



UNC
GLOBAL

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Administrative Board of the College of Arts & Sciences
Office of General Education
CB # 3510
300 Steele Building
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Dear Colleagues:

DIRECT ENROLLMENT AT UNIVERSIDAD DE GUANAJUATO

The Institute for the Study of the Americas, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the Study Abroad Office are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish an undergraduate student exchange program with the Universidad de Guanajuato (UG) in the city of Guanajuato, Mexico. This will be a two-way exchange, with semester and year-long options, commencing in the fall of 2014 and continuing every semester thereafter.

In addition to the exchange program track and commencing with the approval of this proposal, UG has agreed to allow selected UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduate students to attend UG at the main Guanajuato campus as non-exchange students by paying the UG International Students tuition and fees. Such students would not be counted in the exchange balance, but would have the same academic program and access to services as the exchange students.

This endeavor is timely, feasible, and responsive to the academic needs of students and faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Such a program would respond to a growing demand for study opportunities from UNC-CH students and faculty in conflict-free regions of Mexico. It would also build on the strong connections that the UNC-CH community and the state of North Carolina have developed over the past two decades with the state of Guanajuato. This program will be organized with the support of the University of Guanajuato.

The proposal has been developed by: Dr. Hannah Gill (Assistant Director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas) and Mr. Rodney Vargas (UNC-Chapel Hill Office of

Study Abroad). Rodney J. Vargas conducted a site visit to Guanajuato, Mexico, in May 2013 to meet with the potential partner institutions and to review the on-site logistical arrangements for the program.

Rationale for the Program in Mexico

In recent years, universities like UNC Chapel Hill have seen their study abroad enrollments drop for programs in Mexico because of location-specific violence and political conflict. UNC-CH's programs in Guanajuato are a notable exception, however, experiencing increased student demand and faculty interest. Currently, the UNC-CH programs in Guanajuato are directed by the Latino Migration Project, a program of the Institute for the Study of the Americas and the Center for Global Initiatives, with additional support from the APPLES program. These programs consist of the APPLES Global Course Guanajuato, a 3 credit UNC-CH course on migration that incorporates a spring break trip to Guanajuato and Project Guanajuato, a two-month summer internship program in Guanajuato for UNC-CH undergraduates. 105 students have traveled to Guanajuato with these programs, which have been offered continuously each spring and summer for the past 6 years. The programs are oriented around service learning opportunities and are designed for upper level students and require advanced Spanish language prerequisites.

The Latino Migration Project provides supervisory support for these programs in a number of different ways: 1) through the existence of a permanent faculty supervisor for all programs (Dr. Hannah Gill, Assistant Director of ISA); 2) by funding an ISA staff member and an undergraduate teaching assistant to accompany students in Mexico in the Spring; 3) by funding the travel of two experienced student trip leaders for Project Guanajuato to accompany the group of interns; and 4) by funding a staff position at partnering organization Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío (in the city of Irapuato, Guanajuato) to liaise with student interns in the field. These programs have been successful because of the high degree of preparation and training that students receive before and after participation, as well as the very solid binational relationships that ISA staff and UNC-CH students have formed with Mexico partners and community members.

In addition to these programs, there are other UNC-CH activities taking place in Guanajuato. Faculty in the Sociology department (Ted Mouw and Jacqueline Hagan) conduct research regularly in Guanajuato, employing UNC-CH and Mexican student research assistants. UNC-CH's Medical School sponsors Proyecto Puentes de Salud, which sends teams of medical students to Guanajuato each summer to learn about health care in the region. UNC-CH organizations Worldview and the Center for International Understanding have deep networks to community organizations in Guanajuato, and routinely choose this state as a destination for educational trips they host with NC policy makers. Finally, the UNC-Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies has led K-12 educator study trips to Guanajuato.

