

## Information for Exchange Students at Tec de Monterrey, Campus Puebla

### Tec de Monterrey, Campus Puebla

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#### Overview

Campus Puebla, located in one of the best districts of the city, opened its doors in 2003. On 25 hectares you find 4 buildings with classrooms and offices, the Convention Center and the Technology Park. All facilities are equipped with state of the art technology. Additionally, there are two auditoriums, a cafeteria and library, a copy shop, work and study areas, and 7 laboratories. Furthermore, we put at your disposal a modern gymnasium with dressing rooms, showers, lockers and ample sports fields for soccer, basketball, volleyball and tennis.



At Tec de Monterrey, Campus Puebla the following study programs are currently offered:

- 2 high school programs
- 23 undergraduate programs • 1 masters programs
- 14 virtual masters programs

Today, around 5,000 students are studying at the Tec de Monterrey, Campus Puebla. However, class size does not exceed 40 students and the contact with teachers is personal and open. You can participate in student groups or attend free classes of a wide variety of sports and cultural workshops.

## Services

The campus **cafeteria** offers a daily breakfast and lunch menu. Furthermore, you can get tacos, sushi, snacks and more. Additionally, there are food stalls in the main building where they sell fresh salads, sandwiches, juices and coffee.

The **library** is located in the rear of the main building and opens from 7 to 21 hrs, even longer in exam periods. On the second floor of the library you can find desks and separate rooms for studying or teamwork. There is also CASTI (Care and Service Center Information Technology) which provides technical support, for example, new software installations on your laptops or other problems. You can also make use of the computers and printers. In the basement of the library you can find the Auditorium and in the back part a coffee shop.

At the campus, there is also a **nursing** in Aulas 2, with two doctors on a schedule from 8:30 to 18 hrs. If you suffer from any ailment, you can go there to get a free examination and even some medicine, for example for a headache.

On the third floor of the main building is the **Dirección de Asuntos Estudiantiles (DAE)**. There you can register for the different courses and workshops offered. There is a wide range of sports courses such as football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, spinning, yoga and cardio. Within the cultural workshops you can attend to different courses of dance and theater, music lessons and audiovisual workshops.



## Residencias

The residence hall is located at about 10 minutes from the campus and offers a comfortable place to live with other students from different states of Mexico and also from abroad. You can rent a personal suite or a shared apartment with two rooms. In addition, there is Internet access throughout the building and housekeeping. There is also provided a free shuttle service between the campus and residence hall. Furthermore, there is the possibility of staying in the residence hall during the first days while finding your permanent accommodation for 150 pesos per night (9 Euros).

## ExpresoTec

The ExpresoTec is a means of transportation for students from the Tec de Monterrey. Buses have different routes throughout the city. Once you are here at the campus, we can inform you about

the different routes. A ticket costs 6 pesos, which is about 0.40 Euros. It is also possible to get a semester ticket, which costs 740 pesos (45 Euros).



### Course of the semester

Our academic periods are divided into the spring semester from January to May, summer school and the fall semester from August to December. Summer courses are generally held from early June to mid-July. The semesters begin in early January and early August respectively. Each semester is divided into four periods (parciales), which means you have three midterm exams and a final exam per semester. Moreover, in most subjects, each “parcial” you have to develop assignments in teamwork. Final exams are in mid-May and early December.

In Mexico the educational model has some differences in relation to educational models of other countries. In the Tec de Monterrey the compulsory attendance is common practice. During the semester you may have two weeks of absence, with a high grade point average you get one more week. Also, it is normal for teachers to give homework and count them as part of the evaluation.

## Mexico

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### History

Mexican culture is influenced by pre-Columbian roots, as well as the Spanish conquest and the post colonial period. That's why it is important and interesting to know about the history of Mexico in order to understand better the cultural differences.

The first settlement in Mexico dates back about 20.000 years. The oldest culture is the Olmec, which represents the origin of all other indigenous cultures. Around the year 0 there begin to develop more complex cultures, from which emerged the Mayans and Aztecs. Even today, many customs and celebrations are attributed to the traditions of those times.

In 1519 Hernán Cortés came to Mexico and traveled from Veracruz to the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan located in nowadays Mexico City. At first, the Aztecs believed, because of their traditions, that the Spanish were Gods. Therefore, initially they offered little resistance, but made

valuable gifts. When the Aztecs realized it was a confusion and that the Spanish were not Gods, they began to rebel and fight against them. After many battles in which the Spanish almost had to give up, they managed to win at the end of a long siege of the capital Tenochtitlan in 1521. In 1535 Mexico officially joined the Spanish crown and was named Viceroyalty of New Spain.

In 1810 began the struggle for independence from the Spanish, led by Miguel Hidalgo. Conservatives and liberals allied because of the common belief that Mexico had to go its own way. In 1821, after 11 years of struggle, finally was signed the Treaty of Cordoba, in which the independence of Mexico was sealed.

The dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz that lasted more than 30 years, a period in which the few rich got richer and the rest of the population lived in poverty, was the reason why in 1910 the Mexican Revolution began. The army was defeated by the revolutionary forces (in the north led by Pancho Villa and by Emiliano Zapata in the south). However, the revolutionary leaders had very different aims, so the conflicts lasted 20 years. During this time, many of the presidents that changed frequently were killed and also other people.

In 1930, came to power the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which was founded a year earlier. Until 2000, the PRI was the only party in power, led by presidents who change every six years. In 2000, for the first time a president of PAN, the opposition party, won, ending the 70 years of PRI government.



