The University
This university is the University of Oklahoma’s newest partner in Mexico. It is a smaller university but offers degrees in many different areas: Business and Economics, Architecture and Graphic Design, Communication Sciences, Journalism, Political Science and International Relations, Law, Philosophy, Education, the Humanities, several fields of engineering, and medicine. UPAEP has a commitment to improving the international awareness of its graduates and is focusing its efforts on sending more of its students abroad while welcoming programs from other universities to its campus.

One of the advantages of this destination is the low number of North Americans studying at UPAEP. This gives Oklahoma students the opportunity to completely integrate themselves into Mexican culture and university life, as well as increase their fluency in Spanish.

The City
The city of Puebla was founded in 1531 along the main trade route from the port of Veracruz to Mexico City. The location, about 60 miles southeast of Mexico City, is in a wide, high valley. It rapidly became a center for industry, well known for its tiles, mills, cloth and Talavera pottery. Residents of the city are called poblanos.

The population of Puebla is now around 1.4 million. The city has much to offer. A Spanish city planner originally designed the town, making it what some still consider the most “European” of the Spanish colonial cities in Mexico. The central plaza, or zócalo, is a typical feature found in Spanish cities. It is surrounded by large trees and offers residents a beautiful place to sit and relax. Walking through the 100-square-block historic district around the zócalo allows visitors the opportunity to see the unique tiled facades as shown in the picture here. In addition to the interesting historical area, Puebla has an anthropology museum, a planetarium, and a natural history museum. Train fans will enjoy the National Museum of Mexican Railroads.

Academic Calendar
Fall semester begins in August and ends before Christmas
Spring semester begins in January and ends in May.
Am I eligible for this program?
All applicants for study abroad must have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5. Because it is not possible to take Spanish language courses for foreigners during the semester, students should have been ready for 3000-level Spanish courses at OU.

What could I study?
Although not all majors and departments at OU are represented in the degree tracks at UPAEP, students from the humanities, engineering, social sciences, graphic design and international relations should consider this destination.

What about academic credit?
Grades received on reciprocal exchange study abroad programs through the University of Oklahoma are posted by the Office of Admissions as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) on the OU permanent record. These grades are not factored into the participant’s Grade Point Average. Because each student is enrolled in 12 credits per semester while abroad, participants are expected to enroll in an equivalent number of credits at the host university. Academic systems around the world vary in what equals 12 OU credits. The decision about awarding credits is made in the Office of Admissions at OU.

Where would I live?
Students live with families or in the university’s international house with other international students. Other arrangements can be discussed as needed.

How much does it cost?
Costs at OU: All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal exchange programs are enrolled at OU for 12 credits each semester abroad. Tuition and fees are billed through and paid directly to OU at the appropriate resident or non-resident rate. Fees are charged at the Arts and Sciences College rate, even if the student’s major is in a different college. All participants pay a $10/credit hour study abroad fee.

Puebla: An estimate of costs can be prepared for any interested student, based on the preferred living situation. Puebla is not an expensive Mexican city and OU students find that their day-to-day costs there are lower than in Norman.

How do I apply?
Instructions for applying to any semester or academic year exchange program may be found in the “how to apply” section of our website.
For more information please contact:
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