Rationale for a Direct Enrollment Program at the Universidad de Guanajuato

Given the declining enrollment in study abroad programs in Mexico over the past four or five years, and given the parallel success of the Guanajuato initiatives, we seek to create a new direct enrollment opportunity in Mexico for UNC-CH students seeking a deep cultural immersion and the chance to advance their Spanish language skills by studying at a university where Spanish is the language of instruction. The fact that Guanajuato has strong connections to the UNC-CH community and the state of North Carolina, and that it has been less affected by the ongoing drug-related violence, may provide a context for UNC-CH students to develop the confidence to study abroad in Mexico.

Additionally, there are significant heritage ties worth considering. A direct enrollment option at the Universidad de Guanajuato would provide enhanced access to study abroad for underrepresented students at UNC-CH. In 2011, minorities made up only 16% of students in Study Abroad programs at UNC Chapel Hill and 20% of students in study abroad programs nationwide (2010-2011). Guanajuato, Mexico is an ideal location for a more affordable study abroad experience because of its geographical proximity to the United States, comparatively lower cost of living and direct enrollment tuition rates at the Universidad de Guanajuato. UNC-CH's Latino student populations are growing, and have much to offer and gain from programs that enable them to connect to their families' Latin American roots, if given the opportunity.

Evidence of the great potential of such a program can be found in the example of minority student participation rates in APPLES Global Course Guanajuato, Latin American Immigrant Perspectives, a UNC-CH course offered through the Institute for the Study of the Americas with an affordable ten-day travel component in Guanajuato, Mexico. Since 2007, 51% of student participants have been first or second-generation immigrants or minorities (29% identify as Latino).

Guanajuato is currently considered to be among the safest states in Mexico, and ranks in the top five states of origin of Mexicans in North Carolina. Orange County is home to thousands of migrants from the cities of Celaya and Juventino Rosas. Many UNC-CH students make personal contacts with Guanajuatenses while volunteering with any of the dozen immigrant service organizations at UNC-CH. Guanajuato is easily accessible with a three-hour flight from Dallas. Given these connections, there is a strong demand for study opportunities in Guanajuato. The APPLES Global Course Guanajuato is only able to accept on average one third of its applicants annually. A study abroad program would provide students with opportunities for extended study in Guanajuato and engagement with transnational communities in their state of origin.

Partner Institutions

Universidad de Guanajuato

The Universidad de Guanajuato is a public institution located in the city of Guanajuato, capital of the State of Guanajuato, Mexico. It was founded in 1732 as the Hospice of the

Holy Trinity. In 1868 it became the “Colegio del Estado de Guanajuato” and then in 1945 it acquired the status of a University. Since the academic and administrative restructuring and modernization in 2008, the institution is organized into four campuses in different cities of the State: Guanajuato, León, Salamanca-Irapuato and Celaya-Salvatierra. The University of Guanajuato in Guanajuato City is the state’s flagship school where UNCH students will direct enroll. UG is made up of about 33,828 students in programs ranging from high school level to the doctorate level. UG currently offers 19 doctorate programs, 35 master’s degrees, 21 graduate specializations and 65 undergraduate degrees.

At present, the University is party to 268 national and international academic collaboration agreements in North America, South America, Europe and Asia. Every year, about 300 international students enroll at UG, and approximately 200 undergraduates study abroad for at least one semester. UG’s International Office (Departamento de Movilidad e Internacionalización) leads all aspects of the ongoing internationalization at UG. The International Office provides assistance and information for all international students, from course advising to housing information. UG has experience providing services to students on study abroad programs, including homestay placement, airport pick up, onsite orientation and academic support.

Further information about UG can be reviewed at:
<http://www.ugto.mx/sitioug/ingles/estructura/index.asp>

Fundacion Comunitaria del Bajio

The Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío (Bajío Community Foundation—hereafter referred to as FCB), was founded in 1998 as a non-governmental civil association based in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato. Originally established to address issues of youth homelessness, delinquency, substance abuse, and the needs of the disabled in the municipality of Irapuato, visits to rural communities and a closer understanding of families and communities from a systems approach quickly identified migration as a common theme that was undermining the infrastructure of family and community. In response to the needs of communities heavily impacted by migration, FCB developed a methodology called FODICOM (in Spanish—Fomento de Desarrollo Integral en Comunidades Migrantes), Generating Integrated Development in Migration Impacted Communities.

