

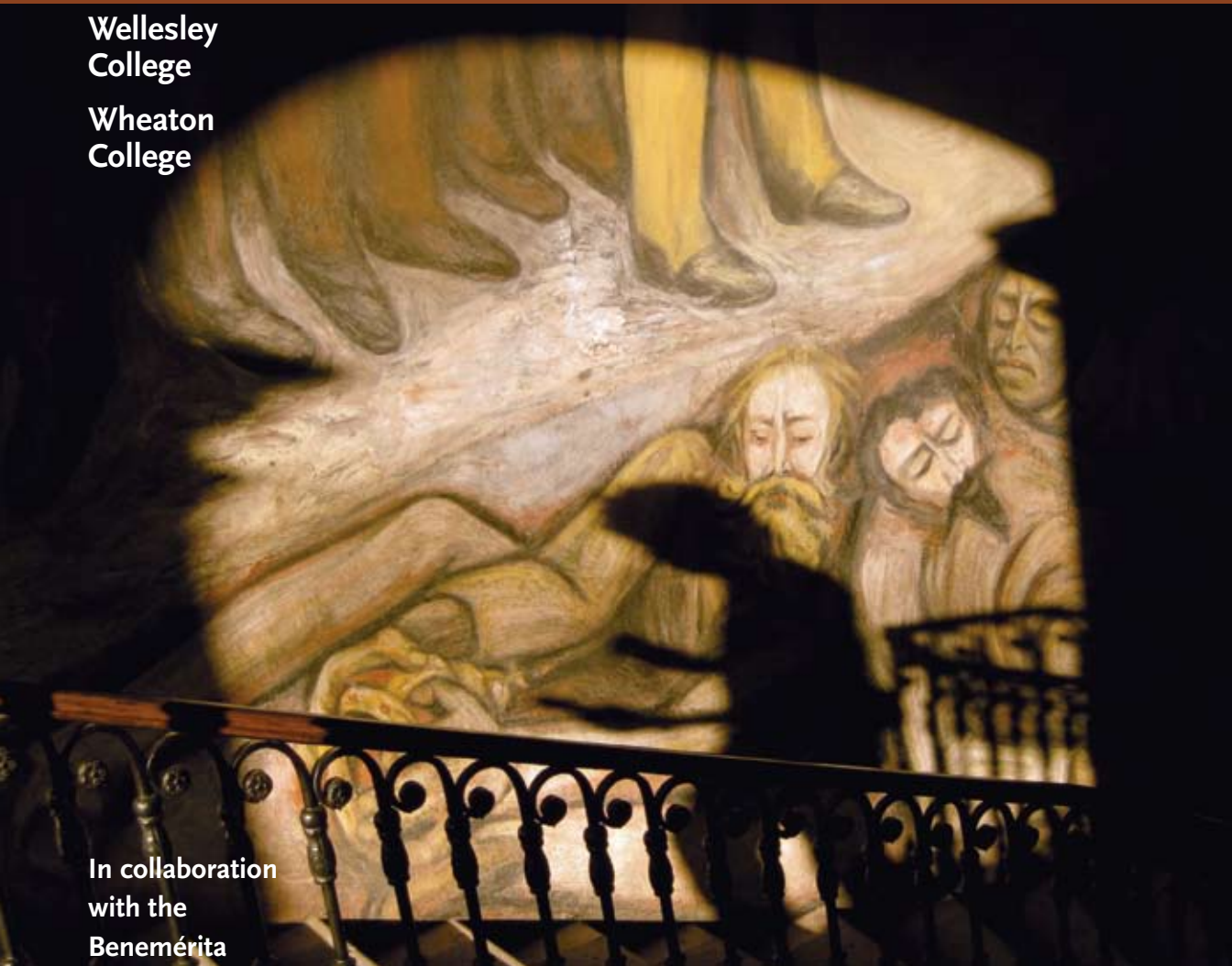
# Program for Mexican Culture and Society in Puebla

Oberlin  
College

Smith  
College

Wellesley  
College

Wheaton  
College



In collaboration  
with the  
Benemérita  
Universidad  
Autónoma de  
Puebla



MEXICO

Puebla

BELIZE

GUATEMALA

HONDURAS

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUA

COSTA RICA

PANAMA

Mexico City, Tucson, Dallas, Birmingham, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, West Palm Beach, Miami, Hermosillo, Chihuahua, San Antonio, Austin, Baton Rouge, Jackson, Tallahassee, New Orleans, Houston, La Paz, Monterrey, Ciudad Victoria, San Luis, Zacatecas, Tepic, Leon, Potosi, Morelia, Colima, Toluca, Chilpancingo, Merida, Campeche, Chetumal, Villahermosa, Oaxaca.

