



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



MRU - UNIVERSIDAD DE GUANAJUATO SUMMER LANGUAGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM Guanajuato, México Summer 2012

The purpose of this program is to provide full-time MRU employees with the opportunity to: improve their Spanish language skills; learn more about our partner institution, the Universidad de Guanajuato, Mexico and the education systems in Mexico; experience Mexican culture in all its aspects and explore ideas for further developing the internationalization of the MRU curriculum through joint projects with the Universidad de Guanajuato.

Mount Royal University has had a joint program for faculty and staff exchange with the University of Guanajuato, Mexico since 2003. Through this program, six full-time MRU employees from Mount Royal have the opportunity to participate in the Summer Spanish Immersion Program at the Universidad de Guanajuato and six full-time faculty or staff from Universidad de Guanajuato participates in the 2012 Summer English Immersion Program at MRU.

SUMMER SPANISH IMMERSION 2012 4 Week Program

June 4th – 29th 2012 or July 2nd - 27th 2012

THE UNIVERSIDAD DE GUANAJUATO

The Universidad de Guanajuato was founded in 1732 by the Society of Jesuits, and financed by Josefa Teresa de Busto y Moya. By authorization of King Felipe V of Spain, it was officially recognized on August 20, 1744 with the name of “La Santísima Trinidad”. In 1828, the institution was transferred to the Government of Guanajuato, and later in 1870 became a state college. In 1945, it became the Universidad de Guanajuato. Since then, the Universidad de Guanajuato has demonstrated constant academic and demographic development. <http://www.ugto.mx>

THE CITY OF GUANAJUATO

Guanajuato is the capital of the State of Guanajuato and is a university town. It is located about 234 miles northwest of Mexico City, with an altitude of 6,583 feet. It is a historical and picturesque town which has preserved much of its colonial charm. The city is a maze of cobble-stone streets and alleys that wind around steep hillsides and beautiful plazas creating an enjoyable place to walk. Guanajuato is known for its climate, scenery, subterranean streets, and an international cultural event known as the Cervantino Festival. The city exemplifies the cultural values of Mexico and the architectural splendor of the Spanish colonial period. It has been a major mining centre for centuries. Since 1988, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site. <http://www.guanajuato-turistico.com>



PROGRAM INFORMATION: There are three levels of Spanish instruction offered during this Summer Spanish Immersion Program – Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced.

This program is not suitable for new beginners or those fluent in Spanish. Spanish is the language of instruction and the instructor may not be able to speak English. All course materials are in Spanish. Language classes are complemented with optional workshops, tours, and dance classes. There may be an additional charge for these activities.

Upon arrival, participants will be tested and placed in the appropriate level.

LANGUAGE LEARNING: Guanajuato is a city where little English is spoken. Therefore, all beginners are strongly advised to take beginner/basic Spanish prior to participation. For information about Credit-Free MRU Spanish courses offered in the Winter 2012 please see:

<http://www.mtroyal.ca/ProgramsCourses/ContinuingEducation/languages/world/#spanish>

FINANCIAL TERMS: The Universidad de Guanajuato is not responsible for payment of salary for participants in the exchange. Therefore, MRU participants should make prior arrangements with their supervisors and departments regarding dates, workload, vacation, etc.

TUITION: Program fees will be waived by the Universidad de Guanajuato under the terms of the bilateral agreement.

AIRFARE & PERSONAL EXPENSES: Participants will be responsible for airfare, meals not included in home stay, immunization, passport, and spending money.

ACCOMMODATION: Under the agreement, the Universidad de Guanajuato will waive room and board expenses to participants in the exchange. Room and board will consist of a home stay arranged by the University, with a local family and include double occupancy with two meals a day. Please note there is an extra cost for single occupancy.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The MRU extended benefits plan provides out of country medical coverage. However, additional coverage can be obtained from the Office of International Education, if required.

DOCUMENTS & IMMUNIZATIONS: Exchange participants must have a valid passport. Visas for language study are not required in Mexico. It is advised that participants obtain a HEP A/B immunization prior to departure.

FACILITIES: During the summer months access to the facilities at the Universidad de Guanajuato is limited.



ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS: This opportunity is open to all full-time and fixed term employees of MRU with a minimum of one year experience.

To apply, please submit a letter of intent, indicating your interest and how your participation will contribute to the internationalization of your department or area. This must be accompanied by a letter of support from your Chair/Manager and a letter of support from the Dean/Director.

All letters should be submitted to Dianne MacDonald, Manager, International Projects, International Education, (Room EB 3021, Tel: 440-6791) or by email dmacdonald@mtroyal.ca

Applications will be reviewed by a committee and recommended to Deans' Council by Lorna Smith, Director, International Education.

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT: Upon acceptance, the Office of International Education will correspond with the Universidad de Guanajuato on behalf of the applicant regarding registration, home stay arrangements, airport pickup, as well as any other necessary logistical arrangements. An orientation will also be set up during the Spring semester.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Successful applicants will be notified of their selection by December 23, 2011