



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE GUADALAJARA

Departamento de Intercambio Universitario

Av. Patria 1201 Col. Lomas del Valle

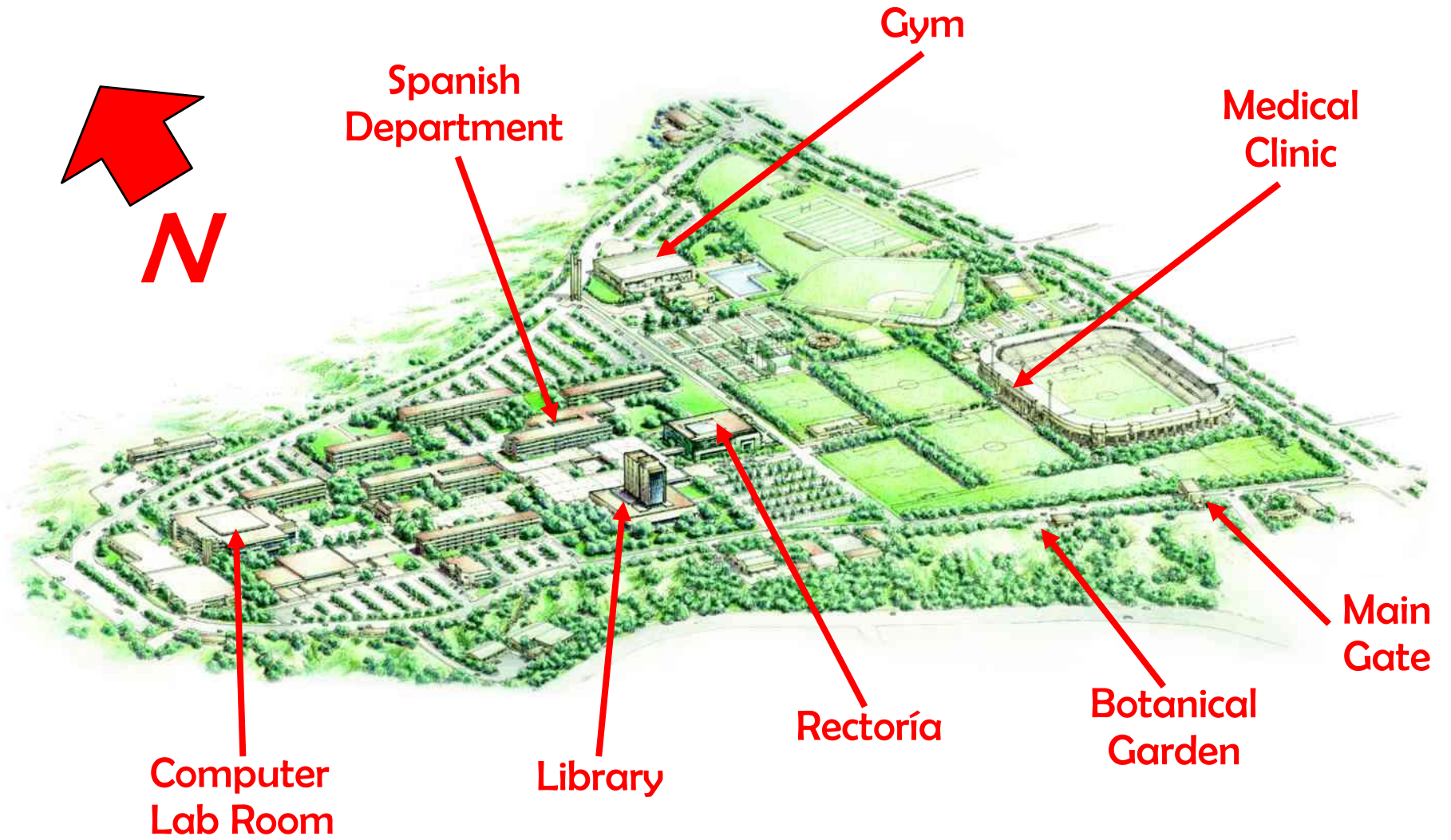
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Spanish Department

Gym

Medical Clinic

Computer Lab Room

Library

Rectoría

Botanical Garden

Main Gate

ABOUT GUADALAJARA

The Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara (UAG) is located in the city of Guadalajara, the second largest city in Mexico, capital to the state of Jalisco, ranked among the top ten best spring-like climate cities in the world. Guadalajara offers a wide variety of things to do and see, and beautiful places to visit, as it is a significant cultural center in Mexico. The “*Perla Tapatía*”, as the city is commonly known, is famous for its generous hospitality and friendly people, who show with their food, music, art, and culture, a very rich and colorful face of Mexico.



Guadalajara preserves an important cultural heritage, while being a modern and productive metropolis with a wide diversity of special events and activities.

Among the most outstanding places to see are the *Cathedral*, *Hospicio Cabañas*, *Teatro Degollado*, *Templo Expiatorio* and innumerable colonial buildings. You can also visit many representative towns located close to the city, which are famous for their handicrafts and their artists, like *Tlaquepaque*, *Tonalá*, and *Zapopan*, with its famous *Basílica*; all of them are part of this city nowadays. You could also visit *Chapala*, *Ajijic*, *Mazamitla*, *Tapalpa*, *Tequila*, and many more.

Guadalajara is a good place to shop, since it has many shoe and apparel factories and stores.



ABOUT OUR UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1935 by a group of courageous students demanding high quality education free of any political imposition, Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara is the oldest private University in Mexico. UAG is co-educational, non-denominational, and non-profit; it is independent and self-contained –autonomous—and neither has been nor is dependent upon government, church, or political affiliation. The University is proud to be thoroughly Mexican and to have an internationally oriented education system.

Covering an area of 1,000 acres, its campi are distributed as follows:

- Main Campus – C. U. (*Ciudad Universitaria*)
- Downtown Campus – Campus Centro
- Biological Science Institute – ICB (*Instituto de Ciencias Biológicas*)
- Continuing Education – EDUCON (*Educación Continuada*)
- Health Sciences Campus, located near Tesisán, in Hospital Angel Leño
- UNICO (*Universidad en la Comunidad*), community college type school, next door to UAG
- Hospital Angel Leño, on the road to Tesisán
- Hospital Ramón Garibay, in Downtown Guadalajara
- School and Clinic of Dentistry – *Escuela de Odontología*, in Downtown Guadalajara
- Agricultural Experimental Station - *Centro Experimental de Agricultura*
- Chapala Ecology Station – *Estación Ecológica de Chapala*, in Chapala
- Marine Science Laboratory – *Estación de Ciencias Marinas*, in Barra de Navidad, Jalisco
- Hotels and Convention Centers: Hotel Real de Chapala and Danza del Sol, in Ajijic, Jalisco; Hotel Cabo Blanco in Barra de Navidad, Jalisco

Its campi, as well as the surrounding areas, which are part of the students' daily life, are among the safest ones in the world.

EDUCATION

The UAG offers 37 undergraduate programs, 19 master's programs and 2 doctor's degree programs, along with 31 areas of graduate specialization, plus Spanish & Culture programs for international students, and an International Language Center. The University has a current enrollment of 16,000 students, 85% of whom are Mexican, while 15% come from 25 different countries. 53.3% are female students, and 46% are male students. The UAG employs 2,300 full-time and 350 part-time faculty members with excellent qualifications. UAG has agreements of collaboration with institutions in 18 countries all over the world, and counting.



