanish heritage.

Some films illustrating aspects of life and culture in modern Mexico are *Santitos*; *Sexo, Pudor y Lagrimas*; and *El Norte*. *Like Water for Chocolate*, based on the book *Como Agua Para Chocolate*, provides an artistic treatment of more traditional Mexico. Some recent award winning Mexican films, including *Amores Perros* and *Y Tu Mama También*, present some harsher realities.

Climate

The climate is fairly pleasant most of the year. December and January can be cold in the early morning and at night, requiring warm clothing. The hottest months are April and May when daytime temperatures can reach the 90's, but evenings are mild. The rainy season is June-September, although Querétaro generally has very low humidity.

Vacation Travel

Travel by bus throughout all of Mexico is a convenient and inexpensive way to explore the country. The central location of Querétaro makes it an ideal point of departure. Referral to the travel guides mentioned above in the Books & Films about Mexico section will provide a wealth of information.

Mexicans love a party. National holidays and local fiestas abound throughout the year. IP students in the past have enjoyed such traditional celebrations as the Day of the Dead on the island of Janitzio in the state of Michoacan and the Guelaguetza with regional costumes and dances in the state of Oaxaca. Mexico offers a fascinating variety of places and events for the adventurous traveler.

If you plan to rent a car for vacation travel, it could be useful to have an International Driver's License, obtainable from the Automobile Club (AAA).

2009-2010 Calendar

Dates subject to change.

Arrival Date	August 4 (Tuesday)
Registration/Orientation	August 05-06
Fall Semester	August 10 - December 09
Semester Break	December 10 - January 10
Spring Semester	January 11 - May 19
Spring Break	March 29 - April 02

Mailing Address in Mexico

Former participants recommend against sending packages of any sort to Mexico. You may receive letters at the address below.

ITESM
Campus Querétaro
Programas Internacionales (YOUR NAME)
Epigmenio Gonzalez # 500
Col. San Pablo
Querétaro, Qro. 76130
MEXICO

Health Care Facilities

During orientation, the staff in Querétaro will provide you with information about the private hospitals in Querétaro. If you need medical attention, you should visit a physician on campus or go to one of the private hospitals. The private hospitals are modern and good medical services are available. In addition, the staff can **assist you with names of physicians and hospitals** in Querétaro.

AIG Travel Assistance - Your CSU student health insurance policy includes emergency travel assistance coverage administered by AIG Travel Assist. This is a supplemental part of your health insurance policy valid around the world and can assist you if you should need emergency medical care while traveling abroad, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To access their benefits, you **MUST** contact AIG Travel Assist and let them make all arrangements for any services that you need. The kinds of services they provide are listed in the insurance pamphlet that we included in your packet.

Upon request, AIG Travel Assist can also provide pre-trip counseling for any countries you will be traveling to. They can also answer questions you may have about your prescription medications before departure or help you replace a prescription while traveling.

For further information on the services provided by AIG Travel Assist, please see the Wells Fargo Student Health Insurance pamphlet provided in your packet, or contact AIG Travel Assist at: (800) 626-2427 (*in the U.S. and Canada*) or 1 (713) 267-2525 (*access an international operator, and ask them to place a collect to the U.S.*).

Work

Students who are not Mexican nationals are not allowed to work in Mexico for pay.

Registering at the US Embassy

Americans living in or visiting Mexico are encouraged to register at the US Embassy or at one of the US Consulates in order to obtain updated information on travel and security within Mexico. The US Embassy is located in Mexico City.

US Embassy In Mexico
Paseo de la Reforma 305
Colonia Cuauhtemoc

Telephone from the United States: 011-525-080-2000
Telephone within Mexico City: 5-080-2000
Telephone long distance within Mexico: 01-5-080-2000
E-mail: ccs@usembassy.net.mx.

The US Consulate General office nearest to Querétaro is located in San Miguel de Allende at Dr. Hernandez Macias #72, telephone (52) 415-152-2357 or (52) 415-152-0068.

Host Institution

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) <<http://www.sistema.itesm.mx/>>



Academic Arrangements

Introduction

This section contains important academic policies and other academic information which pertain to your participation in the International Programs (IP). As a participant, it is your responsibility to read and adhere to the academic policies and procedures provided in the following pages since these will be enforced by the Office of International Programs (OIP). For specific academic information related to your study center, refer to The IP Bulletin which is the International Programs “catalog”.

Academic Planning

Before departure, the OIP requires that with the help of your academic advisor(s), you formally plan which courses you will take by completing the **Academic Advisement form** in addition to other campus-based forms that you may be required to complete. Completion of the Academic Advisement form provides you with a listing about what courses are still required for your major, minor and general education requirements. It also gives you an indication of what courses you should take overseas and provides you with a clear idea of how these courses will be applied to your degree requirements.

If you will be studying overseas in a field other than your major, you should consider declaring a second major or a minor in that field, where available.

Students can experience a great deal of difficulty in trying to take care of academic formalities at their home campus once they are overseas so you should handle certain matters before you go. Examples are:

- taking—and passing—all English and mathematics proficiency exams required by your campus
- changing or adding a major or minor
- filing a petition for course substitutions or waivers
- clearing up any incomplete coursework.

Graduating seniors: Since grades will reach your campus four to six months at the conclusion of your academic year abroad, it is often not possible to graduate in the SAME semester that you concluded your study abroad experience.

Graduating seniors must take this into consideration when submitting their applications to graduate since degrees will not be posted until all courses taken abroad are reported to the students’ home campuses.

Availability of Courses

Student access to academic opportunities increases as their academic preparation for the particular host institution environment improves. The major limitations are language fluency and literacy (in non-English speaking countries) and specific preparation in the major. It is important that IP participants develop an accurate view of what they can actually accomplish in their year overseas and set realistic goals. For students studying in non-English speaking countries, students should not overestimate their facility in the host country language and realize that some limits on choice of coursework are to be expected. As is the case with any CSU campus, not all of the courses are offered every semester so students should not enter the overseas academic experience with rigid and narrowly defined course requirements.

Please note that courses related to US history and institutions and California State and local governments, as well as science courses with labs may not exist or may not be open to visiting international students. If you have yet to complete required courses such as these, please understand that experience shows that you will probably not be able to take them overseas.

Graduating seniors and graduate students: Students whose graduation depends on specific courses should note that course availability is not guaranteed. You must be open to the idea of returning to your home campus for additional terms following your participation in IP. The rewards gained by studying abroad tremendously outweigh the disadvantages of a delayed graduation. Future employers will not evaluate negatively for needing an extra one or two terms to graduate if it means that you will have successfully added an international experience to your resume, learned another language and proven your ability to adapt to another culture. To the contrary, these accomplishments will be admired. You should not miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime, even if it means that you might have to delay your graduation by a term or two.

Students pursuing credentials or second baccalaureate degrees are admitted as post-baccalaureates, but academically they are treated as undergraduate students.

Graduate students: Graduate students are eligible for participation at most of the study centers operated by the IP. Applicants just beginning graduate work should be aware however, that studying abroad at this point in their academic career removes them from the home campus department and advisor at a critical juncture in their studies. It is essential that graduate students considering application for the IP obtain from both their graduate department and dean of graduate studies on the home campus advance information on how work accomplished within the IP can be applied to their degree program. At a later point, this also requires that both the department chair and the dean of graduate studies sign the Academic Advisement form. Graduate students may find that only six to nine units will count toward their degree; they must, however, maintain the unit load requirement.

Graduate students must be realistic about what they can accomplish in a year of study overseas, both in terms of what can reasonably be expected in the way of course offerings and of what preparation they have to pursue the available offerings. They should not expect, for example, to work in a narrowly defined area of specialization, particularly one in which they have not had previous preparation. Similarly, their competence in the language of instruction might not be sufficiently advanced to permit them to take courses for which they are otherwise intellectually prepared. Acquisition of the foreign language in itself may be a valid reason for a graduate student to study abroad; however, such study is usually credited on the undergraduate, even lower division, level.

Students pursuing graduate degrees must obtain classified graduate standing before departure for overseas. They should plan to complete before departure any course or courses which are either required as part of the graduate program and unlikely to be available at the foreign university or are prerequisite to other graduate work.

Courses Crediting

All coursework taken overseas will be accepted by the student's home campus as resident credit (not transfer credit). The appropriate authorities at the student's home campus determine the applicability of coursework completed overseas to major, minor, general education, and elective degree requirements. In some cases, this may mean that a minimum number of units or specific coursework to be credited toward the major must be taken at the home campus. Specific questions regarding CSU campus policies and how courses will apply towards the degree should be directed to CSU campus advisors rather than host university staff.

It is the student's responsibility to:

- check all major departmental rules prior to departure for overseas;

- to meet with the appropriate department advisor(s) to determine which courses will count toward specific degree requirements; and
- collect and provide course information professors to submit to his/her advisor.

The campus advisor's role is to:

- determine how courses will be credited to the degree;
- suggest appropriate courses to be taken abroad which might fulfill degree requirements in terms of course content, course level and unit value; and
- guide the student through the course substitution (petitioning) process at the home campus.

It is OIP's role to:

- report the courses enrolled at the host university to the student's home campus.

Since courses abroad can differ somewhat from the CSU courses required for your degree, advisors can suggest that the student take similar courses to fulfill specific course requirements. In these cases, campuses usually require that students submit a petition (or course substitution request) to have these courses count towards specific course requirements. This process protects the integrity of the degree and the transcript while allowing students the flexibility of taking related courses to meet specific requirements. Students are advised to discuss the process with advisors and appropriate officials at the student's home campus PRIOR to going abroad.

The Academic Advisement form must be completed as accurately as possible and signed by the department advisor(s), where indicated. Without these signatures, there can be no guarantee that students will receive credit toward their degree objectives.

Even with prior approval for course credit, students are advised to keep course syllabi, term papers, reading lists, examinations, and any other pertinent materials, until the degree is completed. Students are advised to take sections of their campus catalog overseas which pertains to the requirements for the degree being pursued). Current catalogs are on the web, but students may find it useful to have printed information from the catalog available.

When selecting courses at their host university, students should choose courses which best represents the home campus course requirement they are seeking to fulfill in terms of course content, course level and the unit value. In cases when the unit value of the home campus course requirement is MORE than the host university course, students should consult with their home campus advisor about selecting an additional course which would fulfill the unit value of the home campus course requirement.

Graduate credit will be granted only in courses that are judged by the host institution and by the OIP to be graduate level. Graduate students must be aware that credit, in any case, will be granted only if prearranged with their respective home campus major departments and graduate deans.

As few as six units per year may be directly transferable into their course requirements for the master's degree; nevertheless, all graduate students are required to maintain a full academic load (see Enrollment Requirements above). These additional units may be accepted by their major departments to meet other degree requirements.

If students have questions about how their course work will apply to home CSU campus requirements, they should contact their departmental advisors. Before departure, students should obtain their advisors' fax numbers and e-mail addresses so they can communicate while abroad. Specific questions regarding CSU campus policies should be directed to CSU campus advisors rather than host university staff. Remember to consult with CSU campus catalogs which are available online for reference.

While You Are Abroad

While you are studying at your host university, you will be required to complete and return specific forms in order for the OIP to credit your courses at your home campus.

1. **Student Program Form.** In order to receive CSU credit for the courses that you took at your host university, it is necessary for you to list the courses you have taken while abroad using the *Student Program* form. Guidelines on how to complete the form will be provided. It is important to read the guidelines carefully before completing the form. The form is due BEFORE you leave your HOST university (before your final exams period).
2. **Course Description Form.** The OIP requires that you complete a *Course Description* form for each course that you have taken at your host university. Be as detailed as possible in the description of the course. These forms are due BEFORE you leave your HOST university and should be attached to the *Student Program* form. Remember to keep a copy of course descriptions and other course related information for your records. You may need to submit course information to your advisor when you return to your home campus.
3. **Credit/No Credit Course Request.** Each semester, you may request to have one course (for a maximum of six units per year) reported to your home campus as a CR/NC except for non-English language courses IF the language is the official language of the host country. Refer to your home campus catalog for restrictions governing CR/NC. If you are interested in this grading option, complete the *Credit/No Credit Course Request* form **at least one month BEFORE you take your final exam** for the course and return the form to the IP Coordinator at your HOST university who will forward the form to the OIP on your behalf. Requests that have been submitted less than one month before the final exam date for the course or AFTER the final exam has been taken will NOT be approved. (See "Credit/No Credit Option" under the "Academic Policies" section for more information.)

The Student Program form and Course Description form will be emailed to you in the second semester of your year

abroad before the final exams period unless advised otherwise. The Credit/No Credit Course Request form can be found online as well as at the end of the Academic Arrangements section of this Guide. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to submit this form to OIP by the deadline date.

Finally, make sure that your **transcript from your host university** will be sent directly to OIP at the end of the year. Once we have received the above forms and your host university transcript, an IP "Academic Report" (similar to a transcript) will be prepared by this office and sent to your home campus where it will be posted on your permanent record. Read the "Academic Reporting" section for more information.

IMPORTANT: Remember to check your emails on a regular basis to receive messages regarding your academic studies.

Academic Reporting

At the conclusion of the student's study abroad experience, the OIP evaluates, translates and reports all courses in which the student was enrolled, units attempted, and grades earned to the student's home campus on what OIP refers to as an "Academic Report". The Academic Report is the official—and the only—academic record of the entire year, since mid-year reports are not provided. Grades earned while on IP will be computed in the cumulative grade point average on the student's CSU transcript.

Each student receives an Academic Report which is sent to the student's permanent home address. Reports are also sent to the student's Study Abroad/International Programs Office and the Registrar/Records Office at the home campus. It may take the Registrar/Records Office several weeks to post courses, units and grades to the student's CSU transcript so students should check their academic records periodically. If courses do not appear on the CSU record after four weeks, students may wish to contact the Registrar/Records Office at their home campus to find out when your courses will appear on their record. The CSU transcript becomes the official record of coursework attempted and grades earned abroad.

Once courses appear on the student's CSU academic record, students should verify that courses listed on their Academic Report also appear on their CSU academic record. If there are any discrepancies, students should contact the Registrar/Records Office at their home campus.

If an error has been made on a student's Academic Report, for instance, a grade was recorded incorrectly or a course that was taken was not listed on the report, then the student should email the OIP to request a course or grade review at <IPacademics@calstate.edu>. Course and grade reviews can take several weeks or several months to complete depending on circumstances, the urgency of your request and the time the request was received. For more information, students are advised to read the cover letter attached to their Academic Report.

Since courses are posted to the student's CSU transcript and become a permanent part of the student's CSU aca-

demographic record, courses listed on the Academic Reports must accurately represent the courses taken abroad. To ensure accurate reporting, OIP reports courses by using a special course designation number, allowing the student to receive CSU resident credit in the subject area in which the course was taught. The title of the course taken will also be reported to the CSU campus and posted to the student's CSU academic record. This method of reporting means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi, and other course materials to their advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific major, minor, or general education requirements. If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other campus-based forms although students should verify this with their campus IP coordinator or home campus academic advisor.

