

The Program

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara (UAG) have a broad agreement that provides these three benefits to UL Lafayette students:

- UL Lafayette students may study at UAG for UL Lafayette credit,
- UL Lafayette financial aid is applicable to study at UAG during the academic year, and
- One fee waiver per term is granted to a UL Lafayette student for study at UAG. The waiver is granted on a competitive basis and is available in the fall and spring semesters (not in summer session).

The City

Guadalajara (population 5,000,000) is the second largest city in Mexico, and offers many opportunities for entertainment and cultural life. There is a large colonial center, with fine buildings, squares, and walkways, surrounded by the modern city. The picturesque towns in the nearby countryside are good centers for arts and crafts, and hold seasonal festivals. Reliable and inexpensive means of public transportation make Mexico City and the other towns of central Mexico (Querétaro, Guanajuato, León, Morelia) accessible on weekends.

The University

Founded in 1935, the prestigious [Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara](#) is recognized throughout Mexico and the world. Offering a full range of undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs, UAG also has an extensive library, modern facilities, and a highly qualified faculty. The student population is about 15,000.

Courses and Curricula

UL Lafayette students who are already proficient in Spanish may take courses in regular curriculum at UAG. This is the most genuine study abroad experience you can have, since your classmates will be regular UAG students, not foreigners learning Spanish as a second language.

Most UL Lafayette students, however, enroll in the program in Spanish and Culture at UAG's Centro Internacional de Idiomas where they receive language instruction based on cultural content. After an initial placement examination, students are assigned to courses on one of seven levels. Students who place in levels 6-7 may enroll in one or more regular UAG courses in addition to the CII program. Students who place above level 7 take only regular UAG courses. More detailed information on the CII is available at www.uag.mx/12/cii.html.

Credit and Grades

Credit is transferable to UL Lafayette as long as the courses taken at UAG and CII do not correspond to courses already taken. Because UAG is a foreign university, UL Lafayette awards credit *but not letter grades* for work completed there.

Students in the summer program usually complete 3-6 units of UL Lafayette credit. Students in the semester or year long programs usually complete 12-15 units of UL Lafayette credit per semester.

Housing

Room and board with a Mexican family may be arranged through the CII for approximately \$100 per week. Most summer students choose this option. Semester and academic year students may choose to arrange their own housing. Dormitory accommodations are scarce, but room and board situations are easily found. It is also possible to rent furnished apartments.

Expenses

Tuition, paid in Guadalajara, is \$500 for the one-month summer program and \$1400 per semester during the academic year. Round-trip air transportation is about \$500, and room and board are about \$400 per month. Other expenses will include books, personal expenses, weekend tourism, leisure, and shopping. These expenses will vary somewhat with individual tastes, but a typical figure is about \$100 per week. It is possible to spend much less, but you should keep in mind that you will want to travel and take advantage of cultural opportunities while in Mexico.

The total cost of the summer program, including transportation, tuition, room and board, and other expenses, is about \$1800.

The total cost of the semester program (16 weeks), including transportation, tuition, room and board arranged through UAG, and other expenses, is about \$5100.

Applications

To apply, submit a letter of intent, addressed to the Committee on Spanish Scholarships and Exchanges, and a complete transcript to Regina LaBiche, secretary of the Department of Modern Languages (453 HLG).

Approximate deadlines are March 15 for the summer and fall semester programs and September 15 for the spring semester program. To apply, submit a letter of intent, addressed to the Committee on Spanish Scholarships and Exchanges, and a complete transcript to Regina LaBiche, Administrative Secretary, Department of Modern Languages (hand deliver to her in 453 Griffin Hall, or mail to her at Modern Languages, POB 43331, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA 70504).

In your letter, please discuss your preparation in Spanish and your reasons for wishing to study in

Mexico. If you are applying for the tuition waiver, indicate this and explain why you are a strong candidate for this award, on the basis of academic preparation, future plans, specific interest in Mexico, and financial need (if applicable). Applicants for the tuition waiver should also complete the application form, downloadable from the website.

There are no specific prerequisites for the program, but completion of one year of college level Spanish is strongly advised. Students who take History 351 or 352 (History of Latin America) prior to participating in the program will find the adjustment to life in Mexico easier, and will be better prepared to make the most of their time there.

Information

The program website at <http://languages.louisiana.edu/Spanish/uag.html> contains more detailed information as well as direct links to program information in Mexico. It includes an informative handbook on the program and on student life in Mexico, downloadable from the website and printable as a booklet. You may also wish to speak with a member of the Study Abroad Committee for Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages (H. L. Griffin Hall, Room 453). All are familiar with Mexico and the city of Guadalajara, and Francisca Alonso has been working with the UAG-UL Lafayette program for many years.

Contact

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