FACILITIES



Various support facilities help UAG to become increasingly self-sufficient in achieving its educational goals. Among these facilities are computer labs and Internet services, a library system with around 300,000 books – which also provides a map room, a film library, a newspaper section, and an electronic data bank. The University has cafeterias, snack stands, a school-supplies center and book shop, a gasoline station with a small convenience shop, post office, copy centers, and automatic teller machines. There are also sport facilities, in which training and practice are offered, such as tennis courts, a baseball field,

an Olympic size pool, a gymnasium, basketball courts, a soccer stadium, etc. The UAG has a professional soccer team, formerly known as “*Tecos*” (a short word for owl, our University’s mascot) but now known as “*Estudiantes*”; other professional teams include the basketball and the cycling teams.

Apart from the International Languages Center (*C. I. I.*) there is also the Design Center, the Center for Economics and Trade Research, the Center for Industrial Development Research, the Legal Assistance Bureau, the Center for Asian and Latin-American Studies, the Center for Canadian Studies, the Learning Aid Center, its own regional newspaper *Ocho Columnas*, the University Community Newspaper *Nexo Universitario*, and the University Television Department. It also offers many cultural, social, and artistic activities throughout the year like folk dance, ballet (for children), and music, among many others.



SERVICES

Most services are located at the main campus’ lower level or *Centro Cívico*. Other services are right outside UAG and in the nearby area, such as banks, drugstores, restaurants, laundries, cleaners, supermarket, etc.

The services inside UAG can be contacted through the main switchboard number which is +52 (33) 3648 8824 or through the main fax at +52 (33) 3648 8329. You can also visit our web site for more information about some of these services in <http://www.uag.mx>.

BANORTE BANK

Is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm (schedules for some services may be different, ask first by dialing locally 3640 0470.). There are other teller machines on campus and other banks located right outside UAG, on Avenida Patria, and throughout the city; you may withdraw cash with your debit card in any ATM in Mexico, in local currency (Mexican Pesos).

Bank services include money transfers, utility payments, dollar/peso exchange, cashier’s checks, and cash when you need more than is allowed at the teller machine, etc. They accept the following card systems: *MasterCard, Cirrus, Plus, and Visa* (with these cards you can also pay for your school bills).

PUBLIC PHONES

You can find them near the stairs in *Centro Cívico*. You can make collect calls; if you need a telephone card, they are sold at the book store and at the snack stands.

BOOK SHOP

Open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday through Friday. It sells books, office, school, and computer supplies. You can also get photocopies for school here. You can contact them in extension 32498.

PHOTO STUDIO

Open from 9 am to 2 pm and from 3 to 4:30 pm from Monday through Friday. Their extension is 32493.

CAFETERIA

Open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. Their extension is 32397.

SNACK STANDS

There are several of these located around UAG with different schedules.

POST OFFICE

You can find it close to the main entrance, but international students may deliver and receive their mail at *Intercambio* if mail is addressed as it follows:

Your Name

Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara
Departamento de Intercambio Universitario
Edificio de Rectoría, Oficina 202
Av. Patria 1201 Col. Lomas del Valle
Guadalajara, Jalisco, México C. P. 45110



LIBRARY

Open from 8 am to 9 pm on weekdays and from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday.

After you register and have obtained your ID card, you will need another card issued at the Library (bring two photos for that) to check out books for homework; this card has a special code number to check that all books have been returned before you leave UAG at the end of your term (if a book is not returned, the student's transcripts will be withheld until you do so).

This card also gives you access to a computer in that same library; the person in charge will assign you one in exchange for your card, which will be returned by end of the session. You must strictly follow the next indications for the use of computers, they are always carefully monitored:

- Do not tamper with programs as this generates extended malfunctioning.
- In this area computers are exclusively for retrieval of information. Other uses like e-mail, chat, games, or pornography will cause your card to be revoked.

Please always observe procedures, regulations, and due dates to avoid fines.

Book availability in the UAG system may be checked by dialing 3648 8824, extension 32257 or on the Internet at <http://www.uag.mx> under *Bibliotecas*.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

Several languages are offered at *Centro Internacional de Idiomas*. You can find it on the Main Floor of the *Humanidades* Building; if you want to call for more information dial extension 32251).

STUDENT AFFAIRS

This department coordinates extracurricular activities, promotes additional services and benefits for the students and watches over regulations enforcement. Their extensions are 32120, 32121 and 32122.

It also coordinates the Sports Department, maintenance of sports' facilities, special events, and the following:

*** Sports**

Tennis, volleyball, basketball, football, soccer, baseball, track and field, squash, softball, cycling, aerobics, judo, tae kwon do, boxing, wrestling, and hiking. Call extensions 32150 and 32176 for more information.

For pool use and swimming activities there are some particular procedures that you have to follow:

- To use the pool you need a card issued by the Sports Medicine Office (*Medicina Deportiva*), next to the soccer stadium. Bring 2 photos, your student ID and knowledge of your blood type; expect a health check-up. The cost will be \$100 MX PESOS. Office hours are from 9 am to 12 pm, from Monday to Thursday. If you don't know your blood type, you can visit the clinical exams lab on the *Ciencias Químicas* Building, the cost of this test is \$60 MX PESOS.
- Show updated ID card from *Medicina Deportiva* at pool entrance.
- Women must wear one piece suits, no bikinis or two-piece suits are allowed.
- Everybody must wear swimming caps and sandals.
- Shower before entering pool area.
- Do not use tanning or blocking lotions before entering the water.
- Do not bring valuables with you.
- Do not play in the pool area or on the diving boards.
- Use dressing rooms to change your clothes.
- Observe good behavior, according to UAG General Rules and Regulations.
- Swim at your own risk, there is no lifeguard on duty.
- Pool hours are from 9 am to 6 pm, from Tuesdays to Fridays.



During the summer, due to Children's Summer Courses, from mid July to the first week of August included, pool will be available from 2:30 to 6 PM only; please dial 3610 1010 extension 32125 to confirm schedules.

*** Actividades Culturales, Sociales y Artísticas (ACSA)**

This office organizes, promotes and coordinates extracurricular activities of cultural, social, and artistic nature. Their extensions are 32500 and 32115.

They offer on a regular basis:

- Theatre
- Folk Dance
- Classical Ballet
- Jazz
- Pop Music Groups – Students play and sing their music!
- Drawing and Painting
- Choir and Musical Instruments: piano, guitar, violin, etc.

Please check with ACSA for schedules and availability. For some courses, availability is according to demand.

HEALTH SERVICES

We have a general doctor on campus, free of charge. Some medicines are sold at his office. Also, there are several excellent medical facilities within our city. You may choose which one you want to use according to your preference but must pay for those services.

You must buy a health insurance plan before leaving your country. It should cover any event during your stay abroad. Usually, you pay with a credit card and then get a reimbursement back home with the hospital's invoice, but if you check the list of health facilities in Guadalajara that work with your specific insurance company, you may not need to pay anything.

Please carry a copy of your health insurance information with you at all times, that way in case of an emergency the hospital personnel will assist you on your admittance much faster.