Refer to the Academic Advisement Form Instructions and the IP Bulletin for additional academic reporting information and arrangements pertaining to specific programs.

When to Expect Your Academic Report

Since the grade reporting operating procedures of international institutions are different than the CSU campuses, IP students will not receive their grades as quickly as they do at their home campus. It can take a **minimum of four months** (and sometimes longer depending on specific circumstances) for courses taken at their host university to be reported to their CSU campus after they have completed their study abroad.

The OIP sends the Academic Report to the student's permanent home address and the Registrar's/Records Office of the student's home campus. Once the home campus receives the Academic Report, it can take several weeks for the campus to post courses and grades to the student's CSU transcript.

Students, who have not received their report or have received an email about their report by the end of the fourth month after they have completed their year abroad and are concerned, may contact OIP at (562) 951-4790 to check on the status of their Academic Report.

It is the student's responsibility to inform the OIP of changes in permanent home address which must be done in writing.

Graduating Seniors: Due to the delays with receiving grades for some countries (e.g. France, Germany, Ghana and South Africa), graduating seniors might have to postpone their graduation date depending on when the Academic Report can be sent to their home campus.

Academic reports for graduating seniors are given priority processing but seniors should understand that it still can take a minimum of four months to process reports. For this reason, it is often not possible to graduate in the term following the last semester abroad. Students who plan to apply to graduate schools following their year abroad can still apply for graduate programs as long as they inform the institutions to which they are applying of a possible delay in the posting of their degree.

IMPORTANT: If students have an outstanding account related to their international studies, the Academic Report will NOT be released to their home campus until the debt has been cleared. Notification of outstanding accounts will be sent to the student's permanent home address.

Assessment and Grading Systems

Higher education institutions outside the United States typically use grading systems which differ from those in use in the CSU. The examination systems vary widely as well. In many universities, students pursue specific degree objectives in which the individual courses taken are not graded separately. Rather, a final comprehensive examination is given at the end of the year or at the end of the course of study, when the student's advisors feel that the student is prepared in all subject areas. Continuous assessment as known on American campuses is uncommon. Where examinations are given, they are usually highly specific, may focus on only a fraction of the subject, and may be oral or written. Grades for an entire term or year's work may be assigned on the basis of a single final examination.

Academic Policies

Minimum Academic Qualifications

The OIP requires that accepted applicants must:

- remain in good academic standing;
- maintain the required GPA (as set for the particular program) after acceptance into the program;
- fulfill any program language and other requirements prior to the program start date;
- meet all other conditions set by OIP.

Students who do not meet these requirements may be subject to further action up to and including disenrollment.

Academic Disqualification

All IP participants must be students matriculated at a CSU campus. If a student is disqualified by their CSU campus after his/her application to the IP has been accepted for participation, the student is no longer eligible and will be dismissed from the program.

CSU Registration

IP participants are fully matriculated CSU students who remain enrolled at their home campuses as full time students while studying overseas. The OIP arranges for the registration of all students at their respective home CSU campuses at the beginning of their academic year abroad. Therefore, students must NOT enroll for any courses at their home campus for the time that they will be abroad through IP.

Students are not permitted to enroll in on-line courses, which are offered at their home campus or another CSU campus, since the purpose of studying abroad is to engage in full time study exclusively at the study center or host university.

Enrollment Requirements

IP participants are concurrently enrolled at their home CSU campus and the host university. To facilitate concurrent enrollment process, the OIP notifies the campus of each student to request that the campus registers the student as full time before the start of the academic year abroad. This will allow students to maintain their status as CSU students and receive financial aid, if applicable.

The following unit enrollment policies apply:

- Undergraduate students are required to carry a minimum courseload equivalent of 15 semester units per term and a total of 30 semester units for the overseas academic year. **This requirement applies to all undergraduate students regardless of the number of units they need to graduate or the enrollment requirement of the host university if this differs from the IP requirement.**
- Post-baccalaureate students pursuing credentials or second undergraduate degrees are required to carry the same courseload as undergraduates as described above.
- Graduate students must carry a minimum courseload equivalent of 12 semester units per term on condition that at least six of those units are taken at the graduate level; otherwise, graduate students must carry a courseload on the same basis as undergraduates as described above.
- Any units earned during a pre-session, special session, or preparatory language program conducted outside the host institution academic year calendar, are not counted in meeting the semester courseload requirement.

Full time enrollment at the host university is critical and a requirement of participation in the IP. Failure to enroll in full time studies can jeopardize conditions of the student's visa to remain in the host country, impact financial aid eligibility and result in dismissal from the program.

Students are not normally allowed to enroll in more than 18 units a semester except by exception by the OIP. Students requesting to take more than 18 units in the second semester of their international study must be in good academic standing and have earned a B average in the first semester of study.

In exceptional cases, students may petition for a reduction in the prescribed courseload. Such petitions are granted only in cases of extreme hardship due to conditions beyond the control of the student. The discovery that coursework is at a greater degree of complexity than was assumed, that academic requirements are demanding, or that the student faces lower grades than expected are not grounds for the approval of a reduced courseload.

Extended illnesses and emergency situations requiring absence from the study center are generally considered grounds for the submission of a petition. Failure to maintain the prescribed academic load without prior approval may result in disenrollment from the International Programs.

Students who withdraw from courses without approval from the OIP will be assigned the administrative grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized), which for purposes of grade point average and progress point computation, is equivalent to an F.

Academic Progress

As an official academic program of the CSU, all students participating in the IP and its offerings are subject to all of the academic regulations of their home campuses as well as those of the IP and the host institutions they attend abroad. Home campus rules for academic probation and disqualification apply overseas at the study centers as they do at home.

IP participants are expected to make normal academic progress and to maintain a grade point average of at least a 2.0. Graduate IP participants are expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 for all graded work for the degree. Students who fail to meet these requirements are subject to probation or disenrollment from the IP.

Furthermore, any student whose academic performance does not meet standards necessary for successful progression in the program may be in jeopardy of disenrollment.

Attendance

IP participants are expected to attend classes in which they are enrolled regardless of the flexibility of the host country's educational system or the practices of local students. In addition to its affect on academic performance, excessive and/or unauthorized absences during the academic year constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the OIP including dismissal from the program.

Personal travel should be restricted to weekends and university holidays.

Examinations

Students are expected to complete all course requirements and take all examinations (including final exams) for the courses that they are enrolled in before leaving their host university. They may not request early exams or special favors in order to leave before the end of the term unless there are extenuating circumstances involved and the OIP has approved an early exam date.

Host universities can have strict test-taking policies, including refusal to permit students to take exams if they arrive late or they have failed to achieve minimum academic standards prior to the final exam. Students are expected to read and comply with university policies which pertain to their studies at their host university.

Although some host universities permit students to retake a final examination several weeks or months after the original examination period has taken place, IP participants are not permitted to retake exams once the academic year at their host university has ended.

Independent Study

In general, the IP is not designed to accommodate students pursuing independent study. The structure of overseas programs offered by the IP is fundamentally one of immersion in host institution instruction and supporting stud-

ies – such as language studies. The pursuit of other academic purposes tends to remove the student from the immersion environment and is, therefore, not generally encouraged. However, there may be a few students whose academic needs involve the completion of a paper or project during the period of study abroad, or who have a unique and very specific interest to pursue which is particularly relevant to the study center locale. In such instances, the OIP may approve limited independent studies on a case-by-case basis.

Where and when it is permitted, Independent Study is limited to a maximum of three semester units per term, except where the student's home campus permits only a lesser amount. In order to carry out independent study, a student may need to possess near-native fluency in the language of instruction, in addition to any special academic preparation and research skills required for the proposed study project. The student must have advanced written approval from the major department advisor and department chair, as well as from the OIP. Independent study must result in a paper or project capable of being graded on the student's home campus. Special tutors are not available, and students must be capable of carrying out all aspects of such study in terms of study and research skills, language skills, and access to appropriate resources. Independent study that involves additional instructional cost to the student cannot be given credit by the IP, and additional cost to the IP cannot be authorized. Upon request, independent study proposal forms will be sent to students interested in independent study.

Internships

Internships are unavailable at most study abroad centers, but where internships are available, the following guidelines are used:

- internships are credited at one unit per three internship hours per week over a 15-week semester;
- internships will not exceed six semester units for the year (i.e. three units per semester);
- internships will be appropriately supervised by an academic supervisor from the host university and an internship supervisor from the organization where the internship is being performed;
- internships require a written component to be stipulated by the host institution/supervisor;
- students seeking internship credit in their major or minor must comply with all the policies and procedures on their home campus for internships and have approval of the major department; and
- the OIP has final approval of all internships requests.

Internship applications must be completed and submitted to the OIP within the first four weeks of the semester. Late applications will be not approved.

Repeated Course Work

Undergraduate students may not repeat courses which are equivalent to courses already completed. Since a course

taken abroad may have the same or a similar title but have different content than a course previously taken, the student should keep complete records of their coursework so that if credit for the course is questioned at the home campus, the content of the course can be verified. For more information, students are advised to consult with their home campus catalog and advisors regarding the repeat of courses.

Assignment of Grades

Through the experience of many years the OIP has developed a general system for converting foreign grades to CSU equivalents. Extreme care is exercised by the OIP to ensure that students neither benefit from nor are penalized by different evaluation methods prevailing at the various study centers.

The OIP is required to reports all courses taken overseas and report a grade for each course attempted.

All grades as reported to the CSU campus registrars by the OIP are considered permanent and final except "incompletes" which are rarely given. Under ordinary circumstances a grade may not be changed except to correct a clerical or procedural error. No change of a final grade may be made on the basis of re-examination, review of a student's work in the course or by completing additional work for the course.

Grading Symbols

To evaluate student performance, host universities often use different grading symbols which are converted to the grading symbols used at the CSU.

Grades earned while on IP will be calculated in the cumulative grade point average on the student's CSU transcript. Academic symbols CR, NC and W do not affect grade point averages.

Plus and minus grades as shown in the table above may be reported for course work completed on IP depending on the grading system of the host university. Not all host universities use plus and minus grades, in which case IP grades will not include plus and minus grades.

Note that at several host universities, there is no grade equivalent for the CSU letter grade of D.

The Use of Withdrawal Unauthorized "WU"

The symbol "WU" indicates that an enrolled student did not withdraw from the course and also failed to complete course requirements. It is used when completed assignments or course activities or both were insufficient to make normal evaluation of academic performance possible such as not taking the final exam. For purposes of grade point average and progress point computation, this symbol is equivalent to an "F" and shall be counted as units attempted but not passed.

Incomplete Work

Because of the difficulty of completing and grading work after the end of the academic year overseas, no incomplete grades are given. Students who fail to complete all course requirements by the end of the academic year at their host

institution will receive a grade of WU. Exceptions to this policy must be pre-approved by the OIP.

Auditing

Auditing a course must be approved by the host university and the OIP. Audited courses which bear an additional cost to the IP will not be approved.

Enrollment as an auditor is also subject to permission of the instructor of the course. Regular class attendance is expected although full participation in classroom activities will be at the discretion of the instructor. Once enrolled as an auditor, a student may not change to credit status.

Students do not receive credit for audited courses, and they are not reported to the CSU home campus. An audited course may not be counted toward meeting the required minimum academic courseload requirement and may not be considered a reason for a student to be permitted to take a deficit load.

Credit/No Credit Option

Subject to home campus restrictions, students may request to have one course during each semester reported to the home campus for a Credit or No Credit (CR/NC) grade, for a maximum of six units per academic year. The following conditions apply:

- Courses must be taken for a regular grade at the host university.
- Courses reported as a CR/NC to the home campus will appear on the student's CSU academic record but will have no effect on the grade point average.
- Requests to have courses reported under the CR/NC option must be made at least one month prior to the final examination date of the course. Late forms will not be accepted.
- Incomplete forms, which omit requested course information and/or signatures will not be considered.
- Requests must be consistent with CR/NC regulations set by the student's home campus and major department. Normally, courses fulfilling major requirements must be taken for a letter grade.
- CR is awarded for grades A through C- in undergraduate courses, and A through B- in graduate courses. NC is assigned for D+ through F in undergraduate courses, C+ through F in graduate courses, contingent upon compliance with #4, above.
- Language acquisition courses in countries where the national language is not English cannot be taken CR/NC but must be taken for a letter grade. This applies to courses in which the primary objective is the imparting of language competency skills of the host country. Courses include preparatory language courses as well as required and optional instruction in foreign language during the academic year.

Course Withdrawals

Withdrawals shall not be permitted during the final twenty percent of instruction except in cases, such as accident or

serious illness, where the cause of withdrawal is due to circumstances clearly beyond the student's control. Withdrawals of this sort may involve total withdrawal from the campus or may involve only one course.

Program Withdrawal

A student may withdraw completely from International Programs for serious and compelling reasons or in verified cases of accident or serious illness. Withdrawal after departure constitutes withdrawal not only from IP, but also from the student's home CSU campus for the remainder of the term. The health and accident insurance plan is terminated and the student's visa status to remain in the host country is also affected.

All requests for withdrawal from the host university must be submitted in writing using the Program Withdrawal Form. Students studying in Chile, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Spain and Taiwan can obtain the form from their on-site Resident Director or Program Coordinator. Students studying in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and the UK must consult with the International Office at their host university about their plan to withdraw and contact the OIP by emailing <IPacademics@calstate.edu>. The Program Withdrawal form will be emailed to the student.

Failure to follow formal OIP procedures may result in the assignment of WU's for all courses.

Students who receive financial aid funds must consult with their Financial Aid Office at their home campus. If a recipient of student financial aid funds withdraws from the IP during an academic term or a payment period, the amount of grant or loan assistance received may be subject to return and/or repayment provisions.

Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to follow the same principles on academic integrity at their host universities as they would at their home campuses. Students who have committed any act of academic misconduct including (but not limited to) plagiarism, forgery, cheating or other such actions, are subject to disciplinary action based on the IP Student Conduct Code.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Am I required to take the equivalent of 15 units each semester abroad even though I don't need the extra units to graduate? **Answer:** Yes.

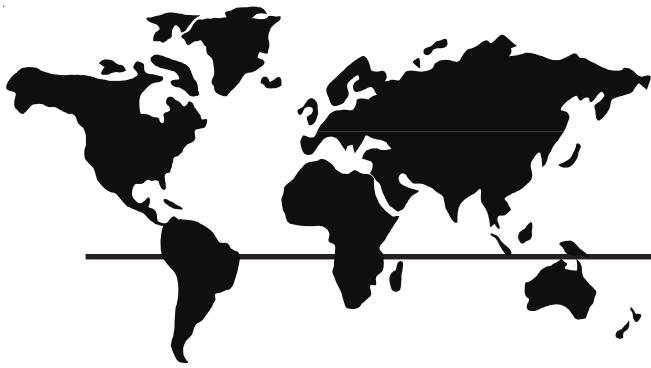
Question: I want one course to be reported as a Credit/No Credit to my home campus. Can I take this course on a Pass/Fail basis at my host university? **Answer:** No. You must take the course for a regular grade but if you complete the *Credit/No Credit Course Request* form and your request is approved, the course will be reported to your home campus as a Credit or No Credit depending on the grade that you received for the course.

