

Wanted: Future International Documentary Film Makers!

MOUNT ROYAL – TEC de MONTERREY

Study Abroad in Mexico – June 1 – July 5, 2019



MRU and TEC students working on their documentary film, Pepinadores – Trash Collectors, June, 2017

“Amazing experience” for up to 12 students

Documentary filmmaking is enjoying an astounding renaissance. Mount Royal University journalism and broadcast students have an opportunity to break into this rewarding area of media production in an established, award-winning field school in Mexico.

MRU and its long-standing partner TEC de Monterrey, Guadalajara, will offer a special program for students interested in documentary production. MRU students will have the extraordinary

opportunity to spend five weeks in Guadalajara, and complete two courses towards their degrees, while exploring the culture, history and contemporary life in Mexico. One class guides participants through the rich and rewarding experience of documentary production, culminating in an original and authentic video project. The other explores Mexico's rich history and culture and transfers as an equivalent to LAST 2202, a tier 3, cluster 2 General Education course. This program has been previously offered to Mount Royal communication students in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2015 and 2017.

Our website -- <http://mrumexico.ca/> -- provides some background on the most recent field

school experience, including the video documentaries themselves, and links to additional articles, photos and information. To date more than 120 Mount Royal and TEC students have come together and completed 27 documentary projects. Working in mixed teams of Mexican and Canadian students, documentary crews have examined such issues as LGBTQ rights in Catholic Mexico, the punk music scene in Guadalajara, and graffiti as an art form in the Mexican muralist tradition. Other documentaries have explored cultural themes such as



Lucha Libre, Mexican wrestling, the subject of one student documentary, and a fun night out for 2017 field school crew.

Mariachi music and Lucha Libre, the Mexican-styled professional wrestling. Working in mixed groups has also resulted in cross-cultural benefits with students from each country learning more about each other, while developing personal bonds that in many cases have endured long after the course ended. The Alberta Minister of Advanced Education awarded this program a 2007 International Education Award of Distinction. Journalism and Broadcast Chair Dr. Brad Clark will lead the documentary production course again in 2019, while a TEC professor presents the Mexican history course.

Guadalajara

Guadalajara is Mexico's second largest city at about 5 million people. Founded in the 16th century the city is a cultural and historical centre as well as a significant commercial hub. The metropolitan area comprises several distinct municipalities, each with its own culture. In the past students from MRU have enjoyed visiting open markets in Tlaquepaque and Tonalá, and watching Indigenous dancing in Zapopan on Sundays, while also touring historic sites and

attending concerts, and theatre. Check out this link to learn more about the city <http://allaboutguadalajara.com>

The Guadalajara campus of TEC de Monterrey is located in the municipality of Zapopan about a 30-minute drive to Guadalajara's central plazas. The campus is largely open to the elements and contains gardens, recreation facilities and Wi-Fi-equipped patios. MRU students will live among the palm trees and lush greenery in modern dorms on campus. The entire campus is inside a secure, well-monitored perimeter.



Student residence at TEC Guadalajara, where MRU students stay during the field school.

How to Apply

SPACE IS LIMITED: Applications will be evaluated and accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Up to 12 students will be selected. To apply send a resume as well as a cover letter outlining why you want to participate and how the experience fits with your interests and goals to Brad Clark (bclark@mtroyal.ca).

Program Details

Arrival date: Saturday, June 1, 2019

Classes begin: Monday, June 3, 2019

Departure date: Saturday, July 5, 2019

Course descriptions:

I. INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM PROJECTS (COMM 3799 – 3 CREDITS)

COMM 3799 is an intermediate to senior level video documentary production course that will result in the creation of documentaries by teams of TEC and MRU students. Check with your program adviser to see where this course might fit into your requirements as a possible equivalent, GenEd, or elective.

Course Goals include:

- Planning and production processes essential to a successful documentary film;
- Completion of a documentary from start to finish, including script writing, interviewing, shooting and editing, and post-production;
- Experience working in teams in a cross-cultural setting;
- Ability to critically analyze the effort required to successfully work in teams and to complete a successful project of this scope.

The documentary course begins Monday June 3, with classes Monday through Friday for five weeks, and a final presentation day to wind up the experience.

2. MEXICAN HISTORY - CULTURE (LAST 2202 – 3 CREDITS)

This TEC course transfers to MRU as LAST 2202 (Intro to Mexican and Latin American Cultures) and will satisfy a general education tier 3 cluster 2 or elective requirement. International students attending TEC de Monterrey's summer school in Guadalajara are introduced to the rich tapestry of Mexican culture, and the fascinating political history of one of Canada's most important trading partners. Beginning with the arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s, students will consider key aspects of the colonization of what is now Mexico, and then focus on Mexico's fight for independence, the revolution of 1917 and Mexico's political life today.



Incredible muralist art of Jose Orozco in Guadalajara's municipal buildings.

Program Costs:

Calculating the cost to a student participating in a field school is based on the following;

1. Program costs; cover items MRU needs payout on the student's behalf, including the student's room and meals in Mexico, tuition fees for the Mexican History course, travel costs for participating MRU faculty, and an MRU international education office administrative fee.
2. Personal costs; includes such items as flights, passport, travel insurance, additional meals, and optional excursions. MRU does not collect this money in advance, and each student is responsible for managing these costs.
3. Contingency/emergency fees; MRU collects a small fee to be used by the professor to cover unexpected costs, and the unused balance is returned to the students at the end of the field school; MRU also mandates that students have access to a minimum of \$500 US personal contingency, which s/he may or may not need use.
4. Tuition fees; Mexico 2019 requires students pay for one 3-credit course at MRU the field school courses can be used toward graduation. The fee for the second course, as noted above, is included in the cost of the room and board in Guadalajara.

