

Centre in Merida, Mexico

Fall 2022-Spring 2023



Center for Global Citizenship
Centre College

We are so happy that you have been chosen to study abroad in Merida, Mexico.

Mérida, Mexico, a vibrant, historic, and beautiful city of one million people on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. Its location near both Maya ruins and the Caribbean has for many years made it the ideal spot for Centre's term program in a Spanish-speaking environment. The United Nations named Mérida a "City of Peace" in January 2011.

Below are some things to see and do in Merida.

1. Wander the City's Historic Center: This probably is the most popular thing to do in Merida with its beautiful Plaza Grande.
2. Cool off in a cenote. Cenotes are openings in the areas limestone bedrock that lead to fresh and inviting pools of groundwater. The perfect place to cool off on a hot day.
3. Explore Mayan Ruins at Uxmal: This 40 meter- high Pyramid of the Magician is a main attraction. You can also climb these unlike Chichen-Itza.
4. Chill out on Progreso Beach: If you get tired of city life hop on a bus and chill at this beautiful beach, the ride takes about 50 minutes.
5. Experience one of the many festivals that are on offer in the Yucatan.
6. Take your taste buds on a tour: There is some fabulous foods to savor her in Merida that you not be disappointed. Try the local papadzules or chilaquiles or marquesitas.
7. Take a day trip to Celestun: this quite beach town will not disappoint, it is westward facing so it is one of the only areas you can watch the sunset.

When does the program start and end?

<i>Fall</i>	Start	Sept 3
	Fall break	TBA
	End	Dec 3
<i>Spring</i>	Start	Feb 11
	Beginning of classes	TBA
	Spring break week of	TBA
	End of exams	TBA
	End	May 13

Who is the Director? Your Director for 2022-2023 is Dr. Rick Axtell.

Where will you be staying? You will be staying in a Homestay. Each homestay is handpicked by an on-site coordinator and is matched according to the needs of our students. You will be asked to fill out a housing questionnaire, which will help decide the family you are placed with.

What classes will I take? The Fall 2022/Spring 2023 program will be directed by Professor Rick Axtell, Professor of Religion.

All students will take:

Civil Society and Sustainable Development (REL 257).

This can be taken as a course in REL, IST or ENS and also counts for SLJ and LAS minors. Students will study alternative theories of social and economic development in the Mexican context in light of religious ethical writings on poverty and development. Briefings with officials, interviews with religious and social activists, and visits to rural and urban civil society groups engaged in creative community development alternatives provide concrete case studies for understanding the interrelationship between social, political, economic, environmental, religious and ethical aspects of a country's development process. This course includes travel in Chiapas and/or Oaxaca Taught in English by Professor Rick Axtell.

All students will also take a Spanish course at the appropriate level. Spanish majors may take a course in both language and literature. Below are the tentative options:

** Note: It is possible for Spanish majors to take three Spanish courses if eligible.*

Spanish Fundamentals (SPA 110)

Spanish 120

Intermediate Spanish I (SPA 210)

Intermediate Spanish II (SPA 220)

Advanced Spanish Conversation (SPA 240)

Introduction to Literary Analysis (SPA 250)

Spanish American Culture (SPA 271)

In addition students will choose from the following courses

1. Ancient Maya Culture (ANT 451)

Students will learn the principles and processes behind the development of universal high culture, using the example of the ancient Maya. The course traces the cultural development of the Maya prior to the conquest by Europeans in the 16th century. Taught by Prof. Fernanda Suarez.

2. Human Ecology in the Yucatan (ENS 251)

What do humans need to live in a sustainable manner for generations to come? How do the actions of the human species limit this potential? This course will focus on the sustained needs for human population: food and fiber, shelter, water, and waste disposal. Students will consider how technology and the services of natural ecosystems collaborate to provide these services in the Yucatan and compare them to strategies used elsewhere. Taught by Prof. Eduardo Galicia.

3. The Church and Social Change in Latin America, (REL 227)

1. An examination of the role of religion in Latin American society with special emphasis on Mexico. Students study religion from historical, sociological, and anthropological perspectives, examining pre-Columbian Mesoamerican religions, the mission of colonizers, syncretistic responses to conquest and evangelization, the relationship between church and state, the challenge of liberation theology, and the rise of Protestantism. Taught by Professor Rick Axtell.

Pre-Registration & Convocations

While in Merida, you will contact your advisor and pre-register for future courses via e-mail. You will automatically be credited with six convocation credits during your term abroad.

Checklist

1. Make sure you have given Karen Ryan an emergency contact number and email of a parent or guardian.
2. Prescriptions - bring enough for length of stay. If your stay is longer than 3 months, you will have to see a doctor abroad to re-prescribe your medication. See your doctor *before you leave as prescriptions cannot be transferred.*
3. Put a hold on your car insurance, as you will not be driving while you are out of the country and this can save you money.
4. Debit/Credit Cards. Notify your bank that you will be out of the country for the dates of your semester. Remember that not all cards work at train kiosks etc... When getting money from an ATM remember this and the international fees that will be charged to you...
5. Your Passport- must be valid for at least 6 months **after** your return date. Example: You return Feb 11 your passport has to be valid past Aug 11.

6. A portable phone charger- to take on long work days, days out so you don't get into a situation and have no way of contacting someone.
7. Research your area to see what clothes you might need for your semester, remember you will be in an area with changing seasons.
8. An outlet converter for the country you are going to.
9. Your cellphone will not work abroad- unless you have a plan that covers that. You could turn off your data and rely on WIFI in the local café etc.. You could also pick up a cheap phone abroad and use top up cards.
10. Have a plan laid out with your family on how you are going to communicate with them, email, Skype, Face Time, WhatsApp etc.. Keeping the lines of communication is very important.
11. U.S. Embassy Registration- Once you arrive, register with the U.S. Embassy at <https://step.state.gov/step/>
12. Make sure that there are copies of documents with family and uploaded onto our Moodle page in case they are needed.

Important numbers

Emergency: 911 Police: 066 Ambulance: 065 fire: 068 Calling code +52

Enjoy your semester in Merida and remember you can contact me if you need to Karen.ryan@centre.edu . Please go to our Study abroad/Away page and under the information tab, you will find Centre's Title 1V Policy and Procedures.

https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/New_Campus_Life/Sexual_Wellbeing/Title_IX_Team_Goals.jnz