EXCHANGE PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Faculty: Communications Art and Technology
Major/Minor: Interactive Arts and Technology
Host university: Universidad de las Américas Puebla
Host Country: Mexico
Dates of your exchange: (month/year) Jan 2019 to (month/year) May 2019

TRAVEL

$1000 total (there and back)
$100 total on Ubers for whole semester

VISAS

Canadian

AIRPORT RECEPTION

Were you met at the airport by representatives of the host university? □ No □ Yes

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? □ No □ Yes

Please comment: The Amigos Internacionales (student group from the UDLAP that helps incoming international students) met me at the airport and helped me buy my bus and taxi rides

What is the closest airport to the host university? Aeropuerto Internacional de Puebla or Benito Juarez

ORIENTATION

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival at the host university? □ No □ Yes

Was there a cost for the orientation session? □ No □ Yes, how much? __________

If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? □ No □ Yes

Please comment:
**LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Is there a language program available either before or during the term?  □ No  □ Yes

If yes, how long is it? You can take Spanish classes just like a regular class

Is there an additional cost for language training?  □ No  □ Yes: How much?

Please comment:

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**ACCOMMODATION & LIVING**

Is on-campus or university dormitory accommodation available?  □ No  □ Yes

If yes, are you living in a university dormitory?  □ No  □ Yes

If yes, can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory?  □ No  □ Yes

Any building is good, but I recommend choosing one with individual rooms

If yes, please describe:

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? $380

Is there a meal plan?  □ No  □ Yes: How much is it?

If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities?  □ No  □ Yes

How far is your dormitory from the main campus? 2 minute walk

Please comment on internet and phone access in your dormitory:
Wifi accessible from everywhere on campus and in the dorms, although sometimes the connection is a bit bad but usually it's fine.
I never used the phones

Did you have to make a deposit for your accommodation prior to arrival?  □ No  □ Yes

If yes, how did you arrange this? Online transfer directly to the university

Is off-campus housing easily available?  □ No  □ Yes

Please comment on off-campus housing:
Most of my international friends lived off-campus. They said it filled up fast, so look early. I think it's cheaper, and also you don't have to worry about strict rules that the on-campus dorms have.
Personally I liked living on campus but many prefer to live off campus.

Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? $800

Any other comments on accommodation:

The $800 doesn't include accommodation because since I lived in dorms, I paid the full amount upfront.
FINANCIAL DETAILS
Have you opened a bank account in your host country? □ No  □ Yes: What are the challenges/benefits to opening a local bank account?

Mexican Pesos. Some tourist places accept US Dollars but they also always accept pesos.

How would you recommend students bring money (Canadian/American cash, travelers’ cheques, local currency?)

What is/are the preferred method(s) of payment at most establishments?  □ Cash  □ Debit  □ Credit card

Please comment: Personally I found cash easiest because I didn’t want to be charged fees on my credit card. It’s also necessary to have cash if you want to go to markets or buy street food.

ACADEMIC DETAILS
Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted? □ No  □ Yes

Please describe the course registration procedure:

They give you access to the course catalogue and ask you to send them a PDF form with all the courses you want to take.

What discipline(s)/program(s) are you taking at your host university? Media/Communications and Design

What is the language of instruction in your courses? Spanish

If not English, are English-taught courses available? Yes, lots of English-taught courses are also available

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university.

Small classes and professors give you lots of attention. However the school culture overall feels a bit more laid-back. I also felt like we were a lot more controlled; the university has very strict rules about absences, even if you have good reason, whereas at SFU, you feel more independent and responsible for your own attendance and therefore you feel like you have the right and flexibility to choose not to go to class if you have a good reason.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?

Improved Spanish fluency and proved that I am capable of taking courses and doing projects in Spanish

Learned about a new culture

Submission Instructions: 1. Please complete and return this form by E-mail to studyabroad@sfu.ca as a PDF.
2. Subject line of email: Questionnaire - [Host Country, Host University]
3. Please include your full name and student number in the body of your E-mail.