Program Overview

Learn about the Oaxacan population in Wilmington and in Mexico. Students will have the opportunity to experience Oaxacan culture and food, visit important cultural sites in Mexico, interact with and learn from Oaxacan immigrants in Wilmington and their family members in Oaxaca, and learn firsthand the effects of immigration and globalization on families and communities during this 10-day program.

Academics

Students will enroll in SPN 394 (3 credits) during Spring 2017. This class will meet weekly at UNCW throughout the spring semester (15 contact hours) and the remaining contact hours will occur in Mexico. Students will explore the effects of immigration and globalization in North Carolina and Oaxaca through study of immigration patterns, demographics, policies, and one-on-one interviews with Oaxacans living in Wilmington and in Oaxaca. The majority of the Mexican immigrants in this region of North Carolina are from Oaxaca which will allow students the opportunity to learn from immigrants residing in Wilmington and then travel to their home state/country to meet their relatives, as well as immigrants who have returned to Oaxaca from the U.S. This course fulfills the Explorations Beyond the Classroom component of University Studies as well as the Applied Learning requirement for the Spanish major.

Program Facts

Location: Oaxaca City, Oaxaca, Mexico
Tentative Program Dates: May 7-16, 2017

Program Leader(s):
Amanda Boomershine
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Application

Application Deadline: December 16, 2016

- To apply, log in at: https://itsappserv02.uncw.edu/intprogapp/ and select your program of choice
- A $500 non-refundable deposit is due at time of application

Eligibility

Students are eligible to apply for this program if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Degree-seeking student
- Good judicial standing
- 2.50+ GPA at time of application
- Prerequisite: successful completion of SPN 202 or 215
- All students must enroll in the SPN 394 course during Spring 2017
Location

The home base for the trip will be the capital of Oaxaca – the city of Oaxaca. There, students will explore its many markets, gardens, zócalos, and historic buildings. Students will also have the opportunity to learn how to cook traditional Oaxacan dishes, see how traditional wooden figurines are made, and visit a ceramic workshop. All students will stay with a local Oaxacan family and daily class meetings will take place at the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca. Additionally, students will visit sites outside of the city including Teotitlán del Valle, Mitla, Hierve el Agua, and Monte Albán. Teotitlán del Valle, founded in 1465 by the Zapotecs, has managed to preserve the Zapotec culture and language, and is known for its hand-woven rugs and delicious mole. Both Mitla and Monte Albán are archeological sites dating back 10,000 years. Hierve el Agua boasts natural rock formations in the shape of waterfalls over cliffs, as well as natural pools.

Program Activities & Features

Program participants will meet daily at the Instituto Cultural Oaxaca in Oaxaca City. Afternoons and weekends will be devoted to visiting sites in the historic city of Oaxaca, participating in cultural activities, and traveling to Teotitlán del Valle, Mitla, Hierve el Agua, and Monte Albán.

Estimated Program Fee: $880

Program Fee Includes:
- Ground transportation in Mexico
- Lodging with local families
- Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Excursions and entrance fees

Additional Costs:
- Roundtrip airfare
- Ground transportation in the U.S. (to/from airport)
- Spending money (souvenirs, snacks)

Federal and state financial aid may be applied toward this program. Even if you are normally ineligible for financial aid, you should submit a financial aid application (FAFSA). You may find that you are eligible for additional funding.

UNCW students may also apply for a UNCW Education Abroad Grant and additional study abroad scholarships. Grant applications and additional information are available at: www.uncw.edu/international/abroad/aid.html