

# Auslandssemester in Mexiko

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I would like to start this testimonial by saying that there wasn't a day I didn't enjoy during my stay in Mexico. To many it might be a surprise to why I choose Mexico as a destination but due to COVID-19 the chance of going to my original university in Australia was no longer a possibility. Due to the importance I lay on my career, it was key factor for me to finish my bachelors in time to continue with my studies and start working fulltime.

In the following section you can find the answers to the testimonial questions regarding my experience abroad.

- What did you have to consider in the run-up to the organization? As an expert, what would you give subsequent students?

I would recommend students to really prepare themselves mentally for the amount of homework and workload they will have while studying abroad. German universities have a completely different studying approach which we are used to and countries like Mexico learn through practice and regular exams. I personally liked this way of learning more than the traditional one. This due to the amount of information one absorbs each week and not everything at the end of the semester. But, maybe that is just my way of studying.

- What did you like? What was not so good?

I really liked the quality of the information given at Tec de Monterrey. Every teacher does the effort to include everyone in the class and everyone likes to participate, or so it seems. Team projects are done in every class, so you get to know different

people and learn how to do real world problems in practice and not only its theoretical part. What I liked the most out of my education at Tec was that I had the opportunity to conclude a Bloomberg course which our university does not offer and also I participated in a FOREX contest which helped me realize that I might want to follow that path during my professional career.

- Which courses did you take? What were the differences to the lectures at FRA-UAS? How were the exams at the host university?

I took 6 courses out of which 5 were in English and one in Spanish. Administrative accounting, personal and business finance, project evaluation and funding sources, international finance and risk management, international marketing and negotiation techniques and international trade.

The semester is organized different compared to the lectures hold at the FRA-UAS. It consists of 3 terms and one final exam. Each term you have homework, maybe a project and a term exam. Additionally, at the end of the semester one final exam is to be done and is weighted between 40% and 50% of your final grade.

- How well were you linguistically prepared for the stay abroad? Did you follow the lectures well?

I would like to assume this question does not apply to me, because I am a native in both languages but as mentioned in the below question, the financial vocabulary was hard to follow in the first weeks but by the end of the first partial I was already back on track and understood everything during the lectures.

- How well were you linguistically prepared for the stay abroad? Did you follow the lectures well?

I am Mexican, therefore I have Spanish and English as my native languages. Classes were conducted in English and just one was in Spanish. I have to admit that although I can speak them fluently, learning finance in another language was, as expected, complicated due to the financial vocabulary which I know in German. I liked the challenge and I also believe this will help me communicate better in English when apply for a financial job which requires the use of English.

- What were your expectations, and have they been met?

I knew before the semester started that Tec de Monterrey was one of the top universities in Mexico. I understood that there would be a certain difficulty, but I never expected or maybe I was not use to the workload I would be given once I started. I have to admit that my whole experience at Tec de Monterrey was above any expectation I had, and I was really satisfied with the lectures and everything that I learned. I am sure that it will help me throughout my life.

- What should subsequent students absolutely know / avoid / do?

Any big city in Mexico is bigger than the ones in Germany. Public transport is not to be used because it is insecure but maybe if several students go abroad they could buy an old car and sell it after the semester ends. Mostly everyone moves in a vehicle. I would also recommend to use the holidays to visit other places in Mexico such as Puerto Escondido, Guadalajara, Chiapas, Guanajuato, Merida, Holbox, etc. Mexico is a

diverse country and to be able to understand it, I would recommend travelling around Mexico too.

- What did the semester abroad bring for you personally, professionally and for your later professional life?

Personally, it gave me one last opportunity to live at home and be close to my family and my friends. It was nice to experience this due to my future plans in Germany and maybe one day abroad. I also had the opportunity to live at the beach and meet people from many parts of the world and made friends that I hope will last a lifetime.

Professionally, it gave me an international knowledge of how to be a good negotiator, to find my skilled abilities in the FOREX market and achieve a Bloomberg top student of the class diploma.

I am sure that these two activities will open many doors and give a professional advantage when I start looking for a fulltime job. I also discovered the field I believe I might follow in my career.