Question: Someone told me that if I don't take an exam in one course while I am on IP, the course would not show up on my CSU transcript. Is that true? **Answer:** No.

The OIP receives a list of **all completed and uncompleted courses from all institutions where our students are attending**. If a student does not complete a course for any reason, the course will be reported as a WU to the home campus. This is equivalent to an F in GPA calculations.

Question: I have been abroad for one semester and I would like a mid-year report of the work that I've done. Will the OIP provide this to me? **Answer:** It is not our policy to issue mid-year Academic Reports. Reports are only provided after ALL grades for the entire year have been submitted to the OIP.

Question: I am going to a university which doesn't have a Resident Director or a person employed by the CSU International Programs. Who can I contact if I have academic questions? **Answer:** If your question relates to IP Academic Policy, reread the Academic Arrangements section of this Participant Guide which is also available online or email <IPacademics@calstate>. You can also go to the International Office of your host university. If they are unable to answer your questions, they will contact our office for assistance.



Finances

Financial Planning

A crucial ingredient of a successful year overseas is a sound financial plan. This point cannot be overemphasized. Without adequate funds, you simply cannot manage to live and study overseas. This section should give you the information you need to plan your finances for the upcoming year overseas.

During the time you were applying to International Programs (IP), you were carefully considering the costs as described in the *Financing* pamphlet. By now you should have a good idea of your resources for the coming year and should have applied for financial aid, if necessary. The amounts shown on the Program Cost sheet (attached to the Agreement) are based on the experience of the current year's students. These **estimates** are useful for planning purposes, but are subject to changes due to **currency fluctuation**, inflation, and costs out of IP's control.

You should understand that in paying these costs you have not purchased a "package tour" which guarantees that all your expenses will be paid and all services delivered. Tour companies can do this because they add a healthy profit margin for themselves. If their prediction of costs is too low, they have to take the difference out of their profit. If it is too high, their profit is higher.

IP does not make a profit. The money you pay to us is used solely for your own expenses. If there is anything left over at the end of the year, you will receive it back as a refund. If costs are excessively higher than expected, it might be necessary to ask you to pay the difference, as you agree to do in the Agreement you sign before participating. We do not like to ask our students to pay more money and, understandably, they do not like to do it. This situation is a rare occurrence.

Costs usually vary somewhat from the previous year. Please keep in mind any significant fluctuations in the exchange rate will impact the dollar estimates provided. Check the figures carefully so that you understand the anticipated costs for this coming year, as each item is explained in this document. In particular, look at the "Estimated Out-of-Pocket Expenses" on your Program Cost sheet, which are the items you will pay for individually while overseas. These amounts are **estimates only**, but should be considered **minimum** amounts. Do not expect to get by on less.

Since you ordinarily cannot work legally overseas, you should not plan on earning any money during the year.

After reading this section and reviewing your Program Cost sheet, if you still have any questions about finances, please feel free to contact IP about them. It is far better to resolve any questions or problems now, rather than to wait until you are overseas. Before you depart, make sure that you will have sufficient funds for the entire year.

Explanation of Cost Estimates

You have decided to participate in the California State University International Programs. IP does not generate profit for the CSU, but rather provides students with affordable, academically enriching international opportunities. Your decision to be an IP participant means that you are aware that the International Programs will be making some arrangements for you and that IP will therefore have control of some of your program-related costs.

There are many benefits to participating in a study abroad program managed by a central office such as IP. IP takes care of numerous things for you that you would otherwise have to manage yourself if you were going abroad independently. For example, IP assists you with such things as information about how to obtain your student visa, temporary housing arrangements, admission to and registration at a foreign university, health insurance, orientation before departure and upon arrival, and, in some cases, flight arrangements.

You may hear from others that you can get a "better deal" if you make your own arrangements. However, we caution you to remember that, more often than not, making your own arrangements can be extremely time consuming and costly if you have to do them yourself, especially if you do not speak the language of the host country fluently. And sometimes, students who attempt to make their own arrangements to "save money" end up paying for extra things that they forgot to account for at the outset. IP takes care of the "BIG things" so that you can focus on the little things that will make your trip more memorable for you. By and large, students appreciate the plans made by IP, especially at the beginning of the year when they are still unfamiliar with their new surroundings.

IP has been operating study abroad programs since 1963. The staff is very familiar with the intricacies of international travel and living. Our unique insights and our combined years of experience give us an advantage when it comes to making arrangements overseas. We do our best to keep costs as low as possible and to make practical decisions to keep you safe and comfortable. We believe that you will be happy with the arrangements we make for you.

Program Cost Estimates are those costs which are paid by you, the student, and are divided into two categories: "Pre-paid Costs," which you pay in advance to IP, and "Out-of-Pocket Expenses," which you will pay individually while overseas. Refer to the Program Cost Estimate sheet to see when certain payments are due. The separate costs are further described below:

State University Fee - This fee covers home campus enrollment. Please note, students seeking a second undergraduate degree will be charged the graduate rate. A reserve for a potential increase to the State University Fee rate (10%) is included here. If the CSU Board of Trustees does not approve a fee increase, the amount will be refunded.

IP Study Abroad Fee - Mandatory fee for all IP participants. Fee covers costs related to overseas operational expenses including student on-site support and operating costs of the program.

IP Insurance - A mandatory group health and accident insurance plan ordered by IP and paid by you as a prepaid cost to IP.

Departure Processing - Includes orientation and materials sent to students prior to departure.

Group Activities - This charge makes it possible to plan for various student social gatherings throughout the year, such as Thanksgiving. In addition, field trips are organized to help students become familiar with the city and country in which they are studying. They may also be required as part of regular coursework. Attendance at group activities is mandatory. **All** students are charged for **all** events.

Housing and Meals on Arrival - Students are housed with families for approximately 15 days. Laundry and meals other than lunch are included. Fee includes a nonrefundable housing fee.

Student Visa - This charge is for obtaining a student visa.

Housing and Meals-Academic Year - Students may choose to remain in their initial housing or they may move into an apartment.

Personal Expenses - Estimates of personal expenses can at best be only a rough guess, but the amounts indicated are based on the average for last year's students. Included are such items as clothing, postage, entertainment, books, etc. Please bear in mind that estimates for personal expenses, as well as for other out-of-pocket expenses, are minimum amounts. Do not expect to get by on less.

Warning: Vacation expenses are NOT included in the Program Cost sheet. Vacation/travel expenses have not been estimated because the amount students spend on this item varies so greatly. In the past, average expenses have ranged from \$500 to \$2,000 and the individual variation is so great that it is hard to make sound predictions. If you plan to travel before you return to the States, you will need to add even more to your travel budget.

The State of California Keeps Costs Down by Contributing toward the Program Costs

It is useful for you to know that the cost of providing education at any California State University campus is approximately \$12,630 per year per student. The student only has to pay about \$4,277 per year, and the State of California pays about \$8,352 per year toward each student's education.

IP programs are more affordable than most study abroad programs of comparable quality, duration and academic value because the State of California supports study abroad by contributing to the IP program costs. When you study abroad with IP, you are still only required to pay the same university fees that you would pay if you were attending at your home CSU campus (about \$3,353 plus graduate and summer fees where applicable per year).

The State of California wants CSU students to study abroad to broaden their horizons and to acquire international, linguistic and multicultural skills, and therefore contributes toward the cost of study abroad, instead of passing those costs on to students. The costs that are covered by the State of California include such things as the host university tuition, academic and logistical program arrangements, overhead for operating office facilities, and staff salaries in California and overseas.

Changes to Program Cost

The Program Cost sheet shows the estimated standard costs for a single IP student at your host country. This information must be adjusted for students with dependents and those students who arrange their own housing. **Request for changes to your program cost should arrive at IP by ◀ May 15.** Once an adjustment has been approved which will affect your prepaid costs or payment schedule, IP will send you an official revised Program Cost Estimate sheet.

Financial Data Form

To be assured that IP students have sufficient funds for the year overseas, IP requires that each student complete a Financial Data form and return it by ◀ **May 15.** If your financial situation changes before departure, you must inform IP.

W-9S

Students enrolled in the International Programs may be eligible for the Lifetime Learning credit, which provides for a credit of qualified tuition and fees per tax year. In order for us to file the appropriate reports/claims, we request that you (or the person claiming you as a dependent) complete Part I of the W-9S *Request for Student's or Borrower's Social Security Number and Certification* form and return it to our office by **May 15**. For more information please see: <<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9s.pdf>>.

Payment

The total Prepaid Cost should arrive at IP by **May 15**.

You may send your check or money order payable to:

CSU INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Mail to:

CSU International Programs
401 Golden Shore, Sixth Floor
Long Beach, California 90802-4210

Make sure your name and host country are clearly indicated on the check. This is particularly important if someone other than you is making the payment. Otherwise we may not be able to credit the proper account. If you wish to pay using your Visa or MasterCard, please complete the required information on the Program Cost Payment form and return to IP by **May 15**.

No receipts will be given for personal checks; your cancelled check will serve as a receipt. A \$10 fee will be charged for all returned checks.

Deferment of Prepaid Cost

Your entire Prepaid Cost is due by **May 15**. However, if you are unable to pay the full amount you may choose one of the following options:

Financial Aid - Prepay \$500 and defer the remainder until your financial aid is disbursed. If you choose this method of payment, you should indicate so on the Program Cost Payment form and return **with your \$500 deposit**.

By July 1—or before you leave for your study center (which ever comes first)—you will need to provide IP with an award letter or a letter from your financial aid counselor stating that sufficient aid to cover your remaining payment due will be awarded. The amount due will be deducted from your financial aid.

Parents' Payment Schedule - Prepay \$500 and parents make payments for the balance due. If you choose this method of payment, you should indicate so on the Program Cost Form and return **with your \$500 deposit**. The balance due should be paid in not more than six monthly installments with the final payment arriving in IP no later than November 30, 2009.

Parents should be aware, any refunds due will be returned to the student.

Note: At the end of your academic year if you have a financial obligation it may result in a financial hold being placed on your academic records. If the obligation continues, your name will be given to the Franchise Tax Board for collection.

Financial Aid - Procedures

Except for Federal Work Study, IP participants continue to be eligible for all student aid programs such as Cal Grant A or B, Pell Grant, SEOG, SUG, Perkins Loan, EOP Grants, Stafford Loans, and scholarships. We expect that, if you require financial aid, you have already filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and that you are complying with your campus financial aid office's requests and deadlines.

US Department of Education FAFSA:

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>



If you have just determined that you will need assistance, we recommend that you contact your campus financial aid office immediately. Most campus financial aid offices have designated a counselor to work specifically with IP students.

1. Visit your financial aid office and complete the application materials as instructed. Inform the counselor that you will be an IP participant. Many campuses will ask you to indicate this on your application and on all documents to make it easier to process your award and to handle your checks properly while you are overseas.
2. Make sure that you have submitted all required paperwork. This is **YOUR** responsibility.
3. Complete and submit the Financial Data form to IP. The Authorization for Transmittal of Financial Aid (part of the Financial Data form) permits your home campus to send IP what may be owed on your program cost or send your financial aid to IP.
4. A few weeks before you depart, contact your financial aid counselor to verify that your file is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who will rely on financial aid during periods of study abroad must confirm with the financial aid office that they will be eligible for aid during the period of planned enrollment.

If you are a financial aid recipient you must also confirm with your campus financial aid office that you are currently making satisfactory academic progress and that you will not exceed the maximum time frame for receiving financial aid during the period that you are abroad.

Financial Aid - Disbursement

WARNING: It is your responsibility to remove all CSU home campus "holds" on your records before you go abroad. A "hold" on your records will prevent you from registering for classes. This includes holds from the Library, Records Office, Financial Aid Office, your own academic department and any other campus office. Before you leave, be sure to clear all "holds." This is your responsibility and will prevent problems in the future.

In order for you to receive your financial aid efficiently, your home campus may disburse your financial aid directly rather than through IP. Most campuses are able to do this, but a few are not. If your campus is disbursing your aid, the campus should follow the same disbursement procedure it would use if you were to remain on campus. If you have deferred any portion of your program costs with financial aid, the amount due will be deducted and sent to IP each quarter/semester with the balance disbursed to you. **It is your responsibility to make sure your home campus has your disbursement instructions on hand prior to your departure. Double check that your mailing address is current at your home campus.**

If your campus cannot disburse financial aid directly to you, they will send it to IP and IP will send it to your permanent home address unless you make other arrangements. Again, any deferred program costs will be deducted each quarter/semester prior to disbursement. If you have questions about where your financial aid check is being sent, please contact your campus financial aid office and if you have questions about your deferred program costs, please contact IP prior to departure.

When Can You Expect Your Financial Aid?

Every year, IP students are very anxious about receiving their financial aid overseas. Please read this information carefully so that you will not be financially unprepared for your year abroad.

The first thing you must understand is that it will take time for you to receive your first financial aid check. **You are advised to have enough money to cover your first two months worth of expenses.** It may take that long for your financial aid to reach you.

Second, you need to know where your financial is being sent.

Third, you need to have a back up plan in case your financial aid is delayed.

IP Emergency Loans

Students may borrow money from IP as follows:

1. In an emergency, students may borrow up to \$300.00 at a time through March 31; this date is subject to change.
2. Students may borrow funds against late receipt of financial aid **if** IP can determine status of the financial aid disbursement.
3. Students may borrow money to pay for medical expenses such as extended hospitalization. These loans must be for a covered illness and backed up by insurance claims payable to IP.

Certification of Enrollment

While IP can provide certification/verification of concurrent enrollment to scholarship donors, insurance companies, etc., please remember that it is not IP's responsibility to make sure your campus processes the forms--this is still your responsibility. All such requests must be signed by the student.



Health and Safety Abroad

As you prepare to spend a year abroad, health, safety and security are important issues for you to consider. Each year hundreds of students study abroad and return safely. This does not mean that you should ignore this aspect of your preparation, studying abroad is not “risk free.” In preparing you should first realize that there are a wide range of potentially serious situations that may or may not apply to you. In one country, traffic accidents may pose (statistically) the largest danger to you, while in another country the AIDS virus may be a more serious threat. Perhaps the most important variable is you—your health situation, personal habits, the activities you choose to engage in or the places you choose to go.

No orientation can alert you to every potential difficulty. We will provide you with some background and additional information sources so that you can make informed decisions both as you prepare and while you are abroad. Read this *Guide*, attend the Predeparture Orientation, and learn as much as you can about the country to which you are going. Explore additional sources if you have more questions.

Health & Medical Issues

The Health Examination

In order to prepare physically and emotionally for living and studying overseas for a year, you are required to have a medical checkup before you go. Your medical record will be on file overseas for reference purposes in case of emergency. You and your physician must complete the Health Status Report and return it to OIP by **May 15**.

This report also verifies the physical condition of the applicant for insurance purposes and alerts the OIP and overseas staff of any special physical and psychological factors that may affect your performance, comfort and safety while an IP student. It is vital that this examination be thorough and accurate. It is intended to be a general survey of your health and should be completed by a general practitioner, unless your specific health situation requires reporting by a specialist. Reports completed by chiropractors are not acceptable.

