

Program for Mexican Culture and Society in Puebla

Living and Studying in Puebla Questionnaire

Students will normally reside with Mexican families who will provide all meals, linens, and laundry facilities in a comfortable home environment. Spending several months with a family offers a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in Mexican life and to practice Spanish language skills. PMCSP staff attempts to match students with their host families where they will feel most comfortable, based on students' answers in this questionnaire.

Please answer the questions below. Use additional pages to add any other information you feel appropriate. Your responses will be kept confidential to the program staff and you are not required to answer any question you would prefer to not answer. At the same time, keep in mind that if you do not tell us about a particular condition or concern, we cannot be responsible for giving you the best possible attention.

1. Mexican families—like all families—come in many shapes and sizes. Is there any particular configuration of “family” with which you would be most comfortable or uncomfortable?

2. Do you think you would prefer a family that spends a great deal of time with you or would you prefer a bit more independence?

3. Have you ever lived abroad or participated in a home stay with a family that is not your own? If so, please describe your experience. What aspects did you enjoy and what aspects did you not enjoy?

4. Are you more of a “morning person” or a “night owl?”

5. Which would you prefer: a house that is quiet or one that has a lot of activity?

6. How would you describe yourself? Please circle all of the following that apply to you:

shy friendly serious quiet social loud
hard-working outgoing independent confident assertive
prefers to be out and about prefers to relax at home
prefers to spend time with friends prefers to spend time with family

7. How do you feel about your Spanish? (confident, under-confident, scared). Please explain.

8. Would you prefer to live alone with a Mexican family (i.e., the only US resident) or live with another PMCSP participant in a home?

9. Some of our host mothers work at home and have a lot of time to bond with their host students and integrate them fully into family life. Others work outside the house and do not spend as much time with their host students, giving the students more time on their own. Which would you prefer?

10. What social and recreational activities do you most enjoy?

11. Describe how you spend a typical Saturday at your college or university.

12. Are you a vegetarian? If so, to what extent? (e.g., vegan, some fish, eggs, cheese).

13. Do you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies? If so, please explain.

14. Please describe your eating patterns. Do you prefer to eat three times a day, or more often?

15. Are you a “picky eater?” If so, what food(s) do you not eat?

16. Have you experienced any eating disorders in the past? If so, will this affect your experience in Mexico? Please explain.

17. If you have experienced (or currently experience) any eating disorders, have you discussed your study-abroad plans with a specialist or advisor?

18. Do you smoke?

19. Do you mind living with people who smoke? If so, under what conditions (if any) would you consider living with people who smoke?

20. Would you mind living with a family that has pets? What kinds of animals do you like or dislike?

21. Are you allergic to animals? If so, please elaborate.

22. Do you enjoy being around young children?

23. Some of our host families have young grandchildren who visit on a regular basis. How would you feel about living in one of these families?

24. Are you concerned about how people will react to your sexuality? If so, please elaborate.

25. Are you concerned about how you will practice your religion (if any) in Mexico? If so, please elaborate.

26. If you have experienced (or currently experience) emotional issues, have you discussed your study-abroad plans with your therapist or advisor?

27. If you regularly take medications, have you discussed with you doctor ways to make sure you have access to medication in Mexico?

28. What most excites you about living in Mexico?

29. What, if anything, most concerns you about living in Mexico?

30. What do you anticipate being most challenging for you in Mexico? Why?

Add any additional information you feel would help us serve you best.