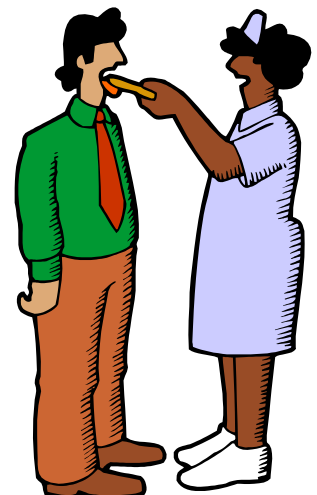
You may go directly to one of these hospitals in case of an emergency, especially outside office hours or weekends:

+ HOSPITAL ANGEL LEAÑO –a UAG hospital-
Av. Dr. Angel Leaño 500
(Corner of Old Carretera a Tesistán)
Zapopan
Phone 3648 8484 or 3648 8425

+ HOSPITAL ANGELES DEL CARMEN
Tarascos 3435
Fraccionamiento Monraz
Phone 3813 0042
Emergencies 3813 1224 or 3813 2546

+ HOSPITAL MEXICO AMERICANO
Colomos 2110
Colonia Ladrón de Guevara
Phone 3648 3333 or 3648 3334

+ HOSPITAL SAN JAVIER (closest to campus)
Pablo Casals 640
Colonia Providencia
Phone 3669 0222
Emergencies 3641 4832



UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT (DEPARTAMENTO DE INTERCAMBIO UNIVERSITARIO)

Welcome to UAG! This means welcome to our city, to Mexico, and to your Mexican hosts. Thank you for your interest for studying in Mexico and in our University. We are happy to have you here. Through this office “non degree seeking students” are registered.

Our office is located on the 2nd floor of the *Rectoría* Building, suite 202. In Intercambio, we register classes and grades (also withdrawals and dismissals), issue transcripts, offer academic assessment and orientation, and give access to school facilities and services. In short, we act as contacts with your home institution for academic validation and also as consultants for any doubts or difficulties you may encounter during your stay.



Our office hours are weekdays from 8 am to 2:15 pm and 2:45 to 6 pm. If you need additional information or help, you may call +52 (33) 3648 8824, extensions 32204 or 32218; our office fax is +52 (33) 3610 0434.

Our postal address, if you wish to write to us is:

Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara
Departamento de Intercambio Universitario
Edificio de Rectoría, Oficina 202
Av. Patria 1201 Col. Lomas del Valle
Guadalajara, Jalisco, México C. P. 45110

If you rather want to send us an e-mail, please do so to intercambio@uag.mx or to one of the following depending on your needs:

- Biol. Martha Arreguín marregui@uag.mx (Head of Department)
- Mrs. Marcela Guzmán imguzman@uag.mx (for registration, housing and payments)
- Ms. Patricia Irineo patricia.irineo@uag.mx (for general information)
- Ms. Elena Karabanova ekarabanova@uag.mx (student exchange with non Spanish-speaking countries)
- Ms. Marion Kunstman mkunstman@uag.mx (for registration, housing and payments)
- Mrs. Esperanza Moreno emoreno@uag.mx (student exchange with Spanish-speaking only countries)
- Ms. Amparo Ojeda maria.ojeda@uag.mx (for credits and transcript information)

Our office personnel speak and understand Spanish, English, Russian, Dutch and a little bit of French and German.

Guadalajara is one of the best options to come to study abroad. Besides its excellent record of safety over the years, our University offers academic excellence in Spanish classes and a variety of content courses accessible to qualified students. UAG’s facilities, its varied extra-curricular activities, and the continued support from the Department of International Exchange with multi-lingual staff, guarantee that students will receive the needed orientation and adequate attention for their academic learning and cultural achievement.

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT

Registration for international students is done through the Student Exchange Department (*Intercambio*), which takes care of the non-degree seeking students that take part of different programs: exchange, independent, summer and customized. Long term students, like the medical students, are taken care of in the Foreign Student Department (*Extranjeros*); the same office for immigration aid and procedures.

First you will have to fill out an international student application, and in case you need it, an international homestay application. In case you are not participating in UAG's homestay program, you must give us your address and phone number in Guadalajara, whether you are staying with friends or at an apartment alone. This information is needed in order to complete your registration and is also very important for emergencies; please do not forget to provide it.



COURSE OFFER

A short-term student may take:

- a) INTENSIVE SPANISH
- b) SEMI-INTENSIVE SPANISH
- c) REGULAR COURSES, if your Spanish is at least level 5 in our system
- d) SPANISH & CULTURE PROGRAM (see attached information sheet)

a) INTENSIVE SPANISH

4 hours daily, five days a week

80 class hours of instruction, **4 credits** (per level)

Levels	Covers	For	Additional notes
I, II, III	Basic grammar and applications	Beginners to lower intermediate students	
IV	Basic grammar and applications	Higher intermediate student	
V	Intermediate to advanced grammar		
VI	An introduction to Mexican Literature	Advanced student	Analysis of six works of Mexican Literature
VII	Grammar in greater depth; Mexican and Hispanic Literature and Civilization		
VIII	Grammar for specific situations, colloquial expressions and conversation aimed at a deeper look into culture within the Mexican context		Field research on a relevant topic is assigned as a final project

Please note that Intensive Spanish is offered year-round, except for the spring break vacation period during Holy and Easter Weeks, a week in August for vacation, and two weeks for Christmas vacation.

b) SEMI-INTENSIVE SPANISH (REGULAR SEMESTER)

2 hours daily, five days a week

Segments	Sections	Covers
I 60 horas clase, 3 créditos	1	Grammar in greater depth. Listening comprehension. Discussions and idiomatic expressions.
	2	Introduction to Latin American Literature and lexical differences. Written reports on works of Literature. Oral presentation on cultural aspects.
II 60 horas clase, 3 créditos	1	Advanced Grammar: Pretérito vs. Imperfecto. Verbs with prepositions. Discussions and idiomatic expressions.
	2	Major Hispanic-American literature: Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, Criollism, Magic Realism. Written analysis of six major works of literature.
III 40 horas clase, 3 créditos	1	General review of verbs, all tenses, and subjunctive. Adapting verbs to translation into Spanish. Introduction to Dialectology, fables, sayings, and synonyms.
	2	Mexican Literature* based on a novel about the Mexican Revolution. Music and songs from the Revolution period.

* As an alternative to the literature block, we offer a course on Mexican Anthropology where students are introduced to the historical background of Mexican society.

ORIENTATION DAY

For the **regular semester term** and for the **Spanish & Culture** program in mid-June, a brief welcome and orientation for international students is held in the Auditorio of the *Rectoría* Building on the last Thursday or Friday before classes start (check your calendar) at 9 am. This one includes general information regarding the University, cultural issues, security, family life, dating, health, and immigration issues. These orientation sessions are for a large group of students.



For **intensive Spanish courses and other summer sessions**,

we may give a personalized orientation in our office because of the small number of attendees. This one is held at 9 am on Friday before classes begin.

Attendance is mandatory for all international students, as there are plenty of academic issues and obligations, as well as things you should be aware of and learn before you experience your everyday life at UAG and Guadalajara.

You will meet with administrative officers, program coordinators and staff, consulate representatives and a medical doctor, who will give you relevant tips that will make a big difference in helping you adjust to your life in the city and in the country. **Please make sure you attend!!!**

Tutors may be appointed to international students if they wish so; he/she will be more than glad to help, especially at the beginning of your school days and your stay in Guadalajara.

The team of French Teachers at the *Centro Internacional de Idiomas* on Campus in the *Humanidades* Building (*Derecho* Building for the moment) will also be glad to provide you with useful tips; you can contact them through extension 32251.

SPANISH PLACEMENT EXAM

If you are a student interested in taking **Spanish classes** you will take the Spanish placement exam in order to enter the correct language skills level. This will be applied during orientation day, right after the information session. After this, if you are placed from **Levels I to IV**, you can only take Intensive Spanish (4 hours daily) and no regular content courses.

If you are placed from **Level V and up**, then you can take Semi-intensive Spanish (2 hours daily), and also choose two or three regular content courses with Mexican students. You must check schedules after orientation.