## Culture

The Mexican culture is influenced by pre-Columbian structures, the colonial era and the social conflicts in the early 20th century. The following points will give you an idea of the characteristics of Mexican culture.

Mexicans have a strong national pride. The cultural celebrations are important and people are proud of their country, culture and traditions. Usually, there are no prejudices against foreigners in Mexico. On the contrary, Mexicans show great interest in foreign people, their culture and traditions. This openness is also reflected in invitations and phrases like "Mi casa es tu casa." As a foreigner, you will often be asked whether you like Mexico. In this case, we suggest emphasizing on aspects of the country you like, in order to not hurt the national pride.

Mexicans are very friendly. Verbal and non verbal politeness is very important. Before coming to the main point, you ask about the well-being, family or the upcoming holidays. If you do not start a conversation with this kind of small talk, it can be considered rude. So, going directly to the main point should be avoided, because you can make an impolite impression.

Also time management is different. In Mexico, people are more focused on the present and do not plan everything in advance. Popular answers are the famous "mañana" or "ahorita." If a Mexican says "tomorrow", he is not necessarily talking about the next day, but about the near future. Foreigners often put this on a level with unreliability, but it is just a different way to see time.

These are only generalizations about Mexican culture. Hopefully they help you to understand and judge certain behaviors in Mexico. If you keep the points above mentioned in mind, the interaction certainly will be successful and fun on both sides. The great kindness of Mexicans makes many things easy anyway.



## Security

Despite the bad news in the media, Mexico is not more dangerous than any other country if you follow certain rules. With some caution, you can reduce the risk of a criminal incident to a minimum. One should know the potential hazards to behave appropriately.

Precautionary measures:

1. In general you should be aware of your surroundings and do not go alone on the street at night.
2. Valuables should be kept in a closed bag and not exhibited (e.g. expensive phones, laptops, wallets, etc.)
3. It is mandatory to carry always an official identification (passport or visa) to be identifiable. To avoid carrying the original, you can also present a copy. We recommend laminating a copy of the passport.
4. If you drive you must always carry the original license.
5. We recommend using only registered taxi companies and arranging for the taxi by phone (tel: 247 50 18). It is advised not to take taxis on the street.
6. In case of an assault or robbery one should never resist, but hand out immediately the items they want.

## Puebla

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### General information

Puebla lies at the feet of the Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl volcanoes, at about 120 kilometers southeast of the Mexican capital. The city, with its 1.5 million inhabitants, is an important industrial, cultural and educational center of Mexico for the central and south-east regions.

Known as the fourth largest and most important city of Mexico, archiepiscopal headquarters and University nucleus, Puebla was also declared “World Heritage Site” by the UNESCO.

Puebla can sometimes feel as if the colonial era in Mexico never quite ended, considering its fantastic colonial center, a stunning cathedral and a wealth of beautiful churches. More than a thousand colonial buildings are adorned with the “azulejos” (painted ceramic tiles) for which the city is famous, and furthermore it has a long culinary history that can be explored in any restaurant or food stall.



A few kilometers away is the town of Cholula. A prominent symbol of the place is the Pyramid of Cholula in the center of town. She is 65 meters high and has a side length of 400 meters. Today the pyramid can be found as a hill covered with earth and grass, with a church on top.

## Climate

The climate of Puebla is mild and springlike throughout the year due to its altitude of 2.160 meters above sea level. The rainy season lasts from June to October. The remaining months there is almost no rain. Maximum temperatures are around 20 degrees in winter and about 30 degrees in summer. On winter nights, temperatures can rarely reach a few degrees below zero.

## Useful information

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### In case of emergency

Emergency: 066

Police: 288 1863 / 288 1864

Fire department: 245 7392

### Hospitals

Beneficiencia Española  
19 Norte No. 1001, Colonia Jesús García  
Tel. (01 222) 229 3700

Hospital Betania  
Av. 11 Oriente No. 1826, Colonia Azcarate  
Tel. (01 222) 213 8300

Hospital Ángeles  
Av. Kepler No. 2143, Colonia Reserva Territorial Atlixcayotl  
Tel. (01 222) 303 6600

### Taxis

Taxi Angelópolis  
0990

Súper Radio Taxi Tel. 237 0421 / 243  
Tel. 237 1313 / 237 7777 / 240 7777

Taxi Rápido  
Tel. 268 1000 / 235 2200 / 235 9966

## Shopping centers

Centro Comercial Angelópolis  
Bouvelar del Niño Poblano 2510  
<http://ccangelopolis.com.mx/>

Plaza el Triángulo 39 Pte.3515,  
Colonia Las Ánimas  
<http://eltriangulo.mx/>

Centro Comercial Vía San Ángel  
Vía Atlixcayotl 1504  
<http://viasanangel.com.mx/>

## Links

Plaza Palmas  
Av. Zeta del Cochero No. 403  
<http://palmas-plaza.com/default.html>

Plaza Mazarik  
Vía Atlixcayotl 1501

Plaza W  
Vía Atlixcayotl 3248

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- Get to know more about Tec de Monterrey, Campus Puebla: [www.pue.itesm.mx](http://www.pue.itesm.mx)
  - Generate your access to the Digital Library here: <http://millenium.itesm.mx/> □  
Inform yourself about visa requirements at the Migration Institute:  
[www.inm.gob.mx](http://www.inm.gob.mx) □ Here you can find information about available departments or rooms: [www.compartodepa.com.mx](http://www.compartodepa.com.mx)
  - On this link you can get information about the touristic sights of Puebla:  
[www.turismopuebla.gob.mx](http://www.turismopuebla.gob.mx)