

# Spanish Immersion & Service Learning in Puebla, Mexico

## What's the best advice you can give future students to maximize their experience abroad?

"The best advice I can give anyone who is going abroad is: be a yes man. You close so many doors of opportunity by psyching yourself out and saying, "I don't think I'll like it." or "I don't know.". Dive in and go for it!"

"Enjoy every minute of it. You may get homesick, but you will be home before you know it. Enjoy it while it lasts, because you will make memories that you will remember forever!"

"Make efforts to engage strangers in conversation because they are the reason we go abroad to study when we could take the same courses here at home. Take advantage of those in your foreign environment!"

## What items did you not bring that you wish you had?

- Sunglasses
- Fan
- Towels
- Rain Jacket
- Pants (girls)
- Nicer clothes for going out
- Bug Spray!

## What items did you pack and NOT need while abroad?

- Laptop
- T-shirts
- Shorts

## Which devices would you recommend others take in the future?



## Most common ways to communicate with family and friends back home:

#1. Through WiFi-enabled smart phones apps

- Skype
- Whatsapp
- iMessage

#2. International calling/text plan with U.S. cell phone

*"I wanted to actually be able to use my Spanish in a country where it was spoken, so I would have no choice but to use it! I chose this program because it involved both of my majors, and I couldn't be more pleased with the experience I had!"*

*"This program gave me exposure to a myriad of cultural experiences that I could never learn from just reading about cultures."*

## Approximately how much did you spend out of pocket during the program (in USD)?

	Max Value	Average Value
Communication (cell phone, Internet charges, etc.):	30.00	1.67
Food:	300.00	126.39
Going out/free time:	600.00	180.83
Lodging:	50.00	2.78
Other:	0.00	0.00
Personal travel/excursions:	400.00	101.67
Program related travel/excursions:	700.00	60.00
Required books/supplies:	20.00	1.28
Souvenirs/gifts:	300.00	126.67

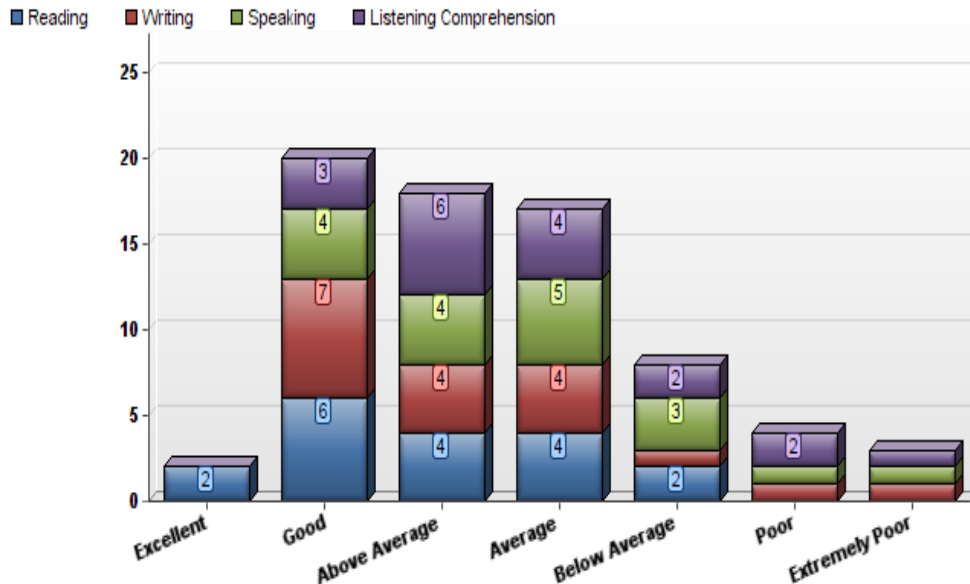
## What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?

"Stay in some nights. You might not think that going out a lot adds up, but it does. Stay in and enjoy time with your host families."

"Using the cafeteria and eating dinner with your host family will save a lot of money as well as trying to use the bus or walking instead of taxis whenever possible."

"You just need to decide for yourself what you would rather spend it on and figure that out ahead of time. If you are going out with your friends and don't want to spend a lot of money, then only carry a minimum amount of cash."

### Language proficiency before the program:



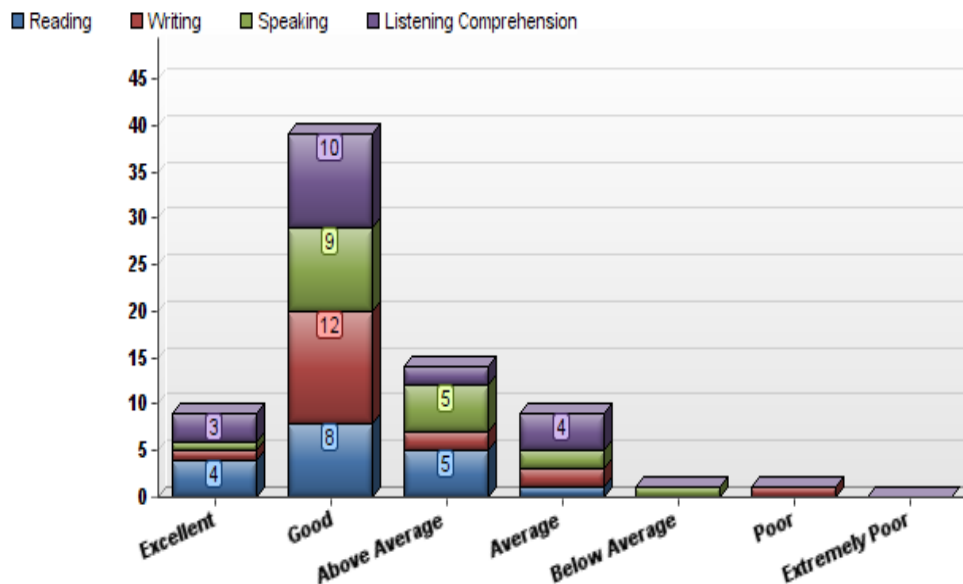
**Majority of students said that living with a host family allowed them to gain a greater understanding of Spanish culture.**

"I spoke Spanish with my host mother, and it was a very rewarding experience to be able to use my Spanish not only to talk about everyday things, but to also use it to talk about more in depth things."

"The best way to get to know the people and culture in a host country is to dive in. You have to love people, even if you're not an outgoing individual. You have to make friends and show compassion; the culture always finds a way to take hold."

"Don't be afraid to mess up when speaking their language! They are so willing to help you and appreciate your effort to communicate with them!"

### Self-reported language proficiency after the program:



### Student comments on their program of study:

"Before I wanted to just finish up my minor in Spanish, but after going on this trip, it made me really want to major in it. I realized my passion for Spanish and that I really want to continue to improve upon my Spanish and really try to be fluent in the language."

"I am even more excited to continue studying Spanish and to work with people and businesses from different cultures."

"This program gave me a more in depth medical vocabulary which I hope to use as I work toward a degree in medicine."

"I loved the education courses I took. It really helped me realize that I am in the right field."