You should make an appointment immediately in order to meet the deadline. Many campus health centers will complete the form for enrolled students if arrangements are made well in advance of the end of the term.

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs, such as physically disabled students, or students with learning disabilities, will have the opportunity to make their needs known after selection. IP makes every effort to accommodate such students in cooperation with host institutions abroad. Students with special needs are encouraged to identify themselves to make adequate planning possible. In some cases, adequate facilities or services for students with specific types of disabilities may not be available at their chosen overseas study centers.

Preparing for Other Health Issues

You can also prepare for the year ahead by reviewing the following:

Medical/Dental Work - We advise taking care of any existing medical problems and dental work before departure. Routine dental care is not included in IP insurance coverage. Lists of doctors and medical facilities are available from the IP office overseas.

Inoculations - Although specific shots may not be required for all IP countries, depending upon your personal situation, it may be a good idea to be immunized against major communicable diseases. If you are planning to travel to other countries while overseas, check to see if any inoculations are required. **Consult your physician for advice.**

Eye Glasses/Contact Lenses - Take a copy of your prescription, as well as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses with you. Routine eye examinations are not included in the IP insurance coverage. Consider taking a supply of cleaning solution for contact lenses if your eyes are especially sensitive as overseas products may differ.

Medications - If you can, take along a year's supply of any prescription medications and any nonprescription medicines (e.g., aspirin, allergy medicine) that you use regularly. Local products may differ. In addition you should be aware that adjustments to unfamiliar food and water may create intestinal problems; ask your doctor to recommend an anti-diarrhea treatment.

Students currently taking medication for an ongoing medical condition should consult with their physicians regarding their ongoing care. Ask your doctor if the medications you take are available in the country you are going to and whether the drug is known by another name. You may be

able to continue treatment under a physician's care overseas. If you determine that you will need to have medications shipped to you overseas, you must observe any laws enforced by your host country regarding shipment and receipt of medication. The best resource for information about such regulations would be the host country's embassy in Washington D.C. Contact information is on the Web. For example, "the Embassy of Italy in the United States."

Health Conditions Overseas

Do not expect conditions to be the same as in California. Health issues will also be a topic during your on-site orientation. Regardless of your host country, most IP students will probably have a few minor stomach upsets due to adjustments to food and water. During vacation travel to other countries you will probably be faced with unfamiliar health conditions. The following sources have helpful information about staying healthy overseas:

- *Health Information for International Travel*. Centers for Disease Control. Available for a fee from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or may be obtained from your local and state health departments. This publication should be available at your local library and the section on "Health Hints" includes interesting and important information.
- *Staying Healthy in Asia, Africa and Latin America* by Dirk Schroeder (Volunteers in Asia, Inc., 1988). Paperback guidebook for travelers who visit less-developed countries.

Centers For Disease Control:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>

Health Information (choose Arrival Guide):

http://www.qro.itesm.mx/departamentos/prog_internacionales



International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT)

IAMAT is a non-profit organization that was established in 1960. IAMAT's objective is to advise travelers about health risks, the geographical distribution of diseases worldwide, immunization requirements for all countries, and to make competent medical care available to travelers by western-trained doctors who speak English besides their mother tongue.

International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT)

<http://www.iamat.org/>



Medical Facilities Overseas - Nearly all students overseas experience some difficulty in adjusting to different diets, climates, sanitary facilities and other conditions that may temporarily affect their physical wellbeing. Most of these problems are of short duration. Adequate medical facilities are available at all centers in the event of more serious illnesses and staff overseas can refer you to appropriate doctors and medical facilities.

Health Insurance

CSU policy requires that all study abroad students be insured. Therefore, all IP participants are covered by Accident and Sickness Insurance for CSU Students Studying Abroad, included in your IP program costs.

This insurance is only valid outside the US and is considered an "excess" policy. This means that if you have other insurance coverage with another company outside of IP (e.g. through your parents), then you must file the claim with the other company first, then with the IP insurance carrier. Carefully study the policy exclusions and limitations provided in the brochure in the packet. This policy does not cover pre-existing conditions, nor does it cover all medicines or drugs prescribed for outpatient treatment. You may need to maintain your current insurance policy or purchase a new policy that will provide coverage. The policy includes a major medical provision with a deductible, and an accidental death benefit. We should also mention that many of the host countries require students to purchase local coverage, which provides students with additional coverage.

Please note that the CSU policy requires that you pay for medical services up-front, and subsequently file a claim form for reimbursement. If you have a large medical expense, such as hospitalization, OIP is prepared to lend you the funds to cover your expenses until the insurance carriers reimburse you. Claim forms can be downloaded from the web: <<http://www.visit-aci.com>>.

The required insurance goes into effect the day before you are asked to arrive overseas and remains in effect as long as you are enrolled in classes with IP. No insurance premium refund is given once you depart the US for your study center. If you withdraw or are disenrolled from IP prior to the end of the academic year, you forfeit participation in the health and accident insurance plan effective on the date of withdrawal as established by OIP. Although the health insurance coverage has proven adequate for most IP participants, it is not a comprehensive policy. **You should carry your insurance card with you at all times.**

Insurance Brochure & Claim Forms:

<http://www.csuhealthlink.com>

(Under "Student Insurance" select "Find your school's plans" then select "CSU IP" from the list of Schools. Once there click on the link to the Brochure or Claim Form.)



AIG Travel Assistance - Your CSU student health insurance policy includes emergency travel assistance coverage administered by AIG Travel Assist. This is a supplemental part of your health insurance policy valid around the world and can assist you if you should need emergency medical care while traveling abroad, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To access their benefits, you MUST contact AIG Travel Assist and let them make all arrangements for any services that you need. The kinds of services they provide are listed in the insurance pamphlet that we included in your packet.

Upon request, AIG Travel Assist can also provide pre-trip counseling for any countries you will be traveling to. They

can also answer questions you may have about your prescription medications before departure or help you replace a prescription while traveling.

For further information on the services provided by AIG Travel Assist, please see the Wells Fargo Student Health Insurance pamphlet provided in your packet, or contact AIG Travel Assist at: (800) 626-2427 (*in the U.S. and Canada*) or 1 (713) 267-2525 (*access an international operator, and ask them to place a collect to the U.S.*).

Pre-Existing Conditions

Students should note that the CSU insurance policy does not cover “pre-existing conditions.” Therefore, students with chronic medical conditions who know that they will need ongoing care while living abroad would be wise to continue coverage with their current health insurance company. Any questions you have about this should be directed to Wells Fargo of California Insurance Services before departure. Telephone: (800) 853-5899 or (916) 231-3399.

Adjustment & Personal Safety

During your time abroad, you will be required to make adjustments to the people, organizations and culture of your destination. Students going to the United Kingdom often underestimate the number of differences they will encounter. Students going to Asia may tend to underestimate the number of similarities they will encounter. Cultural differences show themselves not only in our relationship to other people but also in the systems people create and the way they operate those systems. Our purpose here is not to open a discussion of intercultural communication, but to point out how these differences may cause miscommunication and affect you, your adjustment and your personal safety.

While you are abroad you will take the opportunity to do and see many things. As you undertake these activities you should always try to be aware that you are in another country. You should also try to make informed and reasonable decisions concerning the safety and advisability of your activities. The list of possible choices is virtually limitless and you will decide what you do and you must accept the consequences. Please read the “Student Conduct” section of this *Guide* for program policies. Three areas seem worth a special mention here.

Alcohol - Attitudes about alcohol and customs surrounding its use can be very different abroad than they are at home. Alcohol abuse can be a danger and it contributes to other dangers as it impairs your judgment.

Illegal Drugs- In addition to the inherent dangers in the use of illegal drugs, drug use abroad can present serious legal problems. Drug laws abroad may be much different than those in the US and penalties can be severe for foreigners. Avoid illegal drugs. US laws and legal procedure do not apply in other countries. While a guest in another country you are subject to their laws. The US Embassy can provide only limited assistance in locating legal help.

Drugs Abroad: You Can be Arrested

http://travel.state.gov/travel/livingabroad_drugs.html



Political Activity - Students in other countries are often more likely to demonstrate for and against a variety of causes. You may sympathize with the students and be tempted to join the demonstration. However, the dangers in becoming involved, intentionally or unintentionally, are real. Demonstrations can unexpectedly become violent and authorities are not sympathetic to foreign participation. IP students should not get involved in demonstrations abroad.

US State Department Travel Information - A copy of the Consular Information Sheet for the country you will be going to is included at the end of this section. Consular Information Sheets are produced by the US Department of State and provide an overview of the conditions related to traveling to a particular country. Consular Information Sheets generally do not include advice, but rather present information in a factual manner so that the traveler can make his or her own decisions about travel to a particular country. They include such information as minor political disturbances, currency and entry regulations, crime and security information, drug penalties, health conditions, and the location of the US Embassy or Consulate. Travel Warnings are issued when the State Department wishes to warn people about a specific threat or to recommend that Americans avoid travel to a certain country. It is relatively rare for the State Department to advise that a country be completely avoided.

You may access updated US State Department Consular Information Sheets and Travel Warnings on the internet at the address provided below. We suggest that you read the information provided for any of the countries you might be visiting while you are abroad.

For US State Department Travel Information:

http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html



Final Note

We expect that you will have a productive and challenging year abroad. As we have indicated above no location in the US or abroad can be considered risk free. By informing yourself and acting responsibly, you can help make your stay abroad a safe one. Nevertheless, changing circumstances that pose risks to students may require OIP to act. In those cases, that action may include evacuation, relocation or suspension of the program. While this is extremely rare, it remains a possibility of which you should be aware.

**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Washington, DC 20520**

**Consular Information Sheet
Mexico**

August 13, 2008

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: Mexico is a Spanish-speaking country about three times the size of Texas, consisting of 31 states and one federal district. The capital is Mexico City. Mexico has a rapidly developing economy, ranked by the World Bank as the twelfth largest in the world. The climate ranges from tropical to desert, and the terrain consists of coastal lowlands, central high plateaus, and mountains of up to 18,000 feet.

Many cities throughout Mexico are popular tourist destinations for U.S. citizens. Travelers should note that location-specific information contained below is not confined solely to those cities, but can reflect conditions throughout Mexico. Although the majority of visitors to Mexico thoroughly enjoy their stay, a small number experience difficulties and serious inconveniences. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to register at the U.S. Embassy or the nearest U.S. Consulate through the [State Department's travel registration web site](#) .

Please read the [State Department's background notes on Mexico](#) for additional information.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: For the latest entry requirements, contact the Embassy of Mexico web site at <http://portal.sre.gob.mx/usa/> or contact the Embassy of Mexico at 1911 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006, telephone (202) 736-1000 or any Mexican consulate in the United States for the most current information.

All Americans traveling by air outside the United States are required to present a passport or other valid travel document to enter or re-enter the United States. This requirement will be extended to sea travel (except closed loop cruises), including ferry service, by the summer of 2009. Until then, U.S. citizens traveling by sea must have government-issued photo identification and a document showing their U.S. citizenship (for example, a birth certificate or certificate of nationalization), or other Western Hemisphere Travel initiative (WHTI) compliant document such as a passport card for entry or re-entry to the U.S. Sea travelers should also check with their cruise line and countries of destination for any foreign entry requirements.

The new U.S. Passport Card is now being issued. The card may not be used to travel by air and is available only to U.S. citizens. Further information is available at http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html and upcoming changes to U.S. passport policy can be found on the Bureau of Consular Affairs web site at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html. We strongly encourage all American citizen travelers to apply for a U.S. passport well in advance of anticipated travel. American citizens can visit travel.state.gov or call 1-877-4USA-PPT (1-877-487-2778) for information on how to apply for their passports.

Land travelers must have a valid U.S. passport or a U.S. citizenship document accompanied by acceptable photo identification, such as a state or military issued ID. U.S. legal permanent residents in possession of their I-551 Permanent Resident card may board flights to the U.S. from Mexico.

Minors: Mexican law requires that any non-Mexican citizen under the age of 18 departing Mexico must carry notarized written permission from any parent or guardian not traveling with the child to or from Mexico. This permission must include the name of the parent, the name of the child, the name of anyone traveling with the child, and the notarized signature(s) of the absent parent(s). The State Department recommends that the permission should include travel dates, destinations, airlines and a brief summary of the circumstances surrounding the travel. The child must be carrying the original letter - not a facsimile or scanned copy - as well as proof of the parent/child relationship (usually a birth certificate or court document) - and an original custody decree, if applicable. Travelers should contact the Mexican Embassy or closest Mexican Consulate for current information.

Tourist Travel: U.S. citizens do not require a visa or a tourist card for tourist stays of 72 hours or less within "the border zone," defined as an area between 20 to 30 kilometers of the border with the U.S., depending on the location. U.S. citizens traveling as tourists beyond the border zone or entering Mexico by air must pay a fee to obtain a tourist card, also known as an FM-T, available from Mexican consulates, Mexican border crossing points, Mexican tourism offices, airports within the border zone and most airlines serving Mexico. The fee for the tourist card is generally included in the price of a plane ticket for travelers arriving by air.

Business Travel: Upon arrival in Mexico, business travelers must complete and submit a form (Form FM-N) authorizing the conduct of business, but not employment, for a 30-day period. Travelers entering Mexico for purposes other than tourism or business or for stays of longer than 180 days require a visa and must carry a valid U.S. passport. U.S. citizens planning to work or live in Mexico should apply for the appropriate Mexican visa at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., or nearest Mexican consulate in the United States.

Vehicle Permits: Tourists wishing to travel beyond the border zone with their vehicle must obtain a temporary import permit or risk having their vehicle confiscated by Mexican customs officials. At present the only exceptions to the requirement are travel in the Baja Peninsula and in the state of Sonora only for vehicles entering through the Nogales port of entry. To acquire a permit, one must submit evidence of citizenship, title for the vehicle, a vehicle registration certificate, a driver's license, and a processing fee to either a Banjercito (Mexican Army Bank) branch located at a Mexican Customs (Aduanas) office at the port of entry, or at one of the Mexican Consulates located in the U.S. Mexican law also requires the posting of a bond at a Banjercito office to guarantee the export of the car from Mexico within a time period determined at the time of the application. For this purpose, American Express, Visa or MasterCard credit card holders will be asked to provide credit card information; others will need to make a cash deposit of between \$200 and \$400, depending on the make/model/year of the vehicle. In order to recover this bond or avoid credit card charges, travelers must go to any Mexican Customs office immediately prior to departing Mexico. Despite any advice, official or unofficial, to the contrary, vehicle permits cannot be obtained at checkpoints in the interior of Mexico.

Travelers should avoid individuals outside vehicle permit offices offering to obtain the permits without waiting in line, even if they appear to be government officials. There have been reports of fraudulent or counterfeit permits being issued adjacent to the vehicle import permit office in Nuevo Laredo and other border areas. If the proper permit is not obtained before entering Mexico and cannot be obtained at the Banjercito branch at the port of entry, do not proceed to the interior. Travelers without the proper permit may be incarcerated, fined and/or have their vehicle seized at immigration/customs checkpoints. For further information, contact Mexican Customs about appropriate vehicle permits.

