

# High School in Mexico

## 2009-2010 DATES AND PRICES\*

Semester Program

Aug 2009 – Jan 2010: \$4,150\*

Academic Year Program

Aug 2009 – May 2010: \$6,200\*

*\* Airfare not included. We reserve the right to adjust program prices if there is a major change in the currency exchange rate. In this event, applicant may cancel and receive a full refund.*



## ***Welcome to Mexico!***

Live the life of a Mexican teenager and bring your Spanish to life while you make new friends, share their culture and discover new things about yourself and your world. Program fees include: homestay placement with meals; placement in a Mexican high school, including all tuition, school meals, basic books and basic uniform (if necessary); comprehensive medical insurance; domestic travel to and from your host family in Mexico; pre-departure orientation materials; and on-going counseling and support in Mexico.

## ***Is this program for you?***

Apply for this program if you are ready to accept and adapt to the culturally different lifestyle of a host family, community and school, to maintain acceptable academic standards at school, and to participate actively in school and family life. In addition, applicants should:

- be 16 or 17 years of age (students can not turn 18 during the program)
- have a B average in school
- have studied at least 3 years of high school level Spanish
- be in good physical and mental health

## ***What is the Mexican high school system like?***

In Mexico, Junior High School/Secondary is three years for 12-15 year olds, and Senior High School is three years for 16-18 year olds. Students attend university for 4-6 years and then they spend around 3 years getting their masters. There are both public and private schools and every school has two semesters. The school year begins in the beginning of September and the first semester runs until January. The second semester is from January to the end of May.

Most high school students have at least five classes every day. The classes vary with grade level. The grading system is based on a scale from 0 – 10, 10 being the highest. Classes usually start at 8:00am and end at 2:30pm, Monday through Friday.

*See the FAQs →*

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Where will I stay in Mexico?** Students are placed with families in Mexico City or nearby cities and towns.

**How are host families chosen?** Host families are carefully screened and selected by our partner organization in Mexico. Like you, families fill out detailed application forms and are interviewed in their home by a local homestay coordinator. They receive comprehensive preparation prior to their student's arrival.

**Are Mexican families paid to host?** No, host families do not receive money for hosting. Most are middle class families with both parents working.

**What if I have a problem with my family?** You'll have an experienced support network there to help. Your local homestay coordinator will meet with you for an orientation shortly after you arrive, and will contact you regularly about your school and homestay. He/she will also be in touch with your host family, and is always available to help with counseling and problem-solving.

**Will my host family meet me in Mexico City?** You will be met on arrival in Mexico City by a representative of our partner organization. They will arrange for your travel from the airport to your homestay.

**Can I participate in any clubs or sports?** There are fewer school-sponsored clubs and sports than in the U.S. However, sports are popular in Mexico and you may be able to join local sports teams for soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc. that are not directly affiliated with your school.

**What if I get sick?** All students are covered by a comprehensive medical insurance policy. You will receive an insurance booklet and claim form before departure. If you need to see a doctor or visit a hospital, take these along.

**When is the application deadline?** The application deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup> for programs beginning in August. We suggest you apply as soon as possible to reserve a space in the program and to give yourself time to prepare for the experience.

**How do I apply?** Complete the initial application and return it to Andeo with a \$500 deposit. We will then send you a detailed application packet, including recommendation forms for you teachers. Once we have received the completed application and all of your references we will schedule a personal interview with you. Following that, your application will be forwarded to Mexico and you will be notified about acceptance within a few weeks.

**Who should not apply for this program?** In order to assure a successful experience for students and for the host families, students who are currently experiencing excessive behavior problems, drug or alcohol abuse, or eating disorders; or students who have experienced these issues within the past year should not apply. Students who develop these problems prior to departure will not be allowed to participate.

**When are payments due?** The first payment of \$500 is due with the initial application. An additional \$2000 is due with your completed application. You will receive a detailed schedule of the remaining payments in the application packet. The balance of fees will be due two months before departure. If you are not accepted into the program, all fees you have paid will be refunded.

**Are there additional costs?** Participants are responsible for their own passport and travel document fees, round-trip airfare to Mexico (average cost \$750), materials for school (approximately \$100), local travel, and monthly spending money.

**How much spending money should I bring?** We recommend that you budget about \$100/month for your stay, in addition to money for books. You will be responsible for buying any clothing and personal care items you may need, and of course you may want to buy some souvenirs.

**Do I need a visa?** Yes, all high school exchange students must apply for a student visa before entering Mexico. Andeo and the organization in Mexico will provide applicants with the necessary documentation after acceptance to the program. Students are responsible for submitting this documentation to the correct Mexican Consulate. Residents from most states must apply *in person* at their designated consulate.

Andeo - International Homestays

620 SW 5th Ave, Suite 625

Portland, OR 97204

Tel: 503.274.1776

Toll-free: 1.800.274.6007

Fax: 503.274.9004

info@andeo.org

www.andeo.org