In this model, the role of FCB is conceptualized as a community development agency charged with mobilizing resources across different sectors to realize an integrated model of holistic and humanistic development. The sectors involved by FCB and examples of their respective contributions in this approach include:

1. Government—public policy changes, financing of infrastructure improvements (water, roads, electricity), building of schools, building of health clinics
2. Business—financial support, donated equipment, in-kind support, human capital

3. Civil society (non-profit) organizations—daily operation and management of initiatives at the community level, local expertise, social capital
4. Academia—community needs assessment surveys, business incubator programs, agricultural and environmental science expertise, market studies, engineering projects, student service-learning opportunities, evaluation and documentation

Program Structure and Content

Students accepted to this program will direct enroll at the UG and complete a service component with a local community organization. More details on both components follow.

Direct enrollment at UG:

UNC undergraduate students will have the opportunity to participate in this program during one semester or the full year, and would take a full course load of 12-18 credit hours per semester. Students will be able to choose a wide variety of courses from the Departments of Art, History and Literature. For a representative sampling of courses available, please see Appendix I.

This exchange program will convey UNC-Chapel Hill transfer credit (TREQ). The equivalent of a “C” or above is required for credits to transfer.

Service Learning:

In addition to the regular course load at the UG, during the semester students will complete a total of 30 hours of community service work, volunteering weekly between 3-5 hours a day. The community service work will be directed by a UNC-CH faculty member (Dr. Hannah Gill), in coordination with a Service Learning Coordinator (SLC) appointed jointly by Fundacion Comunitaria del Bajío (FCB). The service work will take place in local community organizations affiliated with the FCB in communities which have been affected by migration to the United States. These communities have limited access to basic services and infrastructure and lack local opportunities for economic development. The Bajío is an agricultural region in central Mexico comprising the states of Guanajuato, Michoacan, Jalisco, and Queretaro. The Bajío has been a primary source of Mexican migrants to the US for over a century.

Besides providing service to local communities, students will engage in several activities that promote active learning and reflection (see Appendix II for details):

- Journaling and blogging. Each student will write a daily journal and a weekly blog on their experiences while in Mexico. Students will receive instruction on strategies for effective journaling and blogging from UNC-CH faculty.
- Academic materials. Students will receive a coursepack with journal articles, book chapters, and other academic materials about the history, politics and culture of Guanajuato; the dynamics of U.S.-Mexico transnational migration; and changing demographics in North Carolina.

- Group discussions. The Service Learning Coordinator will lead group meetings four times a semester to discuss key issues in community organization and the progress of service projects. Group discussion also will be used to problem-solve issues that emerge during service projects.
- The Service Learning Coordinator will be available by phone and email to communicate individually with UNC-CH students to talk about how they are doing, what problems they might be having, and the progress of their service work.
- End of the program reflections with the SLC. The SLC will lead a workshop at the end of the program. The workshop will consist of structured reflective exercises and group discussions.
- Final paper. Students will prepare a 10-page paper on their project, experiences, and academic readings. This paper will be graded by the UNC-CH faculty.

The Service Learning course will offer one UNC-CH graded credit, which does not count towards the required minimum for maintaining a full time status abroad. The course fulfills the UNC APPLES Service Learning program requirements of 30 hours of service per semester. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by Leslie Parkins, APPLES Director. The course would be offered as “Latin American Studies (LTAM) 390 Special topics”.