However, if you think you are in an intermediate level, but not sure whether or not you qualify for regular content courses, you do not need to worry. During the semester you can take **four Intensive Spanish modules**, starting from level IV through VII. Also, you may come during the summer and take 2 or 3 sessions: levels II, III and IV; then take level V and two or three other classes in the fall.

The **Spanish Placement Exam** has a written part (about 1 hour and 30 minutes) and a brief oral interview. This exam is usually reliable. If, on the first week, you think the Department should reconsider your level and change you to a higher or lower one, you should ask to have an interview with the Coordinator of the Spanish Department. If you are trying to move up to a higher level, she/he will schedule for you, on Tuesday or Wednesday, a final exam for the level you wish to exempt. If you pass, you can start classes in your new level on Thursday. There are no changes after Thursday (first week) or without the authorization of the Department Coordinator.

CLASS SCHEDULES

If you are only going to take **Spanish classes** then classroom allocation and class schedules will be found on lists at the International Languages Center bulletin board, found on the *Humanidades* Building.

For **regular content courses**, after a personal assessment where you will get to see all of our course offerings and schedules (for a previous check of the different academic options that UAG offers please visit <http://www.uag.mx/questudiar.html#lic>), you will fill a form with your chosen courses where you will state courses' names, a code number which includes the semester number, schedule, and name of the professor of each course. After that you will be admitted to classes but only on a tentative basis, to give you a chance to change courses if necessary, but only during the first week of classes. It is very important to come to the office during that first week to consult with us and confirm your final classes. During the term, please report any difficulties or irregularities.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. Sometimes Spanish classes progress a little slower at the beginning; so, if at the beginning of the second week you still feel uncomfortable with your class level (too hard or too easy), visit the Spanish Department and consult with them.
2. If you take classes with Mexican students you can obtain 2, 3 or 4 credits depending on the total number of contact hours. Mexican credits are different from U. S. credits.





3. You must cover a **minimum of 80% of class attendance in order to pass** any course.
4. In Spanish courses **the passing grade is 80**, the minimum to be able to enter the next level. In all other classes a passing grade ranks from 60 to 100, which can be converted to your home university grading system (A, B; 1, 2; etc.).
5. Educational systems differ from one country to another, so do not expect actions or reactions as if you were in your home institution; have some spirit to adapt yourself to different cultural and educational environments.
6. You should establish a good line of communication with your teachers; they are the ones who can better help you in your learning efforts. But if you have a major issue -whatsoever- that hinders your learning, come to the office and discuss it with us right away. Not expressing this or doing so to the wrong person, or out of time, may have unpleasant consequences for you.
7. Try some learning outside the classroom from your host family, from your extracurricular activities, and from your newly made Mexican friends; the real challenge is there since differences are not read but lived. Your academic work is enriched and your cultural insight enlightened with the different expressions of University life and Guadalajara's environment. That is where that cultural experience and an extension of your general knowledge will take place.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Every student registered at UAG must get an ID card as it gives you access to campus and facilities, except for the library and the pool, for which you need a special ID card. Come to our office to receive instructions on how to get one or attend on orientation day, you will be taken to obtain your card.

TRANSCRIPTS

During the last week of classes, pick up a CALIFICACIONES (grades) form at *Intercambio* Office, with your courses. After finals, each professor must print your final grade and sign it. Return it then to *Intercambio* Office before you travel back home. Official transcripts will be mailed to your home institution. If you need them to be sent elsewhere, please tell us; additional copies to different addresses have an extra cost.

Initial (registration) and final (professor grade and signature) procedures must be complete in order to have your transcripts issued.

COSTS

Please check this information on the attached sheet.*

CANCELATION AND REFUND POLICY

- Registration fee is non-refundable
- Full tuition refund if cancellation is received **before** first day of classes
- 50% refund during the first week of classes
- **No** refunds after first week of classes
- To process a refund you must fill out and sign a Refund Form

HOMESTAY

There are no dorms or student residences on campus, so you may choose to stay with a host family, which by the way is a good choice if you want to broaden your experience into our culture and family life. The *Departamento de Intercambio Universitario* has a list of homes that have been housing international students for some years and they have provided satisfactory stays. We put on top of our list those who not only comply with standards but who offer you a friendly environment. For the benefit of the students, a standard monthly rate, including meals, has been established.



Apartments and houses for rent are not easily found for short stays and are usually unfurnished. On this line, the help we can provide, after you have located a place (via newspaper ad, real estate office, or other) is only to assist you in making phone calls and such, but we cannot be made responsible of your final agreement or any problem that may arise later. You can find a home on your own where the cost could be expensive or cheap, but please bear in mind that such arrangement will be your own responsibility.

Take this advice if you want to consider a homestay as a housing option:

- It is at your homestay where you will probably experience the most cultural differences, but it is also where you will learn more about the Mexican lifestyle.
- Try not to be a client; be a visitor, a guest, and if possible, another member of the family. They will react warmly to you.
- Do not compare, but rather get to know your own host family and be friends with them.
- Most Mexican families serve you your meals, but a timely participation will be appreciated, and is also a great opportunity for family interaction.
- They may also clean your room but they expect you to have your room tidy before they do. Discuss with them the best way to do your laundry, as every home is different. If they allow you to use their washer and dryer, buy your own detergent, and keep the area tidy.
- The same principle applies for the use of a computer and the Internet at your homestay, ask before.
- Host families usually cater visitors, but if you are served something typical you have never tried, first try asking about it. Talk about cooking and eating habits, express your preferences courteously.
- Interaction with your host family will bring fine results. Try to take the initiative. Think of things to ask them about: hobbies, favorite food, favorite movies, events, sports, places to visit, etc.
- Most homes are a bus ride from school, and only a few within walking distance. Be prepared to ride the bus to move around in the city. Each ride is about \$0.50 cents (USD). If you learn to ride the bus you can conquer the city with the help of your host family. The first days, your host family will give you directions or help you to get to school.
- Your host family can be more than just “*room and meals*” if you try to be a guest (not a client) and establish a good line of communication with them.



Application forms and fees must be received **30 days** prior to classes' start. **Homestay payments** are due within the first five days of your arrival; after that you must make your payment every four weeks time, in cash (pesos or dollars).

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

WHAT TO PACK

Dress for the weather. It is usually hot at noon (about 80°F – 27°C or higher) year round. It is cool at night and early morning, especially in winter (around 60°F – 16°C or less). Always bring a sweater and a jacket; during the summer (rainy season) you may want to bring also an umbrella and a raincoat.

Personal appearance is vital to every Mexican, it is a sign of social status and self-respect. Plan to dress more formally for school or you will be underdressed.

Shorts, t-shirts, sandals, and beachwear are only adequate for the beach or for sports. Pants and shirts for boys or slacks, skirts, and blouses for girls are more suitable for the city and for school. Bring a semi-formal outfit for a special occasion.

Our pool regulations ask for one-piece swimming suits on women, and a swimming cap. No two-piece or bikinis are allowed.



PASSPORT AND VISA

You need a **PASSPORT** to travel and to re-enter your country. You can get with it a **TOURIST VISA** at the airport, though it's better to consult with the nearest Mexican embassy or consulate. Visas are usually issued for 180 days (sometimes 120 or 90 days). If you find that the visa does not cover your stay, please check in our office for an early request of extension (about **four weeks prior to expiration** date). An expired visa or late request will cause a fine.