# Program for Mexican Culture and Society in Puebla (PMCSPP)



Oberlin College, Smith College, Wellesley College and Wheaton College in Massachusetts, together with the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP)—one of Mexico's leading public teaching and research universities—take pride in offering a unique opportunity for students to become integrated into Mexican student life and learn first hand about the changing realities of Latin American culture and society.

PMCSPP is a fall or spring semester, or full academic year program.\* In keeping with the regular Mexican university semester, the fall program runs from early August to mid-December, and the spring program from early January to mid-May (with a two-week holiday at Easter). Consequently, students live in Mexico for a period of time significantly longer than most US study-abroad programs—an advantage that facilitates greater immersion and linguistic proficiency. This additional program length may be of particular interest to students who would like to study abroad for a significant length of time but for whom it may be difficult to be absent from their home campus for more than one semester.

A distinction of PMCSPP is the direct matriculation of U.S. students in regular Mexican university courses. Students build an individually tailored curriculum in collaboration with a home-campus adviser and an on-site resident director (a faculty member of one of the consortium institutions). Offerings at the BUAP are extensive and particularly strong in the humanities (art; history; performing arts, including dance, music, and theatre; philosophy; language and literature), the social sciences

(anthropology; economics; political science; psychology; sociology), as well as math, natural sciences and engineering. Applicants are encouraged to visit the BUAP Web site at [www.buap.mx](http://www.buap.mx) and review curricula, resources and services. Given that a complete immersion experience requires both linguistic and academic support, supplemental tutoring in language and subject matter is provided—both as part of the *courses intensivos* (see Academics) and as needed by individual student work in other courses. Participants enjoy access to BUAP sports facilities, libraries and other student services. Students normally reside with a Mexican family and are provided three meals per day for the duration of the program.

An extensive cultural activities program and several excursions complement curricular offerings. Students are reimbursed up to a specified limit for individually selected cultural activities and transportation expenses within the city of Puebla. Travel to and from Mexico City from the



PMCSPP students at San Francisco Acatepec, with 18th-century Talavera ceramic tile

\*Offering is contingent upon an enrollment of at least 10 students each semester.



2  
*Program for  
Mexican  
Culture and  
Society in  
Puebla*

student's home airport is also reimbursed up to \$500. An academic supplies allowance covers most materials required for classes. Program staff assists students in identifying volunteer opportunities at local NGOs and artistic and cultural centers.

Students from consortium institutions normally enroll in four classes and, upon satisfactory completion of course work, receive academic credit equivalent to a

semester of study at the home institution. Students from other universities are invited to apply and will be admitted based on merit and space availability. Transcripts for work completed will be issued by PMCSP. Grades received according to Mexican grading norms will be converted to U.S. equivalents. Particularly in the case of non-consortium applicants, it is each student's responsibility to obtain advance authorization for credit transfer to his or her home institution.

The program is open to students with Spanish competency sufficient to successfully complete Mexican university courses (normally, three or four semesters beyond the elementary level). Students with fewer Spanish courses should speak with their college PMCSP coordinator (see back cover).



The Puebla Church of Guadalupe



Students at the fort of San Juan de Ulúa in Veracruz

In the case of students from consortium institutions, home tuition and fees will apply and financial aid may be carried over to PMCSP. Students from nonconsortium institutions must follow the policies of their home institutions regarding payment for study-abroad programs.

### Other Learning Opportunities

PMCSP staff will assist students in identifying additional learning opportunities and cultural activities in the Puebla community. As mentioned, the “Casa del Escritor” and the “Casa de Cultura” offer a wide variety of workshops focusing on the arts. Staff will also assist in identifying volunteer opportunities.

