

Hill Summer Study Abroad Testimonial

**Victoria Leier, 4th Year International Business
Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico City, June-July, 2019**

What was special about the university you attended?

The locals in Mexico know Tec de Monterrey to be one of the best private universities in Latin America, and it definitely is a really good university. The campus itself is beautiful. The programs are really good, and not only do they have academic courses, but they also have LiFE courses, which are extra-curricular courses that give students the opportunity to try a new and fun activity. They had a range of LiFE courses from dancing and instrumental classes to athletic classes and self defense classes to photography and computer skills courses. Their LiFE classes fit a wide range of interests. The programs are also taught by professors who are really experienced. Most of the professors have worked in the field that they teach and are really passionate about what they teach.



How did the experience enrich your university education?

The experience gave me the opportunity to be immersed in a whole new approach to learning and fulfilled parts of my education that I believed to be missing.

What was your living space like?

My living space was very nice, very clean, we each had our own rooms with bathrooms that had showers, and then we had a communal kitchen/living area and laundry area, and also a rooftop terrace with a beautiful view of the mountains and the neighbourhood. The landlady of the residence was super nice and helpful. The residence was also a 10-minute walk away from Tec, Costco and Mega (a local chain grocery store). There was also a little store right next to the residence where they had some produce and grocery items and snack foods, and on Thursdays to Sundays, a lady would be in the store making fresh quesadillas which were amazing.

Did you feel safe?

Yes, I felt safe.

As far as safety goes, my best advice that I can offer as someone who has gone to Mexico City and lived there for a month is this: Yes, keep aware of your surroundings. But, as a traveller, you should already be doing that everywhere you go (even in Regina). Do your research (even better, if you can, get advice from locals) and know the parts where you should avoid, don't walk alone at night, and watch your stuff when you are out in public. But besides that, Mexico is a place full of beauty and home to a rich culture and history that you should definitely experience. Do not let basic safety concerns deter you from experiencing a place that is so amazing!

How did you get around?

Going to and from Tec, we were actually close enough that we walked 10 minutes. Getting around the city, Uber was the best form of transportation. The Uber was reliable and the fare was very cheap, and available all the time.

Why did you choose to go on a Study Abroad?

I wanted to see Mexico without staying in a resort because I wanted to see Mexico authentically. I wanted to see the life of a student in Mexico, the life that people staying in resorts don't see. This gave me the opportunity to experience Mexico almost as a local.

What surprised you about your destination?

What surprised me most was the weather. Mexico City is in a very mountainous region and is quite elevated, so the weather actually stays pretty temperate, almost equivalent to Regina in June. The difference though about Regina and Mexico City in June is the rain. Mexico City gets significantly more rain, which actually makes the weather a little cooler.

Would you recommend the Summer Study Abroad programs to other students? Why?

I would highly recommend the Mexico City program as it is an amazing place to experience. I encourage future students to take this opportunity and see Mexico for themselves. I want to encourage them to take what they think about Mexico, challenge that thought, open their minds, go to Mexico and experience all the magnificent things Mexico has to offer.



What was the biggest highlight from the experience?

The biggest highlight had to be all of the amazing sites and places I saw in Mexico. The majestic ruins of Teotihuacan (pictured on the left), the royally stunning atmosphere of the Chapultepec Castle, the artsy atmosphere of Coyoacan and the historic beauty of Centro Historico.

What is your best insider tip for other students who plan to go on an exchange to help them have the best possible experience?

Be open-minded. Experience all the cultural sites, try all the different foods, appreciate all that there is to see, make lots of friends. Mexico has so many amazing things to offer!

*Photos are courtesy of Victoria Leier