STUDENT VISAS

Though apparently immigration policies continue as before, it is our observation that the tourist's visas issued for visitors to Mexico at the airport or at the border are sometimes limited to a 30-day permit. Sometimes they are issued for 90 or for 180 days. When a student requests an extension it is also given for another 30 days.

Though it is still possible to get more than one extension, each requires some paper work and a fee of about \$210 MX PESOS.

Thus, our recommendation now is:

- a) You must have a current passport (this is necessary for acceptance to UAG).
- b) If coming for a semester term -spring or fall- you can stay with a tourist visa, usually given for 180 days (6 months) at the port of entry. However, you **must register** at our Foreign Student Department (Immigration Office). **You have a 30-day period to register.**
- c) If a visa is issued for less than 5 months (one semester and extra days for travel), you must apply for an extension at our Immigration Office.
- d) For more than one semester, you need a student visa. You can obtain one at the nearest Mexican Consulate in your own country; check where you can find one on the Internet or call them for exact information. If this is difficult because there is no consulate in your town, you can also obtain it here at UAG.

If you need any help with immigration issues or procedures, you can always go to the Foreign Student Department (Immigration Office) where they will take care of everything (so you don't have to go directly to the Mexican Immigration Office in Downtown Guadalajara); you can find them in *Rectoría* Building Office #107, or dialing 3648 8824 extension 32348.

Take note of the following:



- A student visa costs \$393 MX PESOS when issued; when you arrive here you have a period of 30 days to register locally. The Registration fee is \$537 MX PESOS.
- Late registration causes a fine. All registration procedures are done for you at UAG's Immigration Office at no extra cost.
- A 1 or 2 month extension costs \$210 MX PESOS.
- A semester extension costs \$1,686 MX PESOS. It is our advice that you know the exact length of your stay before you come, so that you pay only once, and avoid charges for an extension.
- If you have a tourist visa, you may exchange it for a student visa at a cost of \$393 MX PESOS, plus \$537 MX PESOS for registration fee.

For the summer or for short periods, you can get a tourist visa at the port of entry. The fee then is about \$20 USD and if you do not pay then, you should be prepared to pay it at the time of departure. If you fly to Mexico City (Guadalajara or any other city), you will fill out a form on the plane and the visa will be given rather quickly. **Make sure to ask for a tourist visa**, and not a student one, if you are going to stay for one semester (no more than six months).

Remember there is a deadline for registration and extension, so it's better to start the process **at least 4 weeks before the expiry date** to allow enough time to complete it. Late extension and registration do cause a fine.

ARRIVING TO THE AIRPORT

The International Airport is about 35 minutes away from Downtown Guadalajara. You can get an official taxi or van right outside the airport for fixed rates (pay cash, pesos or dollars) to take you to the city. Have your homestay address and phone as well as the UAG reference handy. Staff from the University Exchange Department or your Mexican family will pick you up at the airport if you send your arrival information on time and get our confirmation. If your flight is delayed or you change your arrival time, you may have to take a taxi. In any case, please advise us first and then the host family of such change.

- There's a **\$20 airport pick-up fee**, which you can send at least 4 weeks in advance.
- UAG staff will wait for you up to one hour after your scheduled arrival.
- If you change schedule or miss connections, you must inform your Mexican family directly –by phone– since this will save precious time and effort, as well as confusions. Though they are not expected to meet you, if circumstances are favorable, they might offer to do so.
- In case you arrive late without notice, you should take an official taxi or van from the airport to your homestay.

If for some reason you are not picked up, please refer to the following:

1. Always have with you at hand (as you do with your passport), a card with your host family or your apartment's complete information: name, complete address, telephones (including a number for emergencies). If calling from Guadalajara's airport you do not need to dial the long distance area code +52 (33), you just dial the eight digits starting with 36, 38, 31, etc.
2. Check how to dial from outside Mexico (country code 52, city code 33) before you travel, to make sure you can get through in case you need to let us know or your family that you will be late or have a different flight.

3. Get additional information about your Guadalajara address, like the colonia (residential zone), and the crossing streets or avenues; it will be helpful for finding the address sooner, especially at night.
4. Remember you are coming to study to la Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara (there are several other universities in the city), and write it in a card along with UAG local phone number which is 3648 8824, *Intercambio* Office extensions are 32218 and 32204.
5. Please make all your travel and arrival arrangements within normal day hours as much as possible to avoid mishaps. Make sure you send your arrival information at least 2 weeks prior to your arrival, so your host family will be ready to pick you up. Otherwise, we cannot be made responsible. If you are not picked up, perhaps due to an emergency, please have an alternative option prepared, especially outside office hours and weekends.
6. The way to get a taxi or van is very much like at most international airports: as you step outside, there's a booth where you can buy taxi or van tickets. Show the address where you want to go, and they will tell you the fare. The fares are set and the vans and taxis are official and safe. Fare to the UAG area about is 250 MXN (*Mexican pesos*) or about \$20 USD (although this fare may increase a bit in the future). Ticket vendors speak some English as well as some of the drivers.
7. Be sure to carry with you about \$50 USD in cash in case you need it. During the day there are currency exchange offices where you can exchange your money for *Mexican pesos*; otherwise you may pay in dollars. You may use ATM machines at the airport where you can withdraw *Mexican pesos* only using a credit or debit card.
8. If you need to make a call, there are public phones that operate with cards (Ladatel cards for \$30, \$50 or \$100 MXN) and most of the shops at the airport sell them. If you need to call home upon arrival, to confirm you arrived safely in Guadalajara, there are phones to make collect calls where there is no need for a card. They are located just as you go out of the International Gate, at the right hand side by the doors. Ask someone for help if it is not clear how to place the call.



INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The *Club Internacional* is a cultural, social and sporting club which considers the students' general and particular interests to organize diverse activities each semester, in order to help achieve a better integration of each student into the university's and Guadalajara's environments.

This club is composed of student volunteers, who will enhance friendships that will favor the other culture's experience in a kind, healthy, and reciprocal way.

It organizes different activities and field trips in and out of UAG. Student volunteers organize at *Intercambio* Office and are coordinated by *Mrs. Esperanza Moreno*. Come see us for further information and check bulletin boards at your school and the cafeteria.

You will also find many other opportunities for your leisure time at school and in the city to engage into: sports events, festivals, social gatherings, visits to malls, museums, movie theaters, art galleries; you can also play sports, attend fun clubs' activities, take optional trips (organized by the school), etc. Look for special events in the newspapers, bulletins, and consult your host family.

If you are planning to travel on your own, plan properly and ask for help, as the University *will not be* held responsible for any trip or event not organized by the school or by the Spanish Department.

Some international students fall in the circle of night-life disco fun in a way that they lose interest in anything else and waste valuable energy needed to fully accomplish their original goals. Don't let yourself be dragged into things you may not really want to do. To be on the safe side, choose carefully where you go and with whom. Do not stay out late if you are alone. Do not drink alcohol beyond your safe limit (this is extremely important; it has caused big problems to some students). Ask friends and your host family for safety tips.