DUAL NATIONALITY: Mexican law recognizes dual nationality for Mexicans by birth, meaning those born in Mexico or born abroad to Mexican parents. U.S. citizens who are also Mexican nationals are considered to be Mexican by local authorities. Dual-nationality status could hamper U.S. Government efforts to provide consular protection. Dual nationals are not subject to compulsory military service in Mexico. Travelers possessing both U.S. and Mexican nationalities must carry with them proof of their citizenship of both countries. Under Mexican law, dual nationals entering or departing Mexico must identify themselves as Mexican. For additional information, read our information on dual nationality and prevention of international child abduction.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: Violence by criminal elements affects many parts of the country, urban and rural. Visitors to the U.S.-Mexico border region, including cities such as Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, Nogales, Matamoros, and Monterrey should remain alert and be aware of their surroundings at all times. In its efforts to combat violence, the Government of Mexico has deployed military troops in various parts of the country. Military checkpoints increased in border areas in early 2008. U.S. citizens are advised to cooperate with official checkpoints when traveling on Mexican highways. Sporadic outbursts of politically motivated violence occur from time to time in certain areas of the country, particularly in the southern states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca.

Demonstrations: The Mexican Constitution prohibits political activities by foreigners, and such actions may result in detention and/or deportation. Travelers should avoid political demonstrations and other activities that might be deemed political by the Mexican authorities. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations, and to exercise caution if in the vicinity of any protests.

Chiapas: The Department of State recommends U.S. citizens traveling to the southern state of Chiapas remain cautious at all times. Armed rebels and armed civilian groups are present in some areas of the state, and there is often no effective law enforcement or police protection. Violent criminal gang activity along the state's southern border - mostly aimed at illegal migrants - continues to be a concern. U.S. citizens traveling to Chiapas are encouraged to contact the U.S. Embassy for further security information prior to traveling to the region.

General Safety: Standards of security, safety, and supervision may not reach those expected in the United States. This has contributed to deaths of U.S. citizens in automobile accidents, after falls from balconies or into open ditches, by drowning in the ocean as well as in hotel pools, and in water-sports mishaps, among others.

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's travel web site where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts can be found. Please visit the Safety Issues section for additional safety information.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

CRIME: Crime in Mexico continues at high levels, and it is often violent, especially in Mexico City, Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, Monterrey, Acapulco, and the state of Sinaloa. Other metropolitan areas have lower, but still serious, levels of crime. Low apprehension and conviction rates of criminals contribute to Mexico's high crime rate. U.S. citizen victims of crime in Mexico are encouraged to report the incident to the nearest police headquarters and to the nearest U.S. consular office.

In many countries around the world, counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available. Transactions involving such products may be illegal under local law. In addition, bringing them back to the United States may result in forfeitures and/or fines. More information on this serious problem is available at <http://www.cybercrime.gov/18usc2320.htm>.

Personal Property: Travelers should always leave valuables and irreplaceable items in a safe place, or not bring them at all. All visitors are encouraged to make use of hotel safes when available, avoid wearing obviously expensive jewelry or designer clothing, and carry only the cash or credit cards that will be needed on each outing. There are a significant number of pickpocket, purse snatching, and hotel-room theft incidents. Public transportation is a particularly popular place for pickpockets. When renting a vehicle, ensure that advertisements or labels for the rental agency are not prominently displayed on the vehicle. Avoid leaving valuables such as identification, passport and irreplaceable property in rental vehicles, even when locked.

A number of Americans have been arrested for passing on counterfeit currency they had earlier received in change. If you receive what you believe to be a counterfeit bank note, bring it to the attention of Mexican law enforcement.

Personal Safety: Visitors should be aware of their surroundings at all times, even when in areas generally considered safe. Women traveling alone are especially vulnerable and should exercise caution, particularly at night. Victims, who are almost always unaccompanied, have been raped, robbed of personal property, or abducted and then held while their credit cards were used at various businesses and Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs). U.S. citizens should be very cautious in general when using ATMs in Mexico. If an ATM must be used, it should be accessed only during the business day at large protected facilities (preferably inside commercial establishments, rather than at glass-enclosed, highly visible ATMs on streets). U.S. and Mexican citizens are sometimes accosted on the street and forced to withdraw money from their accounts using their ATM cards.

Kidnapping, including the kidnapping of non-Mexicans, continues at alarming rates. So-called express kidnappings, an attempt to get quick cash in exchange for the release of an individual, have occurred in almost all the large cities in Mexico and appear to target not only the wealthy, but also the middle class. U.S. businesses with offices in Mexico or concerned U.S. citizens may contact the U.S. Embassy or any U.S. consulate to discuss precautions they should take. Kidnapping in Mexico has become a lucrative business, whether it be an actual kidnapping or a virtual kidnapping. A common scam throughout Mexico is telephone kidnapping with a similar methodology. The virtual kidnapping calls typically include a distraught voice immediately after the phone is answered that serves as a ploy to elicit information about a potential victim. The caller then uses this knowledge to demand ransom for the release of the supposed victim. In the event of such a call stay calm since the vast majority of the calls are hoaxes; do not reveal any personal information; try to speak with the victim to corroborate identity; and contact the local police as well as the Embassy or nearest Consulate.

Criminal assaults occur on highways throughout Mexico; travelers should exercise extreme caution at all times, avoid traveling at night, and may wish to use toll ("cuota") roads rather than the less secure "free" ("libre") roads whenever possible. Always keep your car doors locked and your windows up while driving, whether on the highway or in town. When in heavy traffic or when stopped in traffic, leave enough room between vehicles to maneuver and escape, if necessary. In addition, U.S. citizens should not hitchhike with, accept rides from or offer rides to, strangers anywhere in Mexico. Tourists should not hike alone in backcountry areas, nor walk alone on lightly-frequented beaches, ruins or trails.

Street Crime: Armed street crime is a serious problem in all of the major cities. Some bars and nightclubs, especially in resort cities such as Cancun, Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, Acapulco, and Tijuana, can be havens for drug dealers and petty criminals. Some establishments may contaminate or drug drinks to gain control over the patron.

All bus travel should be during daylight hours and on first-class conveyances. Although there have been several reports of bus hijackings and robberies on toll roads, buses on toll roads have a markedly lower rate of incidents than buses (second- and third-class) that travel the less secure "free" highways. The Embassy advises caution when traveling by bus from Acapulco toward Ixtapa or Huatulco. Although the police have made some progress in bringing this problem under control, armed robberies of entire busloads of passengers still occur.

Harassment/Extortion: In some instances, Americans have become victims of harassment, mistreatment and extortion by Mexican law enforcement and other officials. Mexican authorities have cooperated in investigating such cases, but one must have the officer's name, badge number, and patrol car number to pursue a complaint effectively. Please note this information if you ever have a problem with police or other officials. In addition, tourists should be wary of persons representing themselves as police officers or other officials. When in doubt, ask for identification. Be aware that offering a bribe to a public official to avoid a ticket or other penalty is a crime in Mexico.

It is increasingly common for extortionists to call prospective victims on the telephone, often posing as law enforcement or other officials, and demand payments in return for the release of an arrested family member, or to forestall a kidnapping. Prison inmates using smuggled cellular phones often place these calls. Persons receiving such calls should be extremely skeptical since most such demands or threats are baseless, and should contact the U.S. Embassy or closest U.S. consulate, or the Department of State for assistance.

U.S. citizens may refer to [A Safe Trip Abroad](#) for ways to promote a trouble-free journey.

Information for [Victims of Crime](#): The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are a victim of a crime while overseas, you should report it immediately to the nearest U.S. consular office and make a report to Mexican authorities. Do not rely on hotel/restaurant/tour company management to make the report for you. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and explain how funds can be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed. Under the best of circumstances, prosecution is very difficult (a fact some assailants appear to exploit knowingly), but no criminal investigation is possible without a formal complaint to Mexican authorities.

Victims of crime may also report the crime to the Mexican embassy or nearest Mexican consulate after arriving in the United States. Before doing so, please contact the U.S. Embassy or consulate in Mexico for assistance in coordinating with Mexican consular officials to obtain an official appointment for the victim or witness with the Mexican Embassy or consulate. Travelers are encouraged to report crimes as soon as possible. Delays in reporting the crime may hinder or even prevent prosecution in some cases.

Crime in Mexico City: In Mexico City, the most frequently reported crimes involving tourists are taxi robbery (see below), armed robbery, pick pocketing, and purse-snatching. In several cases, tourists have reported that men in uniforms perpetrated the crime, stopping vehicles and seeking money, or assaulting and robbing tourists walking late at night. As in any large city, individuals should exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings, especially when walking anywhere in the city.

Business travelers should be aware that theft occurs even in what appears to be secure locations. Theft of such items as briefcases and laptops occur frequently at the Benito Juarez International Airport and at business-class hotels. Arriving travelers who need to obtain pesos at the airport should use the exchange counters or ATMs in the arrival/departure gate area, where access is restricted, rather than changing money after passing through Customs, where they can be observed by criminals.

Exercise caution when utilizing credit or debit cards in ATM machines or dubious locales. There have been reports of instances in which U.S. citizens in Mexico have had their card numbers “skimmed” and the money in their debit accounts stolen or their credit cards fraudulently charged. (“Skimming” is the theft of credit card information by an employee of a legitimate merchant or bank, manually copying down numbers or using a magnetic stripe reader.) In addition to skimming, the risk of physical theft of credit or debit cards also exists. To prevent such theft, the Embassy recommends that travelers keep close track of their personal belongings when out and about and that they only carry that which is needed. If travelers choose to use credit cards, they should regularly check their account status to ensure its integrity.

Metro (subway) robberies are frequent in Mexico City. If riding the Metro or the city bus system, U.S. citizens should take extreme care with valuables and belongings. Avoid using Metro during busy commuting hours in the morning or afternoon. Tourists and residents alike should avoid driving alone at night anywhere in Mexico City.

Robbery and assault on passengers in taxis are frequent and violent in Mexico City, with passengers subjected to beating, shooting, and sexual assault. U.S. citizens visiting Mexico City should avoid taking any taxi not summoned by telephone or contacted in advance. When in need of a taxi, telephone a radio taxi or “sitio” (regulated taxi stand - pronounced “C-T-O”), and ask the dispatcher for the driver’s name and the cab’s license plate number. Ask the hotel concierge or other responsible individual to write down the license plate number of the cab that you entered. Avoid “libre” taxis and the Volkswagen beetle taxis altogether. Although “libre” taxis are more convenient and less expensive, these are less regulated, may be unregistered, and are potentially more dangerous.

Passengers arriving at Mexico City’s Benito Juarez International Airport should take only airport taxis (which are white with a yellow stripe and a black airplane symbol) after pre-paying the fare at one of the special booths inside the airport.

Crime in Cancun, Acapulco, and Other Resort Areas: There have been a significant number of rapes reported in Cancun and other resort areas. Many of these have occurred at night or in the early morning. Attacks have also occurred on deserted beaches and in hotel rooms. Acquaintance rape is a serious problem. In other cases, hotel workers, taxi drivers, and security personnel have been implicated. Please refer to our information for [Victims of Crime](#).

Drug-related violence, including shooting and kidnapping, has increased in Acapulco. Although this violence is not targeted at foreign residents or tourists, U.S. citizens in these areas should be vigilant in their personal safety.

See the information at travel.state.gov regarding Spring Break in Mexico if you are considering visiting Mexican resort areas during February through March when thousands of US college students traditionally arrive in those areas. Additional information designed specifically for traveling students is available at studentsabroad.state.gov.

Crime in Border Cities: Visitors to the U.S. - Mexico border region, including cities such as Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, Nogales, Reynosa, Matamoros, and Monterrey, should remain alert and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

Some border cities have seen an increase in violence over the past year, some of which has been directed against U.S. citizens. Local police forces have been ineffective in maintaining security in some regions along the border. Drug-related violence has increased dramatically in recent months, and shows no sign of abating. While U.S. citizens not involved in criminal activities are generally not targeted, innocent bystanders are at risk from the increase in violence in the streets of border cities.

In Ciudad Juarez, Monterrey, Nuevo Laredo, and Tijuana, shootings have taken place at busy intersections and at popular restaurants during daylight hours. The wave of violence has been aimed primarily at members of drug-trafficking organizations, criminal justice officials, and journalists. However, foreign visitors and residents, including U.S. citizens, have been among the victims of homicide and kidnapping in the border region. U.S. citizens are urged to be especially aware of safety and security concerns when visiting the border region and exercise commonsense precautions such as visiting only legitimate business and tourist areas of border towns during daylight hours. U.S. citizens who frequently make routine visits to border cities should vary their routes and times and are urged to park in well-lighted, paid, and guarded parking lots. Exercise caution when entering or exiting your vehicle and instruct all fellow travelers to enter and exit the vehicle safely and quickly.

Mexican authorities have failed to prosecute numerous crimes committed against U.S. citizens, including murder and kidnapping. Local police forces suffer from a lack of funds and training, and the judicial system is weak, overworked, and inefficient. Criminals, armed with an impressive array of weapons, know there is little chance they will be caught and punished. In some cases, assailants have been wearing full or partial police uniforms and have used vehicles that resemble police vehicles, indicating some elements of the police might be involved.

Visitors are very vulnerable when visiting the local "red-light districts," particularly if they are departing alone in the early hours of the morning. In Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana, there has also been a rise in automobile accidents in which municipal police extort money from U.S. citizen victims.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND TREATMENT OF PRISONERS: While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. The trial process in Mexico is different from the trial process in the United States, and procedures may vary from state to state. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Mexican laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use or trafficking in illegal drugs in Mexico are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.

For more information, please see our information on [Criminal Penalties](#).

Sexual Offenses: Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. Soliciting the services of a minor for sexual purposes is illegal in Mexico, and is punishable by imprisonment. The Mexican government has announced an aggressive program to discourage sexual tourism. Police authorities in the state of Baja California recently began enforcement of anti-pedophile legislation.

Arrests & Notifications: The Mexican government is required by international law to notify the U.S. Embassy or the nearest U.S. consulate promptly when a U.S. citizen is arrested, if the arrestee so requests. In practice, however, this notification can be delayed by months or may never occur at all, limiting the assistance the U.S. Government can provide. U.S. citizens should promptly identify themselves as such to the arresting officers, and should request that the Embassy or nearest consulate be notified immediately.

Prison Facilities: Prison conditions in Mexico can be extremely poor. In many facilities food is insufficient in both quantity and quality, and prisoners must pay for adequate nutrition from their own funds. Most Mexican prisons provide poor medical care, and even prisoners with urgent medical conditions receive only a minimum of attention. U.S. citizens who are incarcerated in Mexico are sometimes forced to pay hundreds and even thousands of dollars in "protection money" to fellow prisoners.