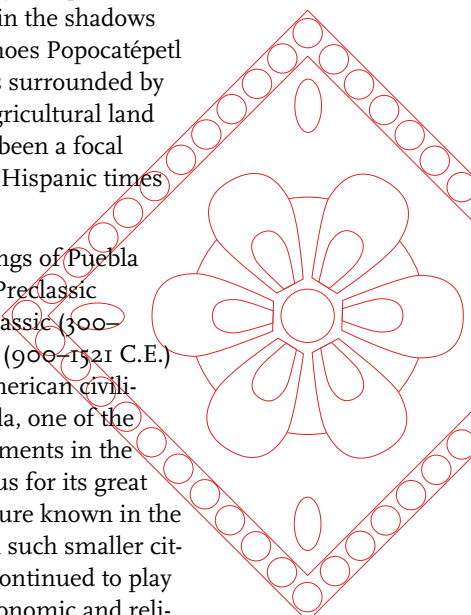
*3  
Program for  
Mexican  
Culture and  
Society in  
Puebla*

### Puebla

Puebla de los Ángeles, founded by the Spanish in 1531, is for many the quintessential Mexican city. Built in the shadows of the snow-covered volcanoes Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl, the city is surrounded by some of the most fertile agricultural land in central Mexico and has been a focal point for culture from pre-Hispanic times to the present.

The immediate surroundings of Puebla are rich in vestiges of the Preclassic (1500 B.C.E.–300 C.E.), Classic (300–900 C.E.), and Postclassic (900–1521 C.E.) periods of ancient Mesoamerican civilization. The town of Cholula, one of the oldest still-inhabited settlements in the New World, is justly famous for its great pyramid, the largest structure known in the ancient Americas. Though such smaller cities rose and fell, Cholula continued to play an important role as an economic and religious center well into the Postclassic era, when it formed part of the Aztec Empire. At the nearby site of Cacaxtla, in the state of Tlaxcala, extraordinary surviving murals show the blend of Mayan and Central Mexican cultures in the region around 900 C.E.

During the colonial period, Puebla grew rich from the trade with Asia and Europe, and some of Mexico’s most important colonial landmarks are to be found in and around the city. Towns like Cholula and Huejotzingo are famous for their surviving 16th century monasteries, while the beauti-





4  
*Program for  
Mexican  
Culture and  
Society in  
Puebla*

fully preserved heart of Puebla itself is distinguished by ornate palaces and churches from the 17th and 18th centuries. The Chapel of the Rosary in downtown Puebla and the church in the town of Santa María Tonantzintla are extraordinary examples of Mexican baroque architecture. Puebla's noble cathedral, inspired by the Spanish palace of El Escorial, boasts the tallest towers in Mexico. The wealth of the colonial period gave rise to inventive dishes like the famous "mole poblano" and "chile en nogada." Immigrants from Asia included Japanese artisans as well as the not-so-legendary "China poblana" whose apparel inspired one of Mexico's most famous traditional costumes. Spanish and Moorish culture is evident in the ceramics and tiles known as Talavera ware. Even after Independence, Puebla remained important. The Mexican army defeated French invaders at Puebla on 5 May 1862 (now commemorated on the "cinco de mayo"), while in the early 20th century, the city witnessed labor movements in support of the Mexican Revolution. In recognition of its historical and artistic merit, Puebla was named to UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1987.

Today, Puebla is a vibrant artistic, cultural and business center. It is home to several important museums, including the magnificent pre-Hispanic and colonial collections of the Museo Amparo. The "Casa del Escritor," part of the Cities of Asylum Program of the International Parliament of Writers, annually welcomes an internationally rec-



**The Palafox Library**

ognized writer-in-residence and holds an extensive series of lectures and workshops open to all. The state-funded "Casa de Cultura" offers numerous workshops in the visual and performing arts. The city's "Sapos" district continues to attract artists and antique dealers. Puebla has a new convention center, a wide range of commercial facilities, and major industrial investments: Volkswagen de México operates one of the largest automobile factories in the world here. At night, Puebla offers plenty of excitement, particularly along the Avenida Juárez and in Cholula, replete with trendy restaurants and night spots.