*Learn as much as
you can and enjoy
your stay at UAG!*

ANNEXES

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- Students' relations with academic and administrative personnel must be based on moral and physical respect, according to the Mexican culture and traditions, avoiding the use of vulgar and obscene language, insults and any such thing that could possibly damage your personal relationships.
- Students' personal appearance must be decent and appropriate for a Mexican University Campus. Wearing long hair or earrings on male students is strictly forbidden. Beards must be short and tidy. Shorts, bermuda shorts, and beachwear are out of place. Students must wear shoes (tennis or formal) and socks.
- Students must make good use of furniture and equipment. Feet on desks, playing with chairs, or using the classrooms after scheduled classes for other purposes are not allowed. Students will be held responsible and will pay for any damage they cause to furniture or school property.
- Students must abstain from possession and use of any stimulants or drugs. Mexican Law is very severe and makes no concessions to nationals or foreigners. Penalty for use and possession can be as severe as seven years imprisonment.
- Students may not carry out any activity or hand out material related to any political party or different ideological groups, mass private parties, and such, within the campus. Pornographic material is strictly forbidden.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited, with the exception of those places and on those occasions authorized by University Officers.
- Possession and use of any kind of weapons or firearms are strictly forbidden.
- These rules apply **equally** to all full time, part-time, and summer students.
- The University reserves the right to require the withdrawal of any student whose conduct is considered detrimental to the welfare or reputation of our school.

TRANSGRESSIONS TO THE ABOVE REGULATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY MEASURES, FROM A FIRST WARNING TO WRITTEN REPORTS TO UAG AUTHORITIES AND THE STUDENT'S HOME SCHOOL, AND/OR FINAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM, WHICH IMPLY LOSS OF CREDITS AND THE TUITION AND FEES ALREADY PAID.

HONOR CODE

We like to maintain an environment in which learning and growth flourish through individuals' endeavors and honest intellectual and cultural exchanges, both in and out of the classroom. To maintain such an environment each member of the community pledges **to respect the ideas**, well-being, and property of others.

STANDARD OF CONDUCT

At the UAG we strive to treat our students as adults and expect them to act as such. Our rules and regulations are designed to establish a mature social atmosphere that allows for individual freedom while protecting the rights of the University, the faculty, and other students.

MEXICAN HOLIDAYS

January 6	Epiphany - <i>Día de los Santos Reyes</i> - gift giving to children
February 5*	Constitution Day - <i>Aniversario de la Constitución</i>
March 21*	Benito Juárez Day
March, April*	Holy Week and Easter Week - <i>Semana Santa y Pascua</i>
May 1*	Labor Day - <i>Día del Trabajo</i>
May 5	Victory over the French Army in 1867 - <i>Batalla de Puebla</i>
September 16*	Independence from Spain in 1810 - <i>Día de la Independencia</i>
October 12*	Columbus Day - <i>Día de la Raza</i> (only in Guadalajara, <i>Día la Virgen de Zapopan</i>)
November 1	All Saints Day - <i>Día de Todos los Santos</i>
November 2	Day of the Dead - <i>Día de Muertos</i>
November 20*	Revolution Day - <i>Día de la Revolución</i>
December 12*	Our Lady of Guadalupe - <i>Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe</i>
December 25*	Christmas Day - <i>Navidad</i>

Non-laborable (*)

CONSULATES IN GUADALAJARA

CANADA

Av. Mariano Otero 1249
Torre Pacífico, Piso 8
Col. Rinconada del Bosque
Tel. 3671 4740

DENMARK

Av. López Mateos 477, 6^{to}. Piso
Col. Ladrón de Guevara
Tel. 3615 0706 ext. 612

SPAIN

Francisco de Quevedo 117
Torre Sterling (Mezzanine Izquierdo)
Col. Arcos Vallarta
Tel. 3630 0450 and 3630 0466

UNITED STATES

Progreso 175
(a block away from Av. Chapultepec)
Col. Americana
Tel. 3268 2100

GERMANY

Calle 7 No. 319
Col. Ferrocarril
Tel. 3810 2146

FRANCE

Efraín González Luna 2007
Col Americana
Tel. 3630 3283

There are several other consulates in Guadalajara; if you come from a country not listed above, please contact *Departamento de Intercambio Universitario* or look in the Yellow Pages of the Guadalajara City Phone Directory.

HEALTH ADVICE

The high altitude (1 mile) of Guadalajara can be too much for what you are used to, but your body will take about two weeks to adjust. Beware of too much alcohol, it can worsen the symptoms associated with the change of elevation, so don't push yourself early on arrival here. Use enough sunscreen as you can more easily become sunburned at higher altitude and nearer the equator.

Diarrhea is another common illness that affects some of our visitors at one time or another. The major causes are bacterial agents found most commonly in food and less commonly in water in Mexico. Try not to eat out of street vendors, or raw food. Check that vegetables in salads are well washed or disinfected, which is quite difficult to do in restaurants. Good restaurants however, do wash their vegetables well. Disinfect your own food.

Do not drink water from the tap, only out from special filters installed in most kitchens, or bottled. Do not eat spicy foods at first; they will irritate your stomach. Allow it to adjust to new bacteria, and in a few days you may eat anything you like without getting sick. Eat plenty of fruits especially citrus. This will prevent stomach illnesses.

If you do develop diarrhea, drink lots of fluids like Gatorade or Pedialyte, broth, soft drinks and saltine crackers. Do not drink milk or any dairy products until you are well. Then start eating rice, tortillas and bananas. You should be OK in a couple of days; if not, visit the doctor to be prescribed some antibiotic.

If you experience constipation, another common traveler's illness, drink lots of water, eat plenty of fruit and vegetables, and if you need it, eat bran cereal like All-Bran, Bran Flakes or Raisin' Bran.

To avoid accidents always watch your step, especially when crossing the streets (cars do not mind pedestrians as much as they should). You may find defects or open manholes in sidewalks. Be careful getting on the bus, as it might start moving before you are all the way in.

Always carry an identification card with your name, address and phone number in Guadalajara, names and numbers of your host family/roommates, and of the people to be contacted in case of emergency; also your blood type, allergies, medicines taken regularly, any illness such as diabetes, if you wear contacts, etc.

Just take care of yourself. It is most important especially when you are away from home.

Don't spoil your trip!

SECURITY ADVICE

As in any other big city, you should exercise caution when going out especially if you are alone. Here are a few suggestions:

- Do not carry your passport with you all the time; keep it in a safe place at home. Make a copy and carry it in your wallet, ready, in case you need it.
- Before you arrive to your host family's home, make a card with their name, address and phone number, and keep it in your wallet. It will be really useful in case of emergency.
- Be careful with your valuables at school, on the street, on the bus, and at home. Your host family may assist you in their safekeeping. Do not leave your backpack unattended during your breaks at school, be on the safe side.
- Do not carry large amounts of money with you, or keep large amounts in your room. Open a bank account as soon as you come to Mexico or carry traveler's checks.
- Always anticipate how you are getting back home if you go out at night. Buses stop running at around 10 pm, so you will need to take a taxi. Bring enough extra cash for these expenses, and bear in mind taxis will charge more at night.
- Be sure you have your house keys with you at all times.
- If you are the last person to leave the house, it is your responsibility to make sure lights are turned off, windows are closed and doors are locked.
- If you bring a bicycle with you, be sure it has a good strong lock.
- It is better to use taxi stations near your area, rather than taking one right on the streets. Find out their number in the yellow pages according to your neighborhood. Or ask your host family. You must ask the fare and agree with the driver before boarding a taxi. Good bars and restaurants have good taxis nearby.
- Especially watch who you go out with, and where. This is important just as in any big city, for your own safety. You probably would do the same at home, anyway.