Prisoner Treatment/Interrogations: Mexican police regularly obtain information through torture and prosecutors use this evidence in courts. The Mexican Constitution and the law prohibit torture, and Mexico is party to several international anti-torture conventions, but courts continue to admit as evidence confessions extracted under torture. Authorities rarely punish officials for torture, which continues to occur in large part because confessions are the primary

evidence in many criminal convictions. U.S. citizens have been brutalized, beaten, and even raped while in police custody. Since the beginning of 2002, 21 U.S. citizens have died in Mexican prisons, including five apparent homicides.

Drug Penalties and Prescription Medications: Penalties for drug offenses are strict, and convicted offenders can expect large fines and jail sentences up to 25 years. The purchase of controlled medication requires a prescription from a licensed Mexican physician; some Mexican doctors have been arrested for writing prescriptions without due cause. In those instances, U.S. citizens who bought the medications have been held in jail for months waiting for the Mexican judicial system to decide their fate. The Mexican list of controlled medication differs from that of the United States, and Mexican public health laws concerning controlled medication are unclear and often enforced selectively. To determine whether a particular medication is controlled in Mexico, and requires a prescription from a Mexican doctor for purchase, please consult the website of the Mexican Federal Commission for Protection Against Health Risks (Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios - COFEPRIS) at Listado de Medicamentos Controlados, <http://www.cofepris.gob.mx/py/p/estpsic/es.htm>. This site is in Spanish only.

Buying Prescription Drugs: The U.S. Embassy recommends that U.S. citizens not travel to Mexico for the sole purpose of buying prescription drugs. U.S. citizens have been arrested and their medicines confiscated by the Mexican authorities when their prescriptions were written by a licensed American physician and filled by a licensed Mexican pharmacist. There have been cases of U.S. citizens buying prescription drugs in border cities only to be arrested soon after or have money extorted by criminals impersonating police officers. Those arrested are often held for the full 48 hours allowed by Mexican law without charges being filed, then released. During this interval, the detainees are often asked for bribes or are solicited by attorneys who demand large fees to secure their release, which will normally occur without any intercession as there are insufficient grounds to bring criminal charges against the individuals. In addition, U.S. law enforcement officials believe that as much as 25 percent of medications available in Mexico are counterfeit and substandard. Such counterfeit medications may be difficult to distinguish from the real medications and could pose serious health risks to consumers. The importation of prescription drugs into the United States can be illegal in certain circumstances. U.S. law generally permits persons to enter the United States with only an immediate (about one-month) supply of a prescription medication.

Criminal Penalties for Possession: The U.S. Embassy cautions that possession of any amount of prescription medication brought from the United States, including medications to treat HIV, and psychotropic drugs such as Valium, can result in arrest if Mexican authorities suspect abuse or if the quantity of the prescription medication exceeds the amount required for several days' use. Individuals should consider carrying a copy of the prescription and a Mexican doctor's letter explaining that the quantity of medication is appropriate for their personal medical use.

Importing Medicine to Mexico: To import prescription medication into Mexico for personal use, a foreigner must obtain a permit from the Mexican Health Department prior to importing the medicine into Mexico. Additional information in Spanish is available at <http://www.cofepris.gob.mx/>. For a fee, a customs broker can process the permit before the Mexican authorities on behalf of an individual. If using the services of a customs broker, it is advisable to agree upon the fees before telling the broker to proceed. Current information on local customs brokers (agencias aduanales) is available at the Mexico City yellow pages at <http://www.seccionamarilla.com.mx/>.

Pirated Merchandise: Counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available in Mexico. Their sale is largely controlled by organized crime. Purchase for personal use is not criminalized in Mexico; however, bringing these goods back to the United States may result in forfeitures and/or fines. For more information on this serious problem visit the Special 301 Report at http://www.ustr.gov/Document_Library/Reports_Publications/2006/2006_Special_301_Review/Section_Index.html.

FIREARMS PENALTIES: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against taking any type of firearm or ammunition into Mexico without prior written authorization from the Mexican authorities. Entering Mexico with a firearm, some kinds of knives or even a single round of ammunition is illegal, even if the weapon or ammunition is taken into Mexico unintentionally. The Mexican government strictly enforces its laws restricting the entry of firearms and ammunition along all land borders and at airports and seaports. Violations have resulted in arrests, convictions, and long prison sentences for U.S. citizens.

Vessels entering Mexican waters with firearms or ammunition on board must have a permit previously issued by the Mexican Embassy or a Mexican consulate. Mariners do not avoid prosecution by declaring their weapons at the port of entry. Before traveling, mariners who have obtained a Mexican firearm permit should contact Mexican port officials to receive guidance on the specific procedures used to report and secure weapons and ammunition.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS: Please refer to our information on customs regulations. U.S. citizens bringing gifts to friends and relatives in Mexico should be prepared to demonstrate to Mexican customs officials the origin and the value of the gifts. U.S. citizens entering Mexico by the land border can bring in gifts with a value of up to \$50.00 duty-free, except for alcohol and tobacco products. U.S. citizens entering Mexico by air or sea can bring in gifts with a value of up to \$300.00 duty-free.

Personal Effects: Tourists are allowed to bring in their personal effects duty-free. According to customs regulations, in addition to clothing, personal effects may include one camera, one video cassette player, one personal computer, one CD player, 5 DVDs, 20 music CDs or audiocassettes, 12 rolls of unused film, and one cellular phone. Any tourist carrying such items, even if duty-free, should enter the “Merchandise to Declare” lane at the first customs checkpoint. The tourist should be prepared to pay any assessed duty. Failure to declare personal effects routinely results in the seizure of the goods as contraband, plus the seizure of the vehicle in which the goods are traveling for attempted smuggling. The recovery of the seized vehicle involves the payment of substantial fines and attorney’s fees.

Temporary Imports/Exports: Mexican customs authorities enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation into or export from Mexico of items such as trucks and autos, trailers, antiquities, medications, medical equipment, business equipment, etc. Prior to traveling, contact the Mexican Embassy or one of the Mexican consulates in the United States for specific information regarding customs requirements.

Property Donations: U.S. citizens traveling to Mexico with goods intended for donation within Mexico, or traveling through Mexico with goods intended for donation in another country, should be aware of Mexican Customs regulations prohibiting importation of used clothing, textiles, and other used goods into Mexico. These regulations apply even to charitable donations. Individuals or groups wishing to make such donations should check with Mexican Customs for the list of prohibited items, and should hire an experienced customs broker in the U.S. to ensure compliance with Mexican law. The charitable individual or group, not the customs broker, will be held responsible for large fines or confiscation of goods if the documentation is incorrect. The website for Mexican Customs (Aduanas) is in Spanish only at *Acerca de Aduana Mexico* (“About Mexican Customs”) at http://www.aduanas.sat.gob.mx/aduana_mexico/2007/A_body.htm. Mexican authorities require that all international transit through Mexico of persons and merchandise destined for Central or South America be handled only at the Los Indios Bridge located south of Harlingen, Texas on Route 509. The U.S. Consulate in Matamoros is the closest consulate to Los Indios Bridge and may be contacted for up-to-date information by calling 011-52-868-812-4402, ext. 273 or 280, or by checking their web site, <http://matamoros.usconsulate.gov/> which lists in English the most common items prohibited from entry into Mexico. Additional customs information can be found on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection web site at <http://www.cbp.gov/>.

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Adequate medical care can be found in major cities. Excellent health facilities are available in Mexico City, but training and availability of emergency responders may be below U.S. standards. Care in more remote areas is limited. Standards of medical training, patient care and business practices vary greatly among medical facilities in beach resorts throughout Mexico. In recent years, some U.S. citizens have complained that certain health-care facilities in beach resorts have taken advantage of them by overcharging or providing unnecessary medical care. Elective medical procedures may be less expensive than in the United States. However, visitors are cautioned that facilities may lack access to sufficient emergency support. The U.S. Embassy encourages visitors to obtain as much information about the facility and the medical personnel as possible when considering surgical or other procedures. In addition to other publicly available information, U.S. citizens may consult the U.S. Embassy’s web site for a list of doctors in Mexico City at http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/eacs_doctors.html and a list of hospitals in Mexico City at http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/eacs_hospitals.html or contact the U.S. Embassy, U.S. consulate, or consular agency prior to seeking non-emergency medical attention. The U.S. Embassy, U.S. consulates, and consular agencies maintain lists of reputable doctors and medical facilities that are available to assist U.S. citizens in need of medical care.

Water Quality: In many areas in Mexico, tap water is unsafe and should be avoided. Bottled water and beverages are safe although visitors should be aware that many restaurants and hotels serve tap water unless bottled water is specifically requested. Ice may also come from tap water and should be used with caution. Visitors should exercise caution when buying food or beverages from street vendors.

The quality of water along some beaches in or near Acapulco or other large coastal communities may be unsafe for swimming because of contamination. Swimming in contaminated water may cause diarrhea and/or other illnesses. Mexican government agencies monitor water quality in public beach areas but their standards and sampling techniques may differ from those in the United States.

Altitude: In high-altitude areas such as Mexico City (elevation 7,600 feet or about 1/2 mile higher than Denver, Colorado), most people need a short adjustment period. Reaction signs to high altitude include a lack of energy, shortness of breath, occasional dizziness, headache, and insomnia. Those with heart problems should consult their doctor before traveling. Air pollution in Mexico City and Guadalajara is severe, especially from December to May, and combined with high altitude could affect travelers with underlying respiratory problems.

Other Health Issues: Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC’s web site at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization’s (WHO) web site at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith/en>.

Medical Insurance: The Department of State strongly urges U.S. citizens to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. To ensure proper reimbursement of medical expenses by insurance carriers, the U.S. Embassy recommends that patients ensure they have sufficient documentation of their care and treatment before leaving the health care facility.

The Social Security Medicare Program does not provide coverage for hospital or medical costs outside the United States. Please see additional information on medical insurance abroad.

The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Mexico.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Mexico is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance. Public transportation vehicles, specifically taxis and city buses, often do not comply with traffic regulations, including observing speed limits and stopping at red lights.

Driving and Vehicle Regulations: U.S. driver's licenses are valid in Mexico. The Government of Mexico strictly regulates the entry of vehicles into Mexico. Mexican law requires that only owners drive their vehicles, or that the owner be inside the vehicle. If not, the vehicle may be seized by Mexican customs and will not be returned under any circumstances.

Insurance: Mexican insurance is required for all vehicles, including rental vehicles. Mexican auto insurance is sold in most cities and towns on both sides of the border. U.S. automobile liability insurance is not valid in Mexico, nor is most collision and comprehensive coverage issued by U.S. companies. Motor vehicle insurance is considered invalid in Mexico if the driver is found to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Road Emergencies and Automobile Accidents: If you have an emergency while driving, the equivalent of "911" in Mexico is "060", but this number is not always answered. If you are driving on a toll highway (or "cuota") or any other major highway, you may contact the Green Angels (Angeles Verdes), a fleet of trucks with bilingual crews. The Green Angels may be reached directly at (01) (55) 5250-8221. If you are unable to call them, pull off the road and lift the hood of your car, chances are they will find you.

If you are involved in an automobile accident, you will be taken into police custody until it can be determined who is liable and whether you have the ability to pay any penalty. If you do not have Mexican liability insurance, you may be prevented from departing the country even if you require life-saving medical care, and you are almost certain to spend some time in jail until all parties are satisfied that responsibility has been assigned and adequate financial satisfaction received. Drivers may face criminal charges if injuries or damages are serious.

Road Safety: Avoid driving on Mexican highways at night. Even multi-lane expressways in Mexico often have narrow lanes and steep shoulders. Single-vehicle rollover accidents involving U.S. citizens are common, often resulting in the death or serious injury to vehicle occupants. Use extreme caution when approaching towns, on curves, and when passing large trucks. All vehicle occupants should use seatbelts at all times. Vehicular traffic in Mexico City is restricted in order to reduce air pollution. The restriction is based on the last digit of the vehicle license plate. This applies equally to permanent, temporary, and foreign (U.S.) plates. For additional information refer to <http://www.hoynocircula.com.mx/> (Spanish only). Please refer to our Road Safety Overseas for more information.

For additional information in English concerning Mexican driver's permits, vehicle inspection, road tax, mandatory insurance, etc., please contact the Mexican Secretariat of Tourism (SECTUR) at telephone 1-800-44-MEXICO (639-426). Travelers can also consult <http://www.mexonline.com/drivemex.htm>. For detailed information in Spanish only, visit Mexican Customs' web site Importación Temporal de Vehículos ("Temporary Importation of Vehicles") at http://www.aduanas.sat.gob.mx/aduana_mexico/2007/A_Body_Vehiculos.htm. Travelers are advised to consult with the Mexican Embassy or the nearest Mexican consulate in the United States for additional, detailed information prior to entering Mexico. For travel information for the Baja California peninsula, you can also consult independent web sites Travel to Baja at <http://www.traveltobaja.net/> or Discover Baja California at <http://www.discoverbajacalifornia.com>.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the Government of Mexico's Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of Mexico's air carrier operations. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA's Internet web site at http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Weather conditions may vary as they do in various parts of the United States. From June to November, the country may experience strong winds and rains as a result of hurricanes in the Gulf or along the Pacific Coast. Some areas may experience earth tremors. It is prudent to leave a detailed itinerary, including local contact information and expected time-date of return with a friend or family member.

Water Sports: Visitors to Mexico, including to local resort areas, should carefully assess the potential risk of recreational activities. Recreational facilities such as pools may not meet U.S. safety or sanitation standards. Do not swim in pools or at beaches without lifeguards. Several U.S. citizens have died in hotel pools in recent years. Swimming pool drain systems may not comply with U.S. safety standards and swimmers should exercise caution. Parents should watch minor children closely when they are in or around water. U.S. citizens have drowned or disappeared at both remote and popular beaches along the southwest coast of Mexico.

Warning flags on beaches should be taken seriously. If black flags are up, do not enter the water. In Cancun, there is often a very strong undertow along the beach from the Hyatt Regency all the way south to Club Med. Several drowning and near-drowning incidents have been reported on the east coast of Cozumel, particularly in the Playa San Martin-Chen Rio area. In Acapulco, avoid swimming outside the bay area. Several U.S. citizens have died while swimming in rough surf at the Revolcadero Beach near Acapulco. Despite U.S.-trained lifeguards, several U.S. citizens have drowned in the area of Zipolite Beach in Puerto Angel, Oaxaca, because of sudden waves and strong currents. Beaches on the Pacific side of the Baja California peninsula at Cabo San Lucas are dangerous due to rip tides and rogue waves; hazardous beaches in this area are clearly marked in English and Spanish. Do not swim alone in isolated beach areas. Beaches may not be well-marked, and strong currents could lead to dangerous conditions for even the most experienced swimmers. Do not dive into unknown bodies of water, because hidden rocks or shallow depths can cause serious injury or death.

Sports and aquatic equipment that you rent may not meet U.S. safety standards or be covered by any accident insurance. Scuba diving equipment may be substandard or defective due to frequent use. Inexperienced scuba divers in particular should beware of dive shops that promise to “certify” you after a few hours’ instruction. Parasailing has killed U.S. citizen tourists who were dragged through palm trees or were slammed into hotel walls. Jet-ski accidents have killed U.S. citizen tourists, especially in group-outings when inexperienced guides allowed their clients to follow each other too closely.