Despite its population of approximately three million, Puebla retains much of its provincial charm, particularly in the city center where many of the BUAP Facultades are located. Puebla remains a relatively safe city, particularly in comparison to some other destinations in Mexico, and at 7,000 feet above sea level, boasts a delightfully mild climate year-round. In addition, the city's central location, about 60 miles southeast of Mexico City, makes it the perfect base to explore much of the country. Such important destinations as Oaxaca, Tlaxcala and Veracruz are easily accessible by excellent and inexpensive bus companies. An extensive public bus system connects all parts of the city and neighboring towns. Puebla has its own international airport, although it is usually more practical and economical to use Mexico City's Benito Juárez International Airport, only two hours away by bus.



**Chile en nogada**

## Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP)

The origins of the university date to 1578 when members of the Jesuit Order established the Colegio Seminario de San Jerónimo in a building that currently houses the Department of Psychology. In 1825 the institution became a state college and was declared a university in 1937. Following a period of turmoil, the university was declared *Autónoma* (self-governing and free of governmental intervention) in 1957 and was awarded the title of *Benemérita* (“most worthy”) by the Legislature of the State of Puebla in 1987.

The BUAP is today one of Mexico’s leading public universities and unquestionably the premier national research and teaching center south of Mexico City. These qualities make the institution a focal point for students and scholars from states other than Puebla, including Chiapas and Oaxaca. Through its various divisions or *facultades*, the BUAP offers 55 undergraduate *licenciaturas* (degrees), and 86 *programas de posgrado* (graduate degrees) in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, as well as in technical fields, business administration, law, education and health. Just over 50,000 are enrolled at the BUAP, which includes students from all divisions.

The city campus is divided into two primary areas: one in Puebla’s historic downtown, which houses programs dedicated to the humanities and some social sciences, and the other in the newer “Ciudad Universitaria” on the outskirts of town, which houses programs dedicated to natural sciences, most social sciences, and information services, as well as sports facilities. Both campuses are easily accessible by public transportation from almost anywhere in the city.

With its extensive course curriculum, the BUAP relies on several research institutes that bring together prominent scholars with an interdisciplinary focus. Many of these scholars work with advanced students on specialized research projects.

## PMCSF Features

- An individually tailored immersion program of study focusing on direct matriculation at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP).
- Home stay—including all meals—with a Mexican family.
- Round-trip airfare reimbursement between home city and Mexico D.F. (up to \$500).
- Funds for required class materials.
- Transportation allowance for travel within Puebla.
- BUAP student ID card permitting discounts on travel, museums and cultural events, as well as access to BUAP sports facilities, computer centers, libraries and other student services.
- Orientation programs in both Mexico City and Puebla.
- Excursion program, including visits—depending on the semester—to Mexico City, Cuetzalan, Guanajuato, San Miguel de Allende and Oaxaca.
- Opportunities for volunteer work at local NGOs.
- Financial aid package carried over for consortium institution institutions.
- On-site resident director.

5  
Program for  
Mexican  
Culture and  
Society in  
Puebla



PMCSF students at the celebration of Mexican Independence Day



## Calendar Fall–Spring 2009–2010

(some variation may occur)

Thursday, August 6, 2009

Program begins

August 7–10

Orientation in Mexico City

August 11

Arrival in Puebla

August 12–14

Orientation in Puebla

August 15

Excursion to Cholula

August 17

Classes begin at BUAP

September 4

Last day to add a class

September 11

Last day to drop a class

October 1–4

Excursion to Cuetzalan

October 30–November 2

Excursion to Oaxaca

December 9

Last day of classes

December 10

Program ends

January 2, 2010

Spring program begins

January 3–6

Orientation in Mexico City

January 7

Arrival in Puebla

January 7–9

Orientation in Puebla

January 11

Classes begin at BUAP

January 22

Last day to add a course

January 29

Last day to drop a course

February 19–22

Excursion (Place TBA)

March 22–April 4

BUAP spring break

April 22–25

Excursion to Guanajuato

May 14

BUAP classes end

May 16

Program ends

Of particular interest to program students is the Instituto de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades (ICSyH) in the historic center of Puebla.