We provide students with an aggregated budget plan, but the final cost could be lower or higher dependent upon the student's personal choices and needs. Side trips to Puerto Vallarta, Guanajuato and Tequila are offered at an additional cost and details will be provided in program information sessions.

Insurance:

MRU requires that students must purchase health insurance.

Program Fee Cost and Payment Process:

International Study Tour/Fields School Fees are payable in person at the Fees Office. Please indicate that payment is for an International Study Tour/Field School. The program fee payable to MRU in installments includes the student's room and meals in Mexico, a program contingency fee, tuition fees for the Mexican History course, travel costs for participating MRU faculty, and an MRU international education office administrative fee.

1st Payment -- November 30/2018 <i>(Non-Refundable Deposit)</i>	\$255
2nd Payment -- January 15/2019	\$1175
3rd Payment -- March 15/2019	\$1275
Program fee total:	\$2605

Other Costs:

"Other" costs are expenses a student will have that are not covered in the program fee, and are not collected or managed by MRU. These include:

Airfare:	\$900 estimated
Tuition for one 3-credit course	\$650 estimated

Travel insurance: Estimated	\$65-100 ; should be comprehensive travel/health plan
Personal contingency fee:	\$500 total, \$200 US cash that the student carries, and immediate access to an additional \$300 if needed
Additional expenses (Additional meals, and general expenses, does not include additional travel, or side trips organized by our partner in Mexico.)	\$30 per day estimated, or \$1050
Estimated other costs total	\$3100
Total estimated field school cost	\$5805
NEW! \$1,000 International education grant	-\$1000
FINAL Student cost	<u>\$4805</u>

(A detailed Excel budget plan can be provided.)

Tuition:

Tuition fees for the Mexican history are included in the \$2,605 CAN program fee charged by TEC. Tuition fees for the documentary course are payable at the MRU Fees Office by the appropriate semester deadline (Tuition 3 credits – cost \$650 approximately). Please note that fees may be adjusted by MRU, and could be a few percentage points more by spring 2019. This field school is student loan eligible, and applicants should consult with the loans office.

Airfare, Side trips and expenses:

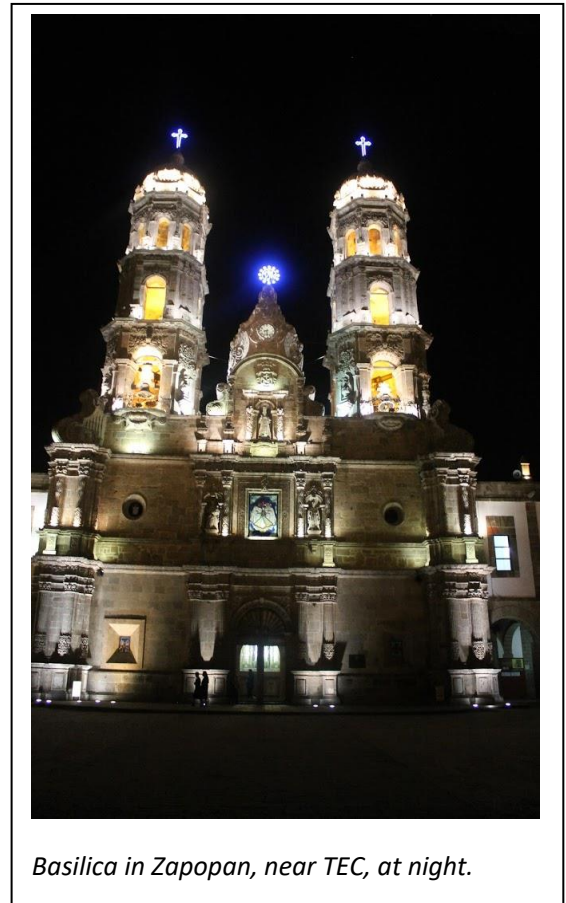
Students will be responsible for airfare, meals outside of on-campus arrangements, passport and spending money. Airfare will cost approximately \$900. Other costs include spending money (\$30 per day depending on the student’s own habits). Students need bear all costs for any other additional personal side-trips, or for any costs as a result of staying longer than the program dates.

Accommodation:

MRU students will reside in the residences on campus at TEC Guadalajara. This will be arranged by MRU and TEC. Students will stay in shared accommodations (two to a room), and will receive one meal daily Mon. to Fri., as part of the process. Student residences have kitchen facilities to prepare quick meals. There are major grocery stores right across the street from TEC Guadalajara.

Application Process:

Students are required to submit an application letter to Brad Clark, explaining why they want to participate, and how the experience fits with their interests and goals. The letter should be sent as a PDF to bclark@mtroyal.ca



Basilica in Zapopan, near TEC, at night.

Logistical support:

Logistical support is provided by the Office of International Education. Please contact Trinda Guillet, International Projects Coordinator at (403) 440-5002 or by email (tguillet@mtroyal.ca) for more information.

Air Transportation and Arrival:

Students will be responsible for booking air transit from Calgary to Guadalajara. Students arrive in Guadalajara on Saturday June 1, 2019, and should consult with their professor on their planned return date before booking a flight.



MRU and Tec students enjoying late night editing... and pizza!

Documents:

Student visas are not required. Students will enter on a tourist visa, which they obtain on arrival. Students will require a passport valid until at least January 2020. The entry to Mexico process will be explained to students at the pre-departure student orientation.

For more information or questions:

Contact Brad Clark, associate professor and chair of Journalism and Broadcast Media Studies at 403-440-5696, bclark@mtroyal.ca

MRU Mexican Field Schools website:

A detailed account of the last two field schools in Guadalajara, including the documentaries produced by students, is available at <http://mrumexico.ca/>