Field Trips and Cultural Events

Students will take advantage of local holidays and weekends to travel to nearby colonial cities. Students participate in a myriad of cultural activities during the semester. For example, Guanajuato hosts the internationally renowned Cervantino Festival for the Arts, during three weeks in October. This Festival brings the best international arts to Guanajuato and provides a burst of creative energy mid-semester. These three weeks are filled with world-class performances and expositions of international art, music, drama and dance. Other important cultural events include Independence Day, the Day of the Dead, Dia de la Candelaria and Dia de las Flores. During the Holy Week break, students can participate in the many local traditions.

Program Requirements

Eligible applicants are required to be upper level sophomores, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and at least five semesters of Spanish for this program. Intensive Spanish language programs are available in the UG for students in need of additional language support before and during the semester.

Student Accommodation and Program Administration

UG’s International Office has experience working with international students and already has partnerships with several universities in the United States. The semester begins with a more in-depth mandatory orientation led by UG staff that will help students manage the transition from home to abroad. Through diverse activities and workshops, students will

gain basic cultural knowledge about Mexico and are prepared to go into the homestay with confidence. The orientation also introduces health and safety issues, and basic logistical questions. Throughout the semester students receive support provided by UG staff on an individual basis as needed.

All study abroad students will live in a homestay, a program fully coordinated by the UG's International Office. The homestay is essential to the learning process and integration into life in Guanajuato because it provides students the opportunity to live with a Mexican family and practice their Spanish language skills. Most importantly, host families play a major positive role in students' lives, giving them a social identity as a family member and offering them warmth and friendship.

Given established relationships between UNC-CH and organizations in Guanajuato, we feel that students studying abroad on this program would enjoy a strong infrastructure of support, multiple possibilities for service learning, and rich opportunities for applying their study abroad experiences when they return to Chapel Hill.

Safety and Security in Mexico

The U. S. Department of State has issued a Travel Warning to inform U. S. citizens about the security situation in Mexico. The following text is taken from the Department of State Travel Alert for Mexico:

“Millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year for study, tourism, and business, including more than 150,000 who cross the border every day. The Mexican government makes a considerable effort to protect U.S. citizens and other visitors to major tourist destinations, and there is no evidence that Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) have targeted U.S. visitors and residents based on their nationality. Resort areas and tourist destinations in Mexico generally do not see the levels of drug-related violence and crime reported in the border region and in areas along major trafficking routes. Nevertheless, U.S. travelers should be aware that the Mexican government has been engaged in an extensive effort to counter TCOs, which engage in narcotics trafficking and other unlawful activities throughout Mexico. The TCOs themselves are engaged in a violent struggle to control drug trafficking routes and other criminal activity. As a result, crime and violence are serious problems throughout the country and can occur anywhere. U.S. citizens have fallen victim to TCO activity, including homicide, gun battles, kidnapping, carjacking and highway robbery.”

For Guanajuato there is no specific advisory in effect by the U.S. State Department. Most travel guides describe this UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE City of Guanajuato as a safe, laid-back colonial, cultural rich, authentic, enjoyable and peaceful city all year long, including during the month of the world-famous arts festival when music in the plazas is a nightly affair attended by the young and old, rich and poor alike.

Healthcare, Internet and other Resources

All students are required to carry HTH health insurance while abroad for any medical

expenses and in case of an evacuation. In the Guanajuato downtown area, students will have easy access to clinics, banks, restaurants, shopping centers, a large public food market, theaters, museums, travel agencies, and bookstores.

Students are encouraged to bring their own laptops, but they will also have access to the computer laboratory with Internet access at UG. The campus of UG offers free wireless Internet access. Additionally, there are many Internet cafes in the city of Guanajuato.

Visa Requirements

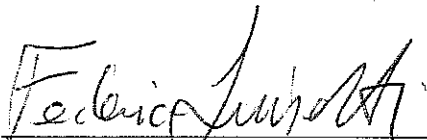
A 90-day tourist visa is granted to US citizens arriving at the Guanajuato airport. No advanced application is required. Special student visas are not required.