Public Mexican universities have a long tradition of social awareness and involvement. Quite a few specialized degrees require a period of internship in either an urban or rural setting. The BUAP has been at the forefront of this commitment. As bona fide students at the university, PMCSP participants may wish to collaborate in one of many service activities focusing on health, literacy and social awareness coordinated through the university or by PMCSP staff.

The BUAP hosts an impressive array of concerts, lectures, dance performances and academic symposia to which interested PMCSP students will have access. Through the schools of music, dance and

drama, the BUAP sponsors a Mexican folkloric dance troupe, several choirs and an active dramatic performance series—open to PMCSP students depending on interest and achievement.

### Academics

One of the driving principles in the creation of PMCSP was that of direct matriculation of students in conventional Mexican university classes, thereby offering the greatest possible immersion in the host culture and a truly authentic learning-abroad experience. Consequently, students enroll in regular BUAP courses appropriate for undergraduate students. The expectation is that students, before arrival in Puebla, and in conjunction with their major adviser and home-institution coordinator, will have developed a tentative listing of courses of interest. During program orientation and the first week of

classes, each student, in consultation with the on-site resident faculty director, will finalize a program of study that effectively addresses individual, intellectual interests and academic requirements.

Since the PMCSP student will not be limited by a list of “program” courses, he or she will be able to select from an extensive array of courses in a variety of disciplines. These offerings are listed according to individual departments or schools (*facultades*) at the BUAP available at [www.buap.mx](http://www.buap.mx) under *licenciaturas*. It would be impossible to reproduce that listing here; however, a partial listing of courses taken by former PMCSP students gives an idea of options (See p. 8). The BUAP is quite strict about class attendance. Attendance is regularly taken in class and affects the final grade. In accordance with policy, students who have not attended 80 percent of class meetings will not be permitted to take final examinations. It should be noted that in addition to BUAP classes, all students must attend occasional meetings with the resident director.

Recognizing that students may bring with them different levels of Spanish fluency and varying degrees of background in the various subjects offered, PMCSP will identify approximately 1 to 3 courses—within the hundreds of possibilities offered by the BUAP—that will be highlighted as  *cursos intensivos*. In these courses, program students will still participate in the regular class meetings with Mexican peers, but will also be offered an additional hourly meeting with the instructor (or someone he or she designates). A final listing for each semester will be available at the beginning of the term.

To receive home-institution credit equivalent to a semester of study, a student must satisfactorily complete a program of study consisting of four individual courses.

Grades received in conventional courses according to Mexican grading policies will be transferred to U.S. equivalents. A grade of C or better is required for transfer credit to a consortium institution.

7  
Program for  
Mexican  
Culture and  
Society in  
Puebla



Pyramid of the Moon at Teotihuacán



## Sample BUAP Courses Selected by Former PMCSP Students

### Anthropology

ANT 205	Antropología y Arqueología
ANT 225	Mesoamérica
ANT 240	Grupos étnicos de Puebla
ANT 300	Antropología mexicana
ANT 307	Concepciones del mundo
ANT 315	Marxismo
ANT 323	Neoevolucionismo y marxismo
ANT 327	Antropología económica
ANT 414	Teoría de la identidad
ANT 504	Etnografía del altiplano
ANT 527	Cultura, sexualidad y género

### Dance

DMC 59I	Danza folklórica
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### Economics

ECN 12I	Problemas rurales contemporáneos
ECN 269	Economía internacional
ECN 285	Agricultura y sustentabilidad
ECN 53I	Economía mexicana
FIN 223	Comercio internacional

### Engineering

FIS 302	Termodinámica
ITO 315	Recursos y regionalización de México
MEE 355	Mecánica de fluidos
IME 507	Recursos y necesidades de México
MEEE 542	Vibraciones mecánicas

### History

HIS 11I	Temática de la Colonia
HIS 118	Mesoamérica
HIS 119	Temática de Mesoamérica
HIS 206	Crisis Colonial de la Segunda República
HIS 218	Geografía universal
HIS 220	Historia de América Latina I
HIS 233	México contemporáneo
HIS 238	Historia de América Latina II
HIS 241	Revolución mexicana
HIS 290	Arte moderno siglo XX
HIS 510	Historia y género

