



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla**  
**2012-2013**  
**Program Guide**

Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla  
[www.iberopuebla.edu.mx](http://www.iberopuebla.edu.mx)

---

### **Preparing for Study Abroad**

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students should prepare themselves by learning about their host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: <http://www.allyoucanread.com/puebla-newspaper-mexico/>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. Students may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before they leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in the host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions students may want to visit the following website: [www.hthstudents.com](http://www.hthstudents.com)
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website ([www.bc.edu/international](http://www.bc.edu/international)) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the experience abroad.
- Prior to departure, students will meet with their International Study Advisor at an orientation to help them further prepare for their study-abroad experience.

### **On-Site Contact Information**

- Ms. Olivia Quiroz Centeno  
Universidad Iberoamerica  
Blvd. del Niño Poblano No. 2901  
72197 Puebla  
Mexico  
Tel: +52 222 372-30-82  
[olivia.quiroz@iberopuebla.edu.mx](mailto:olivia.quiroz@iberopuebla.edu.mx)

### **Travel Information**

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Students must contact Olivia Quiroz Centeno with their travel information at least one month prior to arrival in Mexico.
- Passport/Visa information: For students staying in Puebla less than 6 months, a tourist visa is sufficient. For stays of more than six months, see:

[http://portal.sre.gob.mx/was\\_eng/index.php?option=displaypage&Itemid=58&op=page&SubMenu=](http://portal.sre.gob.mx/was_eng/index.php?option=displaypage&Itemid=58&op=page&SubMenu=)

- Drop-in hours for visa information are Fridays from 2-5pm in Hovey House

## Academics

**Program dates and Academic Calendar: \*Spring 2013 dates are for reference only. Spring 2013 students should not purchase airline tickets until the course selection workshop.**

Fall 2012	Spring 2013
August 5 <sup>th</sup> : Arrival Date	January 12 <sup>th</sup> : Arrival Date
August 5 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> : Orientation	January 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> : Orientation
August 13 <sup>th</sup> : Classes begin	January 21 <sup>st</sup> : Classes begin
September 16 <sup>th</sup> : Holiday	February 4 <sup>th</sup> : Holiday
November 1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> : Holiday	March 18 <sup>th</sup> : Holiday
November 19 <sup>th</sup> : Holiday	March 24 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> : Holiday
December 7 <sup>th</sup> : Classes End	May 24 <sup>th</sup> : Classes End
December 8 <sup>th</sup> : Departure Date	May 25 <sup>th</sup> : Departure Date

**\*For Fall 2013 dates, Fall 2012 is posted for approximate reference. Students should not purchase airline tickets until dates are posted.**

- Activities:
  - Chess
  - Softball
  - Tae Kwon Do
  - Soccer
  - Basketball
  - Tennis
  - Baseball
  - Volleyball
  - Ballroom and FlamencoDancing
  - Choral Group
  - Painting
  - Photography
  - Writing Workshop
  - Theater
  - Percussions (tamboras, bomgos, etc.)
- For course selection information, please refer to OIP Program Description Course Catalog.
- Course approval information will be found at:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about Transcripts and grades is available at:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>
- As a BC student, you are required to take a full load of courses at your host institution abroad. BC program participants can refer to the [course load requirement table](#).

## Housing

- Since January 2005 the Ibero Puebla has dormitories for students, visit <http://www.iberopuebla.edu.mx/servicios/villaibero.asp> for information. There are other

options for housing as well or homestay options. Once students send in their applications to the International Office at UIA Puebla, they will send them an informational packet that addresses issues such as housing, academic dates, introduction into the city, etc. Also, if students desire a roommate(s), the International Office at UIA Puebla can provide contact information of other students who are looking for roommates. If students choose to rent a room with a family, they would live with a host family selected by the International Office at UIA Puebla. Selected families are located in the city of Puebla and students are placed in double-occupancies with another international student or single-occupancies. Linen and towels are provided, but laundry and meals are optional. Students can make arrangements with their host families (at an additional cost) to have these services provided.

- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at:
- <http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/financesawards.html>
- Transportation expenses are not covered by the program.

### **Wellness, Health and Safety**

- Students must make sure that they have had any required or recommended vaccinations for their travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- Students are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. Students will have a smoother transition by making sure that they prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:  
[http://kidshealth.org/teen/your\\_mind/emotions/culture\\_shock.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html)  
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>  
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>  
BC emergency contact information:  
OIP (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
BCPD (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs  
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. Students are subject to the laws of their host country, so if students choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about their host country's laws by visiting:  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#drug\\_offenses](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses)

## Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:  
<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/financesawards.html>
- Banking information: Students are encouraged to use ATM machines. Please contact on-site coordinator.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:  
[http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/Scholarship\\_Opportunities.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html)

## Returning to BC

- Students should complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Students may mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting [oipexchange@bc.edu](mailto:oipexchange@bc.edu)
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry Seminar by contacting the International Study Advisor, Elizabeth Goizueta at e-mail address [Goizueta@bc.edu](mailto:Goizueta@bc.edu).
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock. The following may help students transition back to home:  
[http://studyabroad.com/pages/sitecontent/student\\_guide\\_five.aspx](http://studyabroad.com/pages/sitecontent/student_guide_five.aspx)

## References

- Suggested readings:  
*Lonely Planet Guide to Mexico*  
*Rough Guide to Mexico*  
*Culture Shock! Mexico*  
*Frommer's Mexico*  
*Adapter Kit: Mexico: A Traveler's Tools for Living Like a Local*  
*The People's Guide to Mexico*  
*Fodor's Mexico*  
*Mexico* (Eyewitness Travel Guides)  
*Stories from Mexico: Historias de México*  
[www.puebla.gob.mx](http://www.puebla.gob.mx)  
[www.turista.com.mx/puebla](http://www.turista.com.mx/puebla)
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>