Cancun and Other Resort Areas: Over 3 million U.S. citizens travel to Cancun and other Mexican beach resorts each year, including as many as 120,000 during “spring break” season, which normally begins in mid-February and runs about two months. Excessive alcohol consumption, especially by U.S. citizens under the legal U.S. drinking age, is a significant problem. The legal drinking age in Mexico is 18, but it is not uniformly enforced. Alcohol is implicated in the majority of arrests, violent crimes, accidents and deaths suffered by U.S. citizen tourists.

In recent years, moped rentals have become very widespread in Cancun and Cozumel, and the number of serious moped accidents has risen accordingly. Most operators carry no insurance and do not conduct safety checks. The U.S. Embassy recommends avoiding operators who do not provide a helmet with the rental. Some operators have been known to demand fees many times in excess of damages caused to the vehicles, even if renters have purchased insurance in advance. Vacationers at other beach resorts have encountered similar problems after accidents involving rented jet-skis. There have been cases of mobs gathering to prevent tourists from departing the scene and to intimidate them into paying exorbitant damage claims.

Motor Accidents: Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death of U.S. citizens in Mexico. Motorists should exercise special caution on the heavily-traveled expressway south of Cancun, particularly between Playa del Carmen and Tulum, where the road narrows from 4 divided lanes to two-way traffic on a narrow and poorly-maintained road. For more information, please refer to our information on [Road Safety Overseas](#).

Mountain Climbing and Hiking: Travelers who wish to climb Pico de Orizaba in Veracruz should be aware that summer droughts in recent years have removed much of the snow coating and turned the Jamapa Glacier into a high-speed ice chute, increasing the risk of death or serious injury. At least 17 climbers have died on the mountain and 39 have been injured in recent years, including U.S. citizens. Rescue teams operate without the benefit of sophisticated equipment. Any medical treatment provided in local hospitals or clinics must be paid in cash. While regulation of the ascent is minimal and guides are not required, the U.S. Embassy recommends hiring an experienced guide.

The Colima Volcano, located approximately 20 miles north-northeast of Colima city in the state of Colima on the southwestern coast, is active and erupted several times in 2005. Travelers should not enter the prohibited area within a 4.5-mile radius of the volcano.

When departing on an outing to backcountry areas to hike or climb, it is prudent to leave a detailed itinerary, including route information and expected time and date of return with your hotel clerk or a friend or family member. Similarly, mariners preparing to depart from a Mexican harbor should visit the harbormaster and leave a detailed trip plan, including intended destination and crew and passenger information.

MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS IN MEXICO: In general, to marry a Mexican national in Mexico, a U.S. citizen must be physically present in Mexico and present documents required by the jurisdiction where the marriage will take place. U.S. citizens who marry U.S. citizens or other non-Mexicans are not subject to a residence requirement, but are required to present their tourist cards. For additional information on marriages in Mexico, contact the U.S. Embassy or the nearest U.S. consulate.

Divorce requirements may vary according to jurisdiction. The U.S. Embassy recommends U.S. citizens consult a local attorney and/or the Mexican Embassy or nearest Mexican Consulate for information on divorces in Mexico.

REAL ESTATE AND TIME-SHARES: U.S. citizens should be aware of the risks inherent in purchasing real estate in Mexico, and should exercise extreme caution before entering into any form of commitment to invest in property there. Investors should hire competent Mexican legal counsel when contemplating any real estate investment. Mexican laws and practices regarding real estate differ substantially from those in the United States. Foreigners who purchase property in Mexico may find that property disputes with Mexican citizens may not be treated evenhandedly by Mexican criminal justice authorities and in the courts. Time-share companies cannot be sued in U.S. courts unless they have an office or other business presence in the U.S. Consumers should contact a Mexican attorney, the Mexican consumer protection agency PROFECO at <http://www.profeco.gob.mx/> or other consumer information agency for information on companies that operate outside of the U.S.

Ownership Restrictions: The Mexican Constitution prohibits direct ownership by foreigners of real estate within 100 kilometers (about 62 miles) of any border, and within 50 kilometers (about 31 miles) of any coastline. In order to permit foreign investment in these areas, the Mexican government has created a trust mechanism in which a bank has title to the property but a trust beneficiary enjoys the benefits of ownership. However, U.S. citizens are vulnerable to title challenges that may result in years of litigation and possible eviction. Although title insurance is available in the Baja Peninsula and in other parts of Mexico, it is virtually unknown and remains untested in most of the country. In addition, Mexican law recognizes squatters' rights, and homeowners can spend thousands of dollars in legal fees and years of frustration in trying to remove squatters who occupy their property.

Labor Laws: U.S. citizen property owners should consult legal counsel or local authorities before hiring employees to serve in their homes or on their vessels moored in Mexico. Several U.S. citizen property owners have faced lengthy lawsuits for failure to comply with Mexican labor laws regarding severance pay and Mexican social security benefits.

Time-share Investments: U.S. citizens should exercise caution when considering time-share investments and be aware of the aggressive tactics used by some time-share sales representatives. Buyers should be fully informed and take sufficient time to consider their decisions before signing time-share contracts, ideally after consulting an independent attorney. Mexican law allows time-share purchasers five days to cancel the contract for unconditional and full reimbursement. U.S. citizens should never sign a contract that includes clauses penalizing the buyer who cancels within five days. The Department of State and the U.S. Mission in Mexico frequently receive complaints from U.S. citizens about extremely aggressive sales tactics, exaggerated claims of return on investment, lack of customer service and questionable business practices by time-share companies, resulting in substantial financial losses for time-share investors.

A formal complaint against any merchant should be filed with PROFECO, Mexico's federal consumer protection agency. PROFECO has the power to mediate disputes, investigate consumer complaints, order hearings, levy fines and sanctions for not appearing at hearings, and do price-check inspections of merchants. All complaints by U.S. citizens are handled by PROFECO's English-speaking office in Mexico City at 011-52-55-5211-1723 (phone), 011-52-55-5211-2052 (fax), or via email at extranjeros@profeco.gob.mx. For more information, please see the PROFECO "Attention to Foreigners" web page at Profeco (Procuraduría Federal del Consumidor).

ALIEN SMUGGLING: Mexican authorities may prosecute anyone arrested for transporting aliens into or out of Mexico for alien smuggling in addition to any charges they may face in the other country involved, including the United States.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES: For information on intercountry adoption of children and international parental child abduction, see the [Office of Children's Issues](#) web site. Mexico is the destination country of the greatest number of children abducted from the United States by a parent. A party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction since 1991, Mexico is not in full compliance with the Convention.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION FACILITIES: A number of facilities have opened in Mexico that offer behavior modification therapy for teenagers and others suffering from drug addiction and other behavioral or psychological problems. Standards applied by the Government of Mexico and local governments, where they exist, may not meet standards for similar facilities in the United States. Parents planning to enroll their children in these facilities should investigate the facility first. Since 2004, Mexican officials have closed six adolescent behavior modification facilities in Baja California and another in the state of Jalisco due to health code and other violations. This was done on very short notice and caused serious inconvenience for the U.S. citizen students and their families. Another behavior modification facility in Sonora suddenly declared bankruptcy and closed its doors in March 2005, with a similarly disruptive impact on students. For further information, please refer to the State Department's Fact Sheet on Behavior Modification Facilities at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1220.html.

REGISTRATION/EMBASSY, CONSULATE AND CONSULAR AGENCY LOCATIONS: U.S. citizens living or traveling in Mexico for more than one day are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy or nearest U.S. consulate through the State Department's [travel registration web site](#), and to obtain updated information on travel and security

within Mexico. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy or nearest U.S. Consulate. By registering, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

The U.S. Embassy is located in Mexico City at Paseo de la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc; telephone from the United States: 011-52-55-5080-2000; telephone within Mexico City: 5080-2000; telephone long distance within Mexico 01-55-5080-2000. You may also contact the Embassy by e-mail at: ccs@usembassy.net.mx. The Embassy's web page is <http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/main.html>.

In addition to the Embassy, there are several United States Consulates and Consular Agencies located throughout Mexico:

CONSULATES:

Ciudad Juarez: Ciudad Juarez: Paseo de la Victoria #3650, telephone (52) (656) 227-3000.

Guadalajara: Progreso 175, Col. Americana; telephone (52)(333) 268-2100.

Hermosillo: Calle Monterrey 141 Poniente, Col. Esqueda; telephone (52)(662) 289-3500.

Matamoros: Avenida Primera 2002 y Azaleas; telephone (52)(868) 812-4402.

Merida: Calle 60 No. 338 K x 29 y 31, Col. Alcala Martin; telephone (52)(999) 942-5700.

Monterrey: Avenida Constitucion 411 Poniente; telephone (52)(818) 047-3100.

Nogales: Calle San Jose, Fraccionamiento "Los Alamos"; telephone (52)(631) 311-8150.

Nuevo Laredo: Calle Allende 3330, Col. Jardin; telephone (52)(867) 714-0512.

Tijuana: Avenida Tapachula 96, Col. Hipodromo; telephone (52)(664) 622-7400.

CONSULAR AGENCIES:

Acapulco: Hotel Continental Emporio, Costera Miguel Aleman 121 - Local 14; telephone (52)(744) 484-0300 or (52)(744) 469-0556.

Cabo San Lucas: Blvd. Marina Local C-4, Plaza Nautica, Col. Centro; telephone (52)(624) 143-3566.

Cancun: Plaza Caracol Two, Second Level, No. 320-323, Boulevard Kukulcan, Km. 8.5, Zona Hotelera; telephone (52)(998) 883-0272.

Ciudad Acuna: Alfonso Gonzalez Ocampo # 305, Col. Centro; telephone (52)(877) 772-8179.

Cozumel: Plaza Villa Mar en El Centro, Plaza Principal, (Parque Juárez between Melgar and 5th Ave.) 2nd floor, Locales #8 and 9; telephone (52)(987) 872-4574.

Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo: Hotel Fontan, Blvd. Ixtapa; telephone (52)(755) 553-2100.

Mazatlan: Hotel Playa Mazatlán, Playa Gaviotas #202, Zona Dorada; telephone (52)(669) 916-5889.

Oaxaca: Macedonio Alcala No. 407, Interior 20; telephone (52)(951) 514-3054 (52) or (951) 516-2853.

Piedras Negras: Abasolo 211, Local #3, Col. Centro; telephone (52)(878) 782-5586 or (878) 782-8664.

Playa del Carmen: The Palapa, Calle 1 Sur, between Avenida 15 and Avenida 20.; telephone (52)(984) 873-0303.

Puerto Vallarta: Paseo de Los Cocoteros #85 Sur, Paradise Plaza - Local L-7, Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit C.P.; telephone (52)(322) 222-0069.

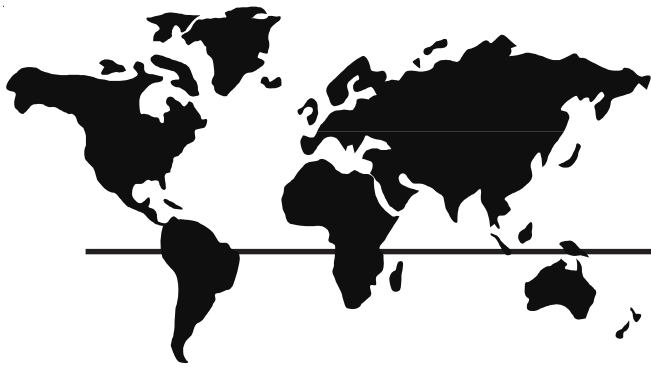
Reynosa: Calle Monterrey #390, Esq. Sinaloa, Col. Rodríguez; telephone: (52)(899) 923-9331

San Luis Potosi: Edificio "Las Terrazas", Avenida Venustiano Carranza 2076-41, Col. Polanco; telephone (52)(444) 811-7802 or (444) 811-7803.

San Miguel de Allende: Dr. Hernandez Macias #72; telephone (52)(415) 152-2357.

* * *

This replaces the Country Specific Information dated September 13, 2007 to update the sections on Safety and Security, Crime, Medical and Health, and Consular Agencies.



Agreement

As a participant in the International Programs, you are a representative of the CSU, the State of California, and the United States. As such you are bound both by the normal requirements of social behavior which apply at home and by additional requirements related to maintaining the reputation and interests of the program overseas. This section features the legal and policy requirements that apply to your year overseas.

As a condition of participation in IP, all students are required to sign a program Agreement, a copy of which follows for your records. A separate copy for your signature is included in Packet #1 online. You should read the Agreement carefully, sign it and return it to OIP by **May 15**. Particular attention is directed to paragraph 9.

This form constitutes the basic agreement between you and the Trustees of the CSU. It is important to understand that this agreement legally binds you to abide by all IP rules and regulations, which are described in this Guide, the IP Bulletin, and elsewhere.

Students are expected to comply with IP requirements before departure and while overseas and to give OIP staff and host university officials their full cooperation. Actions such as disruption of the administrative process or physical or verbal abuse toward any member of the IP community are not acceptable. Regarding the academic process, unacceptable conduct includes cheating or plagiarism, failure to attend class, failure to maintain the prescribed minimum unit load, unauthorized absences from the study center (e.g., leaving early for vacations or not returning on time), or violation of IP academic policies.

Normally, common sense will dictate acceptable personal conduct outside the classroom. Examples of behavior considered unacceptable are: disregard for the laws or customs of the host country, theft, failure to pay debts, trading in, consumption, or use of illegal or dangerous drugs or narcotics, or violation of any local law or ordinance with respect to these substances, involvement in illegal or offensive actions of a political nature as defined and interpreted by the lawful authorities of the host country, or engaging in any act which represents a potential danger or an embarrassment to the program or to others.

Failure to abide by these rules and regulations may result in one of several sanctions, depending upon the seriousness of the problem. In order of severity these include a verbal and/or written reprimand by the Resident Director or host university representatives, a written reprimand from the Director of International Programs, probation, and disenrollment.

We expect that you will have a productive and challenging year abroad. As we have indicated previously no location here in the US or abroad can be considered risk free. By informing yourself and acting responsibly, you can help make your stay abroad a safe one. Nevertheless, changing circumstances that pose risks to students may require OIP to act. In those cases, that action may include evacuation, relocation or suspension of the program. While this is extremely rare, it remains a possibility of which you should be aware.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Gender (Title IX)

The California State University does not discriminate on the basis of gender in the educational programs or activities it conducts. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, and the administrative regulations adopted thereunder prohibit discrimination (including harassment) on the basis of gender in education programs and activities operated by California State University. Such programs and activities include admission of students and employment. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX to programs and activities of California State University International Programs may be referred to the Director of the Office of International Programs or to the Regional Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Region IX, 50 UN Plaza, Room 239, San Francisco, California 94102.

Disability

The California State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability (including AIDS) in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the regulations adopted thereunder prohibit such discrimination. Inquiries concerning compliance may be addressed to the Director of the Office of International Programs.

Race, Color, or National Origin

The California State University complies with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the regulations adopted thereunder. No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of The California State University.