### International Relations

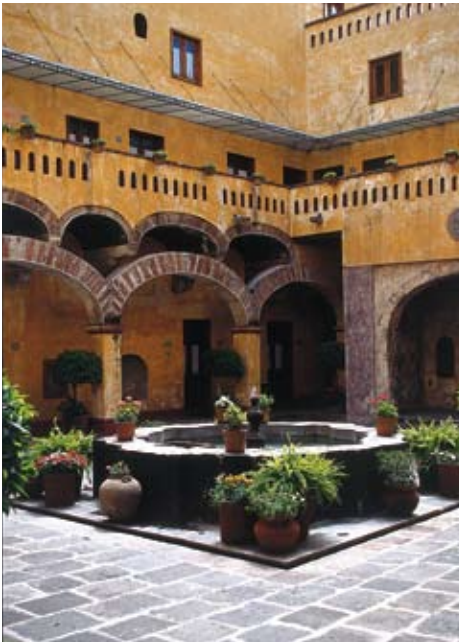
LRI 200	Historia de México
LRI 415	América Latina: Política económica y social
LRI 440	Política exterior de México
LRI 441	Política de los Estados Unidos
LRI 444	Relaciones México—Estados Unidos
LRI 500	Derecho ecológico
LRI 520	Política exterior de Estado Unidos
LRI 531	Organismos internacionales
LRI 533	Dinámica de la empresa transnacional
LRI 538	Fronteras y geopolítica en América del Norte
LRI 539	Problemas ecológicos que inciden en la relación con los EEUU

### Literature

LLH 198	La estética en Jorge Luís Borges
LLH 225	Sociología y literatura
LLH 241	Tendencias contemporáneas
LLH 271	Seminario de análisis literario
LLH 292	Poesía hispanoamericana y española siglo XX
LLH 298	Seminario: Don Quijote
LLH 510	Seminario: La Celestina
LLH 579	Literatura de la Onda
LLH 583	Historia y novelística mexicana siglo XX
LLH 589	Seminario: Novela política

### Mathematics

MAT 217	Cálculo diferencial de varias variables
MAT 333	Probabilidad II
MAT 348	Estadística I



Colonial patio, Camino Real hotel in Puebla

## Music

- TMU 123 Instrumento: Guitarra
- TMU 123 Instrumento: Violín
- TMU 124 Instrumento: Piano
- LMU 214 Canto II
- LMU 363 Historia del arte II
- LMU 424 Estética y crítica musical
- LMU 590 Historia de la música de México
- LMU 592 Música antigua

## Philosophy

- FIL 325 Ética y política
- FIL 405 Historia y filosofía del arte mexicano
- FIL 416 Filosofía de México siglo XX
- FIL 427 Historia del arte contemporáneo

## Physics

- LNF 142 Métodos matemáticas de la Física I
- LNF 204 Introducción a la física contemporánea
- ELE 510 Electrónica
- ELE 561 Laboratorio de electrónica

## Political Science

- LPO 333 Estados Unidos: Historia de sistemas políticos
- LPO 343 América Latina: Historia de sistemas políticos

- LPO 429 Problemas de la democracia
- LPO 433 Cultura política en México

## Psychology

- PSI 120 Psicología del desarrollo
- PSI 207 Psicopatología interaccional
- PSI 215 Procesos psicosociales
- PSI 303 Sociedad y educación

## Sociology

- LSO 352 Pensamiento social de América Latina
- LSO 406 Economía y política de México y América Latina
- LSO 410 Estratificación y clases sociales
- LSO 412 Teorías del cambio social
- LSO 415 América Latina: Política, economía y sociedad
- LSO 491 Sociología urbana
- LSO 493 Sociología de las religiones
- LSO 531 Migraciones
- LSO 535 Sociología de la educación
- LSO 541 Políticas públicas: Educación en México

## Theater

- LAD 130 Iniciación actoral II
- LAD 470 Taller de teatro infantil
- LAD 491 Movimientos teatrales en Latinoamérica

9  
*Program for  
Mexican  
Culture and  
Society in  
Puebla*



Puebla traditional dance



A student in the traditional “Jarocha” costume of Veracruz

## Housing

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.

