



Study Abroad Development Tour Mexico 2019 Call for applications for Minority Serving Institutions

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico, in collaboration with the U.S. Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS) and EducationUSA are jointly organizing the “Study Abroad Development Tour Mexico 2019”. In support of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, this development tour seeks to increase academic opportunities for U.S. students to Mexico, including groups of students who have been underrepresented in the overseas-study abroad population. We will bring ten U.S. higher education administrators for a four-day development tour in Mexico.

Mexico offers proximity, affordability, world-class academic programs, a growing job market and opportunities to learn Spanish. Forty million of U.S. residents spoke Spanish at home in 2016. Spanish, the second-most widely spoken language in the world, give access to a wide range of cultures and opens business opportunities in Spanish-speaking markets.

Mexico is the 3rd largest goods trading partner of the United States with \$611.5 billion in total (2018). Goods exports totaled \$265.0 billion; goods imports totaled \$346.5 billion. According to the Department of Commerce, United States exports of Goods and Services to Mexico supported an estimated 1.2 million jobs in 2015 (latest data available).¹

“The U.S. embassy in Mexico, with support from local higher education associations and in partnership with HEIs, has been offering a series of short-term programs focused on women and minority empowerment as well as workforce development. The Fulbright Commission in Mexico, COMEXUS, supports non-Fulbright innovative short-term programs in support of undergraduate research, teacher training, and professional internships, both in Mexico and the United States (in addition to managing the traditional Fulbright exchanges). The government sends graduate students mainly via the Fulbright Commission and the National Council of Science and Technology.”²

The *Study Abroad Development Tour Mexico* includes conferences, panels and round table discussions with local higher education professionals as well as guided visits to community projects and rural minority serving institutions in Mexico City and, mainly, in the state of Puebla. Participants will be selected by their skills, experience and potential to expand study abroad ties in Mexico for non-traditional students and faculty in his/her institution and establish partnerships to promote exchanges between Mexico and the United States. The program will take place in Mexico City and Puebla on November 12-15, 2019.

Program objectives

The main objective of the program is to strength and/or increase study abroad programs in Mexico by:

¹ Office of the United States Trade Representative, <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/americas/mexico>

² EducationUSA, Global Guide 2018, page 76



- Increasing your knowledge of the Mexican higher education system.
- Identifying opportunities and potential partnerships for study abroad programs in Mexico.
- Exploring potential research and scholarly linkages for faculty with Mexican higher education institutions.

Participant profile

Up to ten participants will be selected. We aim for gender balance, given that qualifications and other criteria are fulfilled.

- At least two years of experience as a study abroad officer or adviser in a Historically Black College/University, Hispanic-Serving Institution, Tribal College, or Community College
- Commitment to increase study abroad opportunities for your students
- Support from your institution to participate in this program (November 11-16).
- Spanish language skills will be considered an asset.

Funding

The U.S. Department of State, through the Embassy and COMEXUS, will cover the following costs for each participant (according to COMEXUS regulations):

- Round-trip airfare to Mexico
- Accommodation in Mexico City and Puebla (August 11-16)
- Meals (only breakfast is covered on last day)
- Ground transportation in Mexico City and Puebla

Participants are expected to cover costs of emergency health insurance and personal expenses.

Application and Deadline

Fill out the [online application form](#) by **October 6, 2019 (23:59 CST)**

Upload supporting documents, as one PDF file (named “`LastName_Name_2019`“):

- CV (two pages)
- Statement of Motivation indicating individual and institutional goals of participation (one page)
- Letter of support from the top management (president/rector or vice-chancellor/vice-rector) of the home institution indicating relevance of participation.

Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered eligible.

All applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process **by October 14, 2019**.

Selected participants must be available to travel to Mexico on November 11th and return to their city of origin on November 16th.

For further information, please contact elvira.castillo@comexus.org.mx.