Important telephone numbers

FIRST AID, FIRE & POLICE EMERGENCIES (<i>Emergencias, Bomberos, Policía</i>)	060
POLICE RADIO PATROL (<i>Radiopatrullas</i>)	080
LOCATING SERVICE (<i>Locatel</i>)	3824 8000
RED CROSS (<i>Cruz Roja</i>)	3613 1550
WAKE UP CALLS (<i>Despertador</i>)	031
TIME (<i>Hora exacta</i>)	030
DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE (<i>Directorio</i>)	040
OPERATOR ASSISTED LONG DISTANCE (Larga distancia por operadora)	090

There is good public transportation and many routes, but take plenty of time as there are no scheduled bus stops anywhere. It is a challenge to conquer the city... Hold tight. Driving is very different in México. Buses and cars most times do not respect pedestrians (even though they should) so please be wary of them!

The following does not mean to frighten students, only to make them aware of this information since they are away from home. It's always better to have more information than none at all. It's better to exercise some common sense, and be responsible adults.

HAZARD LIGHTS FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT (FOR WOMEN)

You may be independent and self-confident, but maybe you cannot read between the lines in a foreign culture.

The following may be considered leads:

- Provocative dress and dancing
- Accepting drinks from strangers
- Being out by yourself or in an all-female group (acting loud and cheap)
- Engaging in discussions about topics like sex with new acquaintances you know nothing about
- Accepting casual invitations, solitary rides or more night fun in high hours

WORDS OF CAUTION (FOR EVERYONE)

Concerned for your safety and well-being, we find it of extreme relevance to emphasize on:

1. Use and possession of drugs, which is a cause for immediate dismissal from the program, places you at imminent risk of imprisonment.
2. Drinking makes one vulnerable even in familiar circumstances, much more so in a foreign environment.

In particular, you are cautioned to:

- a) Beware of new alcoholic drinks or brands that may cause a more radical physical reaction than you are accustomed to.
 - b) Beware of mixed drinks not prepared in your presence (especially cheap ones) at bars and discos.
3. Wandering alone in the streets at night, especially if you are intoxicated. You are reminded that Guadalajara is a major metro area, comparable in many ways to New York City.
 4. Asking or accepting rides from new casual acquaintances.
 5. Staying out very late at "*antros*" (bars or discos), because the environment in such establishments, as it does in any part of the world, grows less safe the later it becomes.

If you are careful to take heed of the above warnings, we are sure you will benefit immensely from your stay at UAG, and your stay in the city. Your coordinators at home, officials here, our staff at *Intercambio*, and yourself specially, will feel rewarded with your performance in the program through acquisition of language skills as well as of cultural competence.

Cross-cultural awareness and sensitivity makes one a better citizen of the world and a constructor of global peace.

CULTURAL TIPS

Greetings

The usual greeting is a nod or a handshake, and a kiss on the cheek if you already know the person, although a full embrace between long-time friends after a long absence is common. A polite greeting is expected before asking questions or help. Mexicans are generally very friendly and polite. Most times they'll greet each person individually with a handshake or a kiss, no matter how many people there are! Care should be taken not to impose on their graciousness and exploit their friendliness.

Courtesy and Patience

These are highly valued virtues by "Tapatíos" (native people of Guadalajara), and to Mexicans in general. Please keep them in mind. Strict punctuality is not always practiced, so, do not get restless when you have to wait. It is part of the culture, and the culture is just different.

Dress

Dress is a sign of social status. University students dress more formally than in other countries. Although life is not too formal in general, not dressing up to standards is considered disrespectful and untidy.

At the table

Both hands are usually kept above the table while eating. Guests should not leave directly after a meal; wait for everyone to finish, or, if you are in a hurry, ask to be excused.

Be careful when eating spicy-hot food; to reduce the hot effect use a pinch of salt, milk or bread. Spicy-hot food is called "*picante*", not "*caliente*" which refers only to high temperature.

Remember purified water is always available in all homes, from filters, or you can buy it bottled. Do not be too concerned about it.

Your host will tell you about food preparation and times. Be sure to ask about it if you have questions about schedules. Do not be shy about telling what you like and don't like.

Breakfast or *desayuno*, is usually served from 7 to 8 am on weekdays, and later on weekends. Someone may make breakfast for you, but you may be asked to prepare your own.

Lunch or *comida* is usually served between 2 and 4 pm daily and it is the heavy meal of the day. Families usually eat together.

Dinner or *cena* takes place between 8 and 10 pm and it is usually a light meal. Families may eat together or each member at a different time.

Family life

Living with a host family is not like living in a hotel. Keep your room tidy. It is not like living at home in your country either; be willing to try new customs and ideas. Try being helpful, it will be much appreciated.

Do not invite people over before asking your host for permission. Most families will be happy to meet your friends.

Family members may have regular activities on weekdays and evenings or weekends to which you may be asked to join in. In case you are not asked at all, you may tell them you'd like to join, when it is possible. If you want to go, say: "*Muchas gracias, me encantaría*". If you don't, just say: "*No puedo, muchas gracias, será la próxima vez*". If you want to join, but have not been asked yet, say: "*¿Podría ir con ustedes?*"

Talk to your family if you have any problem. Communication is always the key. Host families understand everything is new to you, so do not be embarrassed or afraid to ask questions. Families can help only if you tell them. If you find it difficult to say it in Spanish, try to write it instead. People will help you, do not worry.

Mexican families tend to be quite large (5 people average) and family unity is very important. Family responsibility often supersedes all others. They have a relatively low divorce rate due to the catholic understanding that marriage is forever and the traditional supportive role of the wife. The father is the undisputed family leader, but the mother is in charge of running the household.

Using the telephone

Mexico's code is **52**, Guadalajara's area code is **33**. Local numbers have 8 digits.

Ask your friends not to call you after 10 at night or before 7 in the morning. Ask them to be aware of the time difference between their city and Guadalajara! Avoid talking for too long; using the phone as if it were yours exclusively is not appreciated. Be willing to take a message if your host family is not home.

Do not place long distance calls without checking with your host first. There are some international phone cards that allow you to call from outside your country to your home dialing a local number and giving a code. The call will then be billed directly to the phone bill to where you are calling to. We think this is the cheapest way to call from Mexico. Please take your time to investigate well before you travel to find the right phone card, because not all international phone cards offer this service and are just for domestic use. You may also call home collect; ask your host for assistance. Some host families have had badly past experiences, so they prefer that you don't make long distance calls that will be billed to their phone bill. Please respect this at all times.

Dating

Traditionally, young couples were always chaperoned, but this practice has significantly diminished. Today, they mostly meet at a chosen place. In urban areas, dating is very similar as in the U. S. However, parental approval of the boyfriend is still important. In most areas, a single girl should not go out alone after dark as it is not well seen neither safe. It is common for Mexican boys to say *piropos* or flattering personal comments to females, however, local females do not show any reaction to *piropos*. Try not to mind them at all to avoid feeling uncomfortable.

Social and economic levels

There is a large disparity between the upper class and the lower classes. About 40% (26% in the U. S.) of the nation's income goes to the richest 10% of the people. In Mexico, 10% of the people live in absolute poverty. The average income in Mexico provides for few luxuries.

Shopping

In Guadalajara it's not only good but sensational! This is the best place in the country to shop for arts and crafts. You can do major shopping on Sundays. Decorative handicrafts with contemporary flair are the best buys. Clothing, shoes, and accessories run a close second. You can find chic boutiques, large department stores, and public markets. Downtown *Mercado Libertad* is one of the largest open markets in the country, sprawling over several blocks.

La Gran Plaza, Plaza Patria, Plaza México, Plaza Pabellón, Plaza Galerías, Plaza del Sol, Centro Magno and *Plaza Andares* are large modern malls where you can find almost anything plus movie theaters. And for shoes, the best place to visit is *Galería del Calzado*. Do not forget to visit the towns near Guadalajara. You will be surprised!