As is typical in larger Latin American cities, many families do not live in the historic urban centers, but in communities either adjacent to the historic core or in suburbs. This urban reality means that students may have to take public transportation to classes and other events. Puebla has an extensive bus system that makes transportation during the daylight hours relatively simple. PMCSP students are also furnished with a generous transportation allowance for bus and taxi use within the Puebla area.

## Travel to and within Mexico

Students are reimbursed for the actual cost of a round-trip ticket to and from Mexico up to \$500. Since students will be coming from many different locations, there will be no single departure city. Instead, students will meet at the Benito Juárez Airport in Mexico City on the date specified



Michoacán, “Día de los muertos” celebration



**PMCSP students visiting the statue of El Pípila in Guanajuato**

for the beginning of the program and will be transported by shuttle to the program hotel. Students arriving on other days or by other means of transport will meet at the hotel itself.

As part of the orientation in Mexico City, students will visit significant cultural and historic sites in the “Distrito Federal” and surrounding areas, such as the pyramids of Teotihuacán, the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the murals of Diego Rivera and José Clemente Orozco, and major museums. Students also take part in multiday excursions to Cuetzalan and Oaxaca (fall), and/or Guanajuato (spring)—and to other sites in the Puebla area. Students should keep in mind that independent travel must not interfere with required course work and class attendance.

### **Payment and Fees**

Consortium institution students will pay their regular comprehensive fee to their home college. Normally, financial aid can be carried over for consortium students.

Students from nonconsortium institutions must consult with their study-abroad adviser to inquire as to individual school payment policies. Some institutions require that the student pay his or her regular tuition to

the home institution, which, in turn, pays the study-abroad program. Other institutions permit the student to pay the program directly. In the event of direct payment, the fee for the program will equal the average of the comprehensive tuition and fees charged by consortium institutions.

### **Mexican Student Visa**

Mexican student visa, normally from the Mexican consulate with jurisdiction over the state in which they permanently reside. Links to individual consular web pages can be found at [www.sre.gob.mx](http://www.sre.gob.mx). Individual consular Web pages list required materials. Normally, an official letter of acceptance is required from a recognized Mexican institution. This letter is provided for students by the BUAP upon acceptance to the program. Individual school coordinators will assist students with securing the required visa.

### **Medical Coverage**

Students are required to carry full medical insurance that includes coverage in Mexico for the entire duration of the program and will be asked to submit proof of such coverage.



**Nuestra Señora de Los Remedios in Cholula with the Popocatepetl volcano in the background**

### **Responsibility Abroad**

Although study abroad can be one of the most rewarding of educational and cultural experiences, participation in a study-abroad program involves risks not found at the home institution and for which PMCSPP is not liable. These include risks in traveling to and within, and returning from, international locations; foreign political, legal, social and economic conditions; different standards of design, safety and maintenance of buildings, public places

and conveyances; and local medical and weather conditions. PMCSPP does not act as an agent for, and cannot control the acts or omissions of, its host institution, the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, host families, transportation carriers, hotels or other providers of services involved with the program.

Students in the program are responsible for their personal safety at all times, especially when not in class and not on program-sponsored trips. Students in the



**PMCSPP students visiting Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City**



**A mountain waterfall while hiking through the forest near Cuetzalan**

program must assume an important personal obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the program and its reputation, with local laws and regulations, and with the regulations for student conduct at their home institutions. It is expected that students in the program will act responsibly in a way that is not deemed reckless or inappropriate by the program and will agree to take the advice of the resident director regarding personal conduct.

It is the student's responsibility to become aware of all local laws. PMCSP cannot be held responsible for a student who breaks the law nor can it defend a student in court. The resident director retains the right to return a student to the U.S. if he/she feels that the student poses a threat to his/her own safety or that of other participants, or if his/her behavior is in gross violation of program policies.



**San Francisco Acatepec**

For more information, contact one of the following at your institution or the nonconsortium student coordinator:

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### **PMCSPP Executive Director and Coordinator for Nonconsortium Students**

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### **PMCSPP General Director for the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla**

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“Poblano” folk art