We hope this proposal has given a clear representation of the semester study abroad program that we wish to offer in 2014 and thereafter every semester. The Institute for the Study of the Americas and the Study Abroad Office are excited by the potential opportunity presented and we hope the Administrative Board will give this proposal all serious consideration. We are happy to provide you with any addition information, if you desire, to aid in your evaluations of this proposal.

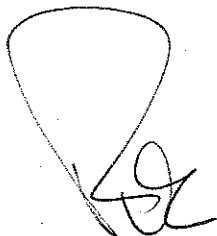
Sincerely,



Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz
Associate Director Institute for the Study of the Americas



Federico Luisseti
Chair Romance Languages and Literatures



Robert Miles
Associate Dean for Study Abroad and International Exchanges

APPENDIX I SAMPLE COURSES

Universidad de Guanajuato Courses

The following list is a representative sampling of courses available at the Departments of Art, Literature, and History at the UG.

Art History

Artistic Development – 12th to 17th Century
Artistic Development – 18th to 19th Century
Artistic Development – 20th Century until World War II
Artistic Development – Contemporary
Artistic Development – Prehispanic Mexico
Artistic Development – Prehistory to Romantic

Art Theory and Critique

Aesthetics I-II
Art, Body, Technology
Communication and Art Theory
Critique and Evaluation of Artistic Work
Visual Studies

History

Cultural Patrimony
General Mexican History I-II
Greek I-II
History of Mexican Society I-V (Mesoamerica through 20th Century)
History of Scientific and Philosophical Thought
Latin I-II
Mexican Historiography I-II
Regional History (Centro-Norte of Mexico) I-IV

Literature

Contemporary Latin American Literature
Contemporary Mexican Literature
Critical Literary Theory
European and Spanish Literature
Formalism and Structuralism
General Semiotics
Latin American Literature of the 19th Century
Literary Genres
Literary Semiotics
Mexican Literature—19th Century
Post-Structuralism

Spanish Literature—18th to 19th Century
Spanish Literature—Siglo de Oro

Spanish Language and Linguistics

History of the Spanish Language
Linguistics I-II
Morphology of Spanish
Phonetics of Spanish
Semantics
Spanish Syntax I-II

Studio Art

Digital Photography
Drawing I-IV
Installation Projects
Mixed Techniques and Experimentation Workshop I-II
Painting I-V
Photography I-V
Printmaking I-V
Sculpture I-V
Video Projects
Watercolor Painting
Workshop on Color and Composition

APPENDIX II
LTAM 390 SPECIAL TOPICS:
SERVICE LEARNING IN GUANAJUATO
SYLLABUS

Social and economic development in transnational Mexico

This course will use experiential education to explore how Mexicans are building social and economic opportunities in migratory communities in the transnational city of Guanajuato, part of the bajío region of Central Mexico. Students will develop, first-hand, an understanding of issues that include the history and demographic characteristics of emigration to the United States, the impact and use of remittances for community building, the effects of U.S. immigration policies on the health and well-being of migrant families, and the structure of Mexican political and educational institutions.

Students will complete a service learning component in this course with the Fundación Comunitaria del Bajío (The Bajío Community Foundation <http://fcbajio.org/en/>). The FCB is an internationally recognized community development foundation established in 1998 that promotes education and economic development in migrant communities throughout this region. The Bajío is an agricultural region in central Mexico that has sent emigrants to the United States for two centuries.

UNC students will serve in a community center in Guanajuato, assisting with ongoing programs that offer educational and recreational activities to local youth and their families. These activities may include after-school tutoring, soccer, dance, theatre, art, website and social media marketing for local small business owners.

Students will complete a total of 30 hours of community service work, volunteering weekly between 3-5 hours a day. The community service work will be directed by a UNC-CH faculty member (Dr. Hannah Gill), in coordination with a Service Learning Coordinator (SLC) appointed jointly by Fundacion Comunitaria del Bajío (FCB).

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SUGGESTED READINGS

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