Time

Mexicans' concept of time is relaxed, although this is changing a bit every year. Generally, they feel that individuals are more important than schedules, so you will find things do not always start on time, and some events or appointments are not usually on the dot. Classes at the University, however, do start on time.

If a visitor or business associate stops in unexpectedly, most Mexicans will stop to talk regardless of how long it will take. Business contacts are made during the 2-3 hour lunch break. These are social meetings for the most part, leaving business for the last minutes. Mexicans are very hospitable, and will usually find something to serve to visitors in their homes. Gift giving is important and serenading is still popular, especially on special occasions such as birthdays, mother's day, etc.

Population

The population in Mexico is about 95 million, the 11th largest country in the world. The capital, Mexico City, has about 20 million inhabitants and is the most populated city in the world. Guadalajara has about 4 million people and is the 2nd largest in the country. Population in Mexico is growing at an annual rate of 3.1% (1% in US). Density rate is 76 people per square mile (58 in US). About 60% of the people are *mestizos* (Spanish and Indian blood). About 30% are pure Indian and 9% are of European ancestry. Most Mexicans tend to identify with their Indian as well as their Spanish heritage.

Religion

Most Mexicans (97%) are Roman Catholics. The Catholic Church is very much a part of the culture, attitudes and history of most Mexicans. There are other religious denominations in Guadalajara. If you want to find out about the different services, look in the Yellow Pages' English index or under "*Iglesias*".

Travel in the region

A city tour will help you get oriented. The *State Handicrafts Store* near *Parque Agua Azul* is very good and they can ship your buy to your country.

The tiny towns of *Tlaquepaque* and *Tonalá* are pure paradise. Market days in Tonalá are on Thursdays and Sundays. Tlaquepaque used to be just a small center for glassblowers and other artisans until a few years ago when charming shops and boutiques began to spring up along the narrow streets. If you want to rest, you may have a cool drink under the arches at *El Parián*, while listening to *mariachis*. Store hours are generally from 10 to 1 and from 4 to 7.

Day trips to *Lago de Chapala*, the largest lake in Mexico, and to the artisan's center of *Ajijic* are the most popular. Tours pass through communities where many retired Americans and Canadians reside.

A trip to the town of *Tequila* to see how the national drink is made is also fun. Those who really like to explore can visit the colonial town of *Zapopan*, the rushing waterfall at *Barranca de Oblatos* (canyon) and the archaeological ruins at *Ixtépete*. If you like the mountains and the woods, you will enjoy visiting *Tapalpa* or *Mazamitla* over a weekend.

Some of these outings may be organized by your program, or by the *Club Internacional*, so watch for them in schedules or signs around campus, or suggest them. If, during your stay the organizers happen to be on vacation, organize a trip yourself. Get together with a group of friends, visit a travel agency, and be ready to have fun!

Lodging

The city has many excellent hotels, from 5 stars to modest hotels and guest houses. Take a look at the yellow pages. The index comes in English too, and they have listings on hotels in other cities and towns.

Tourism offices

- *Secretaría de Turismo 01 800 90392*
- *Secretaría de Turismo del Estado 01 800 363 2200 or 3658 2222*
- *Dirección General de Turismo de la Ciudad 3616 3332, 3616 3333 or 3616 3335*

Dining and entertainment

Guadalajara's dining pleasures are definitely Big City's. You can find anything you want. Many restaurants are located in converted private homes, so atmospheres tend to be comfortable and cozy. International ethnic restaurants abound. As lunch is the main meal of the day, most places are open for lunch and dinner. If you want to observe local scene along with your meal, have breakfast between 9 to 11 am, lunch between 3 and 5 pm and dinner between 9 and 10:30 pm.

Symphonies, concerts, opera, folkloric ballet and theatre (in Spanish), are just part of Guadalajara's many cultural attractions. You can always check the paper, OCIO Magazine, PUBLICO newspaper (both sold at news stands), or ask around; people will be glad to help you out.

Many performances take place in the world-famous *Teatro Degollado* and in *Hospicio Cabañas* (Cultural Center), a restored 18th century orphanage with famous murals painted by José Clemente Orozco.

For a very informal and relaxed atmosphere, *La Peña Cuicacalli* is a good choice. It's an artists' bar where every night you will enjoy live performances of famous groups, soloists, and entertainers with latin-american style. They serve wines, beer and exotic drinks, as well as a number of mexican snacks and dishes.

During October, artists and musicians come from throughout the world to perform in the popular *Fiestas de Octubre*, a month-long cultural celebration. Mexican fiestas take place at major hotels and some at UAG, year round. There are also, the *Festival Internacional del Mariachi* (Mariachis International Festival) at the end of August and the beginning of September, with groups from different countries coming to perform; FIL, the International Book Festival; *Tlaqueparte*, a international arts and crafts exposition organized both by UAG and several government agencies; and many more.

Weather

Our city has one of the best climates year round; this is why all kinds of outdoor sports abound. From March to November we have spring like temperatures, being quite warm and pleasant hot during the summer.

Bring light clothing, but remember you must dress up nicely (no shorts) and wear shoes (or dress sandals) for classes.

You will need an umbrella or raincoat in July, August, and September. Our rainy season, though warm, produces quite heavy rain. From December to February it gets quite cool and cold at night, so you need sweaters and warm jackets or coats.

Bring dress clothes, too. To go out to nice places and some private events you should dress up; you will feel more comfortable.

TRADITIONAL GUADALAJARA

In this society where marriage and family are relevant above other important matters to most of the population, there is an unwritten code of respect between men and women:

- Girls do not go out to bars or discos alone; they go with friends, trying whenever possible to have a male companion who sees that each person gets home safely.
- Do not walk alone in the street at night or return home by yourself. Avoid heavy drinking, vulgar dress and behavior that call the attention of troublemakers.
- Plan ordinary fun activities like sports, cultural, movies, malls, walks, so that you participate more in the city and family life, rather than enclose yourself in the “English Bubble” of night life and English speaking companions. You didn’t come all this way for that! Besides, this is how most of your money will rapidly go.
- Be careful about casual acquaintances you make in the street. It may seem absurd or unimportant to screen the people you want to make friends with and bring to your Mexican home, but it is vitally important, not only for the relationship, but for your own safety and that of your host family.
- By Mexican standards, personal appearance, education, and good manners are the first impression. Reference of good family and work come next. Avoid people who are over-confident but lack family and school references, or who disregards the most basic code of good behavior. Regardless of your self-confidence and trust in your own cultural patterns, when immersed in a new culture, you are a minority; you are vulnerable.
- A friend of the opposite sex invited to your Mexican home is welcome to the common areas of the house within reasonable hours, but the bedroom and late hours are definitely unacceptable. Do not make war with ideas. Respect for the new culture will not change you, it will make you a better person, and you will take a definite step towards cultural competence.

Not only must you observe these unwritten codes for yourself, but also show respect for your Mexican hosts who are being considerate in your situation as a guest.



We hope this information will be very useful to you. If we may, we ask of you to please **write and tell us if you think we missed something, or if you have any useful comments** so we will be able to include it in our next edition, and to use it in our next Orientation Day.



Dirección de Programas Internacionales
Departamento de Intercambio Universitario

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

I hereby declare that I have read and understood the contents of the INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' HANDBOOK, and will follow as a student, all regulations contained therein as dictated by UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE GUADALAJARA's Officials, Teachers, and Administrative Staff.

Full Name and signature: _____

School coming from: _____

Period of study: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS SIGNED DOCUMENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION MATERIAL

THANK YOU!