

MEXICO: ENGAGING EFL TEACHERS AND LEARNERS IN AN INTERNATIONAL SETTING



Spring Study Break Abroad Program:
March 12-19, 2016

SPONSORED BY THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

3 SEMESTER HOURS

THE PROGRAM

Join us for a unique experience that places you right in the heart of Mexico's EFL teaching and learning community, first in vibrant Mexico City and then in the historical city of Oaxaca.

Students in the "Engaging EFL Teachers and Learners in an International Setting: Mexico" Spring Break Study Abroad Program will have the opportunity to complement the theoretical underpinnings of the TEFL I course with practical experiences that allow an in-depth examination of teaching in an EFL context. Students will learn through hands-on observation and interactions of language teachers in an authentic EFL setting at the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional (UPN), one of Mexico's leading teacher education universities. Students will be paired with experienced cooperating teachers at UPN, observe intact English-language courses, and reflect on ways instructors apply language acquisition theory and teaching methodology in Mexico's EFL context.

After several days in Mexico City, we will head to the colonial city of Oaxaca, where students will have the opportunity to see a different side of EFL teaching and learning. Here students will interact with EFL professionals in a range of settings, as well as meet with local students and faculty. The GSU students will also explore the processes necessary for effective EFL programs to function, and they will have a chance to learn about the Mexican educational system and the country's history and culture, which is an essential element in working abroad or working with Mexican immigrants in the US. During our time here, we will also learn about the multilingual and multicultural challenges within Mexico as well. Through information sessions with Mexican administrators as well as conversations with in-service EFL instructors, GSU students will better position themselves for employment in academic institutions in places that demand highly trained and culturally sensitive EFL instructors

ACCOMMODATIONS

We will first be staying in shared rooms in comfortable hotels in safe neighborhood near downtown Mexico City. Then in Oaxaca, we will stay in charming hotels right in the heart of the historic central district of the city, within easy walking distance of many of the city's historic sites.

Tentative Itinerary

January 22: Orientation

February 19: Orientation

March 12: Travel day, orientation lecture and introductory activity

March 13: Archeological museum

March 14: Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, and tour their English Language Center.

March 15: Visit the Benjamin Franklin Library and Binational Center (US Embassy), meet the Regional English Language Officer, explore the historic center of Mexico City, trip to the Frida Kahlo museum.

March 16: Visit EFL classes in Mexico City high schools, travel to Oaxaca, with dinner in the historic center.

March 17: Meet administrators and teachers in different EFL settings in Oaxaca

March 18: Travel to a small town in the state of Oaxaca, visit cultural sites, go shopping

March 19: Shopping in morning in Mexico City markets, travel to MEX-ATL

March 25: Post-trip discussion group and summary of experiences, impressions, and reflections



APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 2, 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Director:
Dr. John D. Bunting

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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants with documented disabilities who may need accommodations during their global expedition experience should discuss these needs with the Program Director and the Office of Disability Services at the time of application.

ELIGIBILITY

Undergraduate and graduate students from Applied Linguistics & ESL will be given priority, but all students are eligible. No course prerequisites are required for graduate students. Undergraduate students in their junior or senior year from Applied Linguistics, Education, Modern and Classical Languages, and English are eligible. For undergraduates in Applied Linguistics, AL 3051 is a co- or pre-requisite course and these students will be given priority. For other majors, no prerequisites are required, but will be evaluated via interview with the Program Director. Program size is limited and participation is contingent upon acceptance by the Program Director.

CREDITS AND COURSES

Participants who successfully complete the program's course will receive 3 semester hours of course credit at Georgia State University. Graduate students should register for AL 8270 (Selected Topics); and Undergraduate students should register for AL4141 (Selected Topics). Students from other institutions should follow their institution's regulations concerning transfer credits

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Students interested in applying should find this program's listing at mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and begin an application. Because program size is limited, early application is strongly advised.

Transient Students: Please see the Transient Student section under the Explore & Apply tab at mystudyabroad.gsu.edu

International Students at Georgia State who hold F-1 visas must contact the Office of International Student and Scholar Services at 404-413-2070 to discuss the possible implications of study abroad for their immigration status.

COSTS

Program cost may vary at any time according to currency fluctuations and changing travel arrangements. The program cost is tentatively set at \$ 1600.00, **PLUS** regular Georgia State University tuition and fees. Non-resident/out-of-state students will pay in-state tuition plus a \$250 fee in addition to the program cost.

Program Cost Includes

- Round-trip airfare
- Ground transportation, excursions, and entrance fees
- Hotel
- Health/Evacuation/Repatriation Insurance

Program Cost Does Not Include

- Georgia State tuition and fees
- All meals, unless otherwise noted
- Public transportation in Mexico City and Oaxaca
- Course materials
- Passport fees
- Personal expenses and excess baggage

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

November 2: \$200 Deposit with application

November 16: \$200 First Payment

January 12: \$1200 Remaining balance

All payments are non-refundable upon receipt

Program Deposit Payments: Participants will pay program deposits by logging into PAWS. Please contact your Program Director to confirm that a Program Deposit Account has been established for this purpose *before* you attempt to make a payment in PAWS.

Program Payments and Remaining Program Balance:

Other than the initial program deposit, all program payments—along with the remaining program balance—will be billed directly to your student account. Please refer to the Academic/Registration calendar for the tuition and fees deadline.

FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Georgia State University students are eligible to apply for the IEF Study Abroad Scholarship/Georgia State University Foundation Scholarship and may be eligible to apply for the Global Experience Scholarship. Visit mystudyabroad.gsu.edu and select the Scholarships & Financial Aid tab or call the Study Abroad Programs office at (404) 413-2529 for more information.



Because program size is limited, early application is strongly advised. Individual interviews may be scheduled with students upon receipt of application