Age, Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Preference, Marital Status, Pregnancy, or Vietnam Veteran Status

California State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference, marital status, pregnancy, or Vietnam veteran status in any of its programs or activities. California State University International Programs complies with all applicable federal laws, state laws and Trustee policies in this area. These statutes and policies also prohibit sexual harassment. Inquiries concerning compliance may be addressed to the Director of the Office of International Programs.

Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989

California State University is committed to achieving and maintaining a campus community that fosters personal and institutional excellence and strives to provide conditions under which the work of the University can go forward freely, with the highest standard of quality and integrity. In keeping with this commitment, all faculty, staff and students are urged to ensure that the learning environment is free of the problems of substance abuse and dependency. For information regarding the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, please contact the Director of the Office of International Programs.

Privacy Rights of Students in Education Records

The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 12329) and regulations adopted thereunder (34 C.F.R. 99) set out requirements designed to protect the privacy of students concerning their records maintained by the Office of International Programs. Specifically, the statute and regulations govern access to student records maintained by the campus, and the release of such records. In brief, the law provides that the campus must provide students access to records directly related to the student and an opportunity for a hearing to challenge such records on the grounds that they are inaccurate, misleading or oth-

erwise inappropriate. The right to a hearing under the law does not include any right to challenge the appropriateness of a grade as determined by the instructor. The law generally requires that written consent of the student be received before releasing personally identifiable data about the student from records to other than a specified list of exceptions.

The Office of International Programs is authorized under the Act to release "directory information" concerning students. "Directory information" includes the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. The above designated information is subject to release at any time unless the Office of International Programs has received prior written notice from the student specifying information which the student requests not to be released. Written objections should be sent to the Director of the Office of International Programs.

The Office of International Programs is authorized to provide access to student records to campus officials and employees who have legitimate educational interests in such access. These persons are those who have responsibilities in connection with the campus' academic, administrative or service functions and who have reason for using student records connected with their campus or other related academic responsibilities. Disclosure may also be made to other persons or organizations under certain conditions (e.g., as part of accreditation or program evaluation; in response to a court order or subpoena; in connection with financial aid; to other institutions to which the student is transferring).

Important Note: While you are abroad you will be encountering cultures which have values and standards of behavior different from your own. Such differences are reflected in the educational system, in social relationships and the legal system. Attitudes surrounding the use of alcohol and drugs, for example, have social as well as legal implications. You need to know that while United States and California law continue to apply to you and Trustees with regard to your participation in the international education program, you are also subject to the laws and customs of the foreign country where you study, and your relationship with foreign nationals and foreign institutions will be governed by the law of the host country.

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
AGREEMENT**

This agreement is entered into by and between the State of California through the Trustees of The California State University, hereafter called "Trustees," and _____, hereafter called "Student."
(enter your full name)

WHEREAS, the Trustees intend to provide an international education program in _____ for selected students of The California State University and _____
(overseas center)

WHEREAS, Student desires to participate in the program under the terms and conditions hereafter set forth,

NOW, THEREFORE, Trustees and Student agree as follows:

1. Student shall qualify for admission as a student for credit in the International Programs of The California State University by satisfying all requirements, including payment of fees.
2. Student shall pay to Trustees' Office of International Programs by the dates specified the amounts set out in the Program Costs sheet which is attached hereto and by this reference made a part of this agreement. Refund of amounts which Student pays to the Office of International Programs and assessment of charges shall be as provided in the Program Costs sheet.
3. Student shall pay to Trustees' Office of International Programs sums in addition to those specified in the Program Costs sheet as may be necessary due to increases in charges by the host university or housing authority, fluctuation in United States dollar exchange rates, or commitments made by Student while overseas that are subsequently discharged by Trustees, and increases in fees or other charges relating to enrollment in the CSU International Programs. Student shall pay to the Office of International Programs any additional sums within 30 days notification by Trustees.
4. Student shall obtain and provide all materials, meet all deadlines, and otherwise comply with all participation requirements established by the Office of International Program.
5. Student agrees to expend his or her best efforts in successfully completing the academic requirements of the courses in which Student enrolls.
6. Student understands and agrees that acts, omissions, occurrences, or events beyond the control of the parties hereto may make necessary or desirable the modification, relocation, or cancellation of the program contemplated by this agreement. Trustees shall be authorized to modify or relocate the program contemplated by the agreement with respect to cost, dates and times, and academic content so long as any such modification or relocation is a reasonable substitute for the originally contemplated program. Student acknowledges that courses may be added, cancelled, or changed by the host institution as well as by the Trustees.

Furthermore, Trustees reserve the right to suspend or relocate a program in a host country if, in their judgement, it is deemed advisable to do so in the event of civil disturbance, hostilities, potential hostilities, or warning from the U.S. State Department. Student acknowledges and agrees to cooperate and follow any instructions from the Trustees in connection with a suspension or relocation of a program.

7. Trustees shall enroll Student in the International Programs of The California State University if Student otherwise qualifies for enrollment and shall provide appropriate academic credit for the courses that Student successfully completes.
8. Trustees shall provide or arrange for the provision of those services and benefits stated in the Program Costs sheet.
9. It is understood that the international implications of this agreement are such that the conduct of Student during the course of the program is of utmost importance. Student, therefore, agrees to conform to standards of conduct consistent with the maintenance of a positive reputation of The California State University and to conform to all applicable rules, regulations and policies of The California State University International Programs. Student understands and agrees that in the event the Director of International Programs, in his or her discretion, shall determine the conduct or academic standards of Student are detrimental to the best interests of the International Programs, the Director may terminate the participation of Student in the International Programs. Such termination shall not diminish or otherwise affect Student's obligation to make to Trustees any payments specified in this agreement. Trustees in no event shall be required to refund to Student any payment made by Student to Trustees, but may make such refunds as are consistent with Trustees' policy.
10. Student understands that there are dangers, hazards, and risks inherent in international travel, living in a foreign country, and the activities included in the international education program including but not limited to air, land and sea travel, dietary differences, diseases less common in the United States, differences in legal expectations and protection, building code and other safety differences, any of which could result in serious or even fatal injuries and property damage. Student agrees to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding student's participation in the international education program, and understands and agrees that the Trustees cannot and do not assume responsibility for any such personal injuries or property damage.
11. This agreement is subject to all applicable laws and regulations. If performance of this agreement involves violation of applicable law or regulation thereby making it legally impossible to perform and such illegality is not the fault of Student, Trustees shall refund to Student those payments made pursuant to this agreement which are authorized to be refunded in Section 41802 of Title 5, California Administrative Code. Upon payment of said refund, all rights of Student and Trustees are waived under this agreement.
12. Student agrees that the State of California, the Trustees of The California State University, the International Programs of The California State University, and each and every officer, agent and employee of each of them (hereafter in this paragraph 11 and in paragraph 12 collectively referred to as "the State") shall not be responsible for any injury, damage, or loss to Student or Student's property which occurs from any cause beyond the control of the State, or which does not occur from the sole negligence of the State.

International Programs Agreement

13. Student further agrees to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the State from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses, causes of action, and demands, and all costs and expenses incurred in connection therewith (hereafter in this paragraph 12 collectively referred to as "liability") resulting from or in any manner arising out of, or in connection with any negligence on the part of Student, his or her agents, or employees, in the performance of this agreement, irrespective of whether such liability is also due to any negligence on the part of the State.
14. This agreement contains the sole and entire agreement between Trustees and Student and shall supersede any and all other agreements between the parties. Trustees and Student acknowledge and agree that any statements or representations that may have heretofore been made by either of them to the other are void and of no effect and that neither of them has relied thereon in connection with his or her or its dealings with the other.
15. No alteration or variation of the terms of this agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties hereto.
16. The laws of the State of California shall govern the interpretation of this agreement. Any action brought to enforce any right or obligation under this agreement or any action which arises out of or in connection with this agreement shall be brought in the courts of the State of California.

By signing below, Trustees and Student manifest their agreement to these terms and conditions.

TRUSTEES OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT

Tom Roberts, Director
Procurement and Support Services Officer

Student's Copy

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Printed Name

Date

Withdrawals

A student who wishes to withdraw from International Programs must complete a *Predeparture Withdrawal Notification* form and submit it to OIP as soon as possible so that alternate students may be offered the opportunity to participate.

Prior to Departure

Students who withdraw from IP before departure retain their status as continuing students at their home CSU campuses.

After Departure

Because of the extensive commitments made by the State on each student's behalf, withdrawal after departure is a very serious matter. Students who request withdrawal at any time after arrival at the overseas site must consult with the Resident Director or host university representative and must fill out the required withdrawal form.

Students who discontinue their academic programs without completing the required steps for withdrawal may receive failing grades in all courses. Withdrawal after departure constitutes withdrawal not only from IP, but also from the student's home CSU campus.

Financial aid recipients should work closely with OIP and their home campus financial aid counselor regarding funds that may need to be repaid and/or debts owed to OIP as a result of their withdrawal.

In some instances, a change in visa status as a result of withdrawal from IP, (thus no longer having student status), may mean having to leave the host country immediately.

In all cases of withdrawals and disenrollments, students assume full responsibility for their return to their home, and thereby remove all liabilities and responsibilities from OIP representatives and staff and the Trustees of The California State University.

Refunds

Students are entitled to a full refund of funds paid, less any funds already committed or expended on their behalf, provided that written notice of withdrawal is received by OIP **prior to June 15**.

Students who withdraw or are disenrolled **after June 15**, but before the beginning of instruction, will receive a refund of all monies paid to OIP less \$500 or an amount equal to funds committed or expended on their behalf, whichever is greater.

Students who withdraw or are disenrolled **after the beginning of instruction** will receive a refund of funds not already committed or expended on their behalf.

State University Fee (SUF) refunds will be based on the amount paid to OIP, the effective withdrawal date and whether or not a student will receive course credit for the term at the overseas university.

No refunds will be made for the IP Study Abroad fee after departure.

No refunds will be made for health insurance cancellation after departure.

No refunds will be made for nonparticipation in group activities.

Determinations concerning eligibility for refunds and the amount and date of refunds shall be made at the discretion of the Trustees.

If students who receive financial aid withdraw, they may be required to make immediate restitution of monies awarded for participation in IP.

Overseas Centers

Australia - Griffith University

c/o Study Abroad and Exchange
Griffith University
International Office
Nathan Campus
Queensland 4111
Australia

Australia - Macquarie University

c/o Macquarie International
Macquarie University
North Ryde, NSW 2109
Australia

Australia - Queensland University of Technology

c/o QUT International
Queensland University of Technology
2 George Street, GPO Box 2434
Brisbane, Queensland 4001
Australia

Australia - The University of Queensland

c/o Student Exchange Program
International Education Directorate
Level 2, J.D. Story Building
The University of Queensland
Brisbane QLD 4072
Australia

Australia - University of Western Sydney

c/o Exchange and Study Abroad Office
UWS International
Penrith Campus
PO Box 1797
Penrith South DC NSW 1797
Australia

Australia - Victoria University

c/o International Office
P.O. Box 14428
Victoria University
Melbourne City
MC, VIC 8001 Australia

Canada - Bishops University

c/o Coordinator of International Programs
Pavillon McGreer, bureau 210
2600, College Street
Sherbrooke (Québec) J1M 0C8
Canada

Canada - Concordia University

c/o Concordia International
Concordia University
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, X 105
Montréal (Québec) H3G 1M8
Canada

Canada - McGill University

c/o Student Exchanges and Study Abroad
James Administration Building
845, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Montréal (Québec) H3A 2T5
Canada

Chile

c/o Programa California State University
Oficina N°5 Programme California State University
Pontificia Universidad Católica
Campus San Joaquín
Av. Vicuña Mackena 4860
Macul, Santiago, Chile

China

c/o CSU International Programs
Peking University
Shao Yuan 2-101
Beijing
People's Republic of China, 100871

Denmark

c/o Danish Institute for Study Abroad
Vestergade 7
DK-1456 Copenhagen K
Denmark

France - Aix-en-Provence

c/o The California State University
5, rue du 4 Septembre
13100, Aix-en-Provence, France

France - Paris

c/o MICEFA
Centre Saint-Jacques
26, rue du Faubourg Saint-Jacques
75014 Paris, France

Germany - Tübingen

c/o Dezernat für Internationale Beziehungen
University of Tübingen
Wilhelmstrasse 9
D-72074 Tübingen
Federal Republic of Germany

Ghana

c/o Historical Society of Ghana
(Asafo office)
Opposite Institute of African Studies Library
University of Ghana
Legon, Ghana, West Africa

Israel

Suspended

Italy

c/o The California State University International Programs
Via G. Leopardi 12
50121 Firenze, Italy

Japan

CSU International Program in Japan
c/o School of International Liberal Studies (SILS)
Waseda University
Nishi-Waseda Bldg.
1-6-1 Nishi-Waseda
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-8050
Japan

Korea

c/o Division of International Education and Exchange
Yonsei University
134 Shinchon-dong, Seodaemun-gu
Seoul 120-749
Korea

México - Queretaro

c/o Programas Internacionales
Tecnologico de Monterrey
Campus Querétaro
Ave. Epigmenio Gonzalez No. 500
Col. San Pablo CP
76130 Querétaro, Qro
Mexico, DF

New Zealand - Lincoln

c/o International Centre
Lincoln University
P.O. Box 94
Lincoln 7647
Canterbury, New Zealand

New Zealand - Massey

c/o International Student's Office
Massey University
Tennant Drive
Private Bag 11-222
Palmerston North, New Zealand

South Africa - Durban

c/o UKZN International
Room 409
Rick Turner Students' Union Building
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Durban 4041, South Africa

South Africa - Port Elizabeth

c/o Office of International Education
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
P.O. Box 77000
Port Elizabeth 6031
South Africa

Spain - Granada

c/o The California State University
Cursos de Extranjeros
Placeta del Hospicio Viejo 1
Granada 18071, Spain

Spain - Madrid

c/o The California State University International Programs
Facultad de Geografía e Historia, Edificio B
Ciudad Universitaria
28040, Madrid, Spain

Sweden

c/o International Office
Uppsala University
Box 256
SE-751 05 Uppsala
Sweden

Taiwan

c/o Office of International Affairs
National Taiwan University
1, Sec 4, Roosevelt Road
Taipei City 106, Taiwan
Republic of China

United Kingdom - University of Bradford

c/o International Office
University of Bradford
West Yorkshire BD7 1DP
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - University of Bristol

c/o Study Abroad Office
International Centre
University of Bristol Union
Queen's Road
Bristol BS8 1LN
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - University of Hull

c/o International Services Division
The University of Hull
Hull HU6 7RX
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - Kingston University

c/o Study Abroad Office
Kingston University London
River House
53-55 Hight Street
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey KT1 1LQ
United Kingdom

United Kingdom - University of Sheffield

C/o Study Abroad Programme
International Exchanges Unit
Student Recruitment & Admissions
The University of Sheffield
8 Palmerston Road
Sheffield S10 2TE
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - University of Swansea

c/o American Studies Exchange Office
University of Wales, Swansea
Singleton Park
Swansea SA2 8PP
The United Kingdom