



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Mexico/Alberta



Challenge yourself to an intensive living experience, to active learning beyond the classroom walls!



WHY SHOULD YOU DO AN EXCHANGE WITH MEXICO?

By taking part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity you will get a chance to

- improve your Spanish language skills in an immersion environment,
- become immersed in the culture and lifestyle of Mexico by participating in daily school and family life,
- discover more about yourself as you face new challenges, and
- develop new skills in living and working closely with people from a different culture.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

This unique program is facilitated by Alberta Education's International Education Exchange Programs (IEEP), which is administered by the Alberta Teachers' Association. Students from Alberta are paired with schools in the Jalisco provinces of Mexico.

The exchange period will take place over one school year; time will be divided equally between Alberta and Mexico. An important feature of this exchange is that the paired students attend school together in the same location at the same time. The students from Mexico will attend a school in Alberta with their host partner for 12 weeks in the first semester (August–November). Alberta students are overseas for approximately 12 weeks during the second semester, departing for Mexico in early February and returning home in April.



WHERE DO STUDENTS LIVE WHILE ON EXCHANGE?

Visiting Mexican students will live in their Alberta host families' homes and attend school with their Alberta exchange partners.

Visiting Alberta students will be hosted by their Mexican exchange partners and attend the Mexican school with their partners.



WHAT IS THE COST?

Families are responsible for the costs associated with hosting the exchange partner. Families are also expected to cover their son's or daughter's travel expenses and provide enough spending money for the time away. As this is a reciprocal exchange, school tuition fees are waived on both sides. Please note that all Alberta students' return flights must be booked through the travel agency identified by the Alberta Teachers' Association.



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Now that I have become fluent in Spanish, a door has opened for me that reveals another 330 million fellow Spanish speakers as well as added many countries as travel options for me.

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WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This exchange program is open to all high school students studying Spanish. Students normally apply during their Grade 10 year to participate in the exchange during their Grade 11 year. Students can apply to participate in their Grade 12 year. They should have completed or complete Spanish 20 during the program year.

Students are recommended by their Spanish language teachers based on criteria such as language proficiency, academic standing, personal qualities (such as maturity, openness to other cultures, ability to adapt and determination to complete the program) and family motivation.



HOW DO I APPLY?

Talk to your Spanish language teacher or visit our website. Interested students must ensure that the completed application is mailed to the International Education Exchange Program (IEEP) no later than **March 15**. Application instructions and forms (both student and school portions) are available at www.ieep.ca. The application process is as follows:

Application Process

- 1. Application**—The application consists of two parts. Part I is filled out and submitted to the Mexican language teacher (liaison teacher), who completes part II of the application.
- 2. Interviews and Recommendations**—Part II of the application is completed by the liaison teacher, who will act as the liaison for the entire exchange. Teacher liaisons conduct the initial screening of applicants by interviewing the applicants and their families. They also submit a letter of recommendation for each student. **The liaison teacher is responsible for submitting the complete application to the IEEP office by the deadline.**
- 3. Selection and Matching**—Once an applicant's complete application has been received by IEEP, the student exchange coordinator will work together with our partners in Mexico to propose matches. Matches are based upon similar interests and lifestyles. The matches will be proposed in late May.
- 4. Approval in Alberta**—If a proposed match is found, the proposal is sent to the applicant's family and school for approval. The applicant and his or her family may refuse the match if they do not consider it to be appropriate.
- 5. Approval Abroad**—The exchange partner's family is given the same opportunity of refusal as the Alberta family. Therefore, an exchange is not considered to be final until all parties have agreed to the match.
- 6. Confirmation of Participation**—Applicants will be notified by e-mail, and subsequently by mail, when their exchange has been finalized. Shortly thereafter, students will receive a confirmation package outlining the next steps in preparing for the exchange.

Contact Information

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