Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  My instructors were much easier to approach and very friendly, which helps when trying to assimilate to a new culture.
- Could you call them by their first names?
  I would always call my instructors by their first name.
- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  My relationship with them was more relaxed, but formal at times, like during our presentations for field research. However they seemed much closer than instructors the entire time.
- Were they available for help during office hours?
  They were always available for office hours and if not, then they would certainly meet with you outside of campus whenever you need something.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  I certainly did put a lot of time and effort into my courses, however they didn’t seem difficult at all to me.
- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  My classes abroad were actually based on the personal learning level and not curved on the class as a whole.
- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  I had an assignment every day, a final paper, and a final exam.
- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  I had an oral exam for my Spanish course. Other than that I had a few presentations to make.
- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  The final exam schedule was not flexible.
- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  I received plenty of academic support from my instructors and my teaching assistants.
- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  You certainly need to become more independent abroad and rely on your own devices.
- Was classroom participation expected?
  Classroom participation was expected every day.
- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
  Host university courses were much longer and were sometimes cancelled last minute by the instructor because of traffic issues in the city of Mexico.
- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
  Classes were usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays and went on for approximately an hour and a half.
- What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?
Punctuality was never quite important for classes abroad, and eating and drinking was normal.

Language
- In which languages were the courses offered?
Classes were only offered in Spanish.
- What language did you take your courses in?
I took my classes in Spanish.
- If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.
I have always been bilingual, however taking a course abroad in Spanish still offers new things to learn that one would never expect to acquire. For example you acquire ‘modismos’ or sayings that people use in that country.

Host University
- How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?
UNAM is huge! It has approximately half a million students. The campus is so enormous that they even have two metro stops for it.
- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
Most live right off campus in the apartments nearby, which is where I stayed for one month.
- If not located in the city center,
  ○ How far or close is it to the city?
The campus is south of the center of the city, approximately a 15-30 minute drive.
  ○ What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
Take the metro. It only costs you about 30 cents per trip! Besides that you can take cabs or buses.
  ○ Could students take cabs -cost?
Yes, but you have to be aware of which ones to take and which to not. They usually charge about a dollar per mile or two.
  ○ How long would it take to get to the city center?
15-30 minutes.
- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?
Of course, there are English clubs which are constantly looking for American students to join.
- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
Yes, but there are also many more off campus.
- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
There is a library that offers computer use. You should have a laptop to be able to do any work.

- What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)
There are plenty of cafes and there are even more food stands around the hallways.

Housing

- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
All the students in my program were set up in an apartment with other UC students to live with.

- How close are they to campus?
They’re within walking distance, usually about ten minutes away or one metro stop from campus.

- How did you find your housing?
I was assisted by the program. However, there are usually phone numbers outside the apartments if you ever decide to look for a new place.

- Where did you live and with whom?
I lived in 5 story apartments near campus. I lived with another UC exchange student and a Japanese foreign exchange student that was studying Spanish.

- If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?
No. Again, the program assists you in finding a place to live by introducing you to a Landlord that has several places.

- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
No, but that’s because you live in an enormous city in a country that is not in Europe or the U.S.

- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?
Rent was about 300 dollars a month and it came with internet and a place to wash your clothes.

- How/who did you pay for housing?
I paid in cash every month.

Food

- What was the food like?
The food was delicious and it was generally inexpensive. Plenty of food stands out in the streets and restaurants around the school.

- Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
Most of the time I went to a restaurant about 5 minutes away from Casa de California, which had amazing meals for cheap.

- How much was an average meal?
  3-4 dollars or 50 pesos.

- What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
  Lunch is usually around 11-12. Dinner is late around 6-7.

- Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
  It is a challenge but I think one would be able to find some places. Mexico is a place of meats.

**Travel/Safety**

- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
  Mexico is a place that has travel warnings these days, but I would still say that I felt relatively safe. It all comes down to being smart and knowing where you are going before going there.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
  Metro is the fastest way to get anywhere and the most economical.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
  It’s a challenge. You would have to take a flight to visit Guatemala or other parts of Central America.

**Host City/Country**

- What was the weather like?
  Weather was generally nice during the months I was there (January-June). It would start raining in the evenings however during the last couple months.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
  Mexico City is a huge city. However if I were to compare it to a U.S. city, I would say it’s more like Los Angeles because of the Latino population.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
  I did lots of traveling around the city, I went to a hip-hop concert and also to a lucha libre event.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
  Mexico City is one of the most international cities in the world. It is known for its culture, fashion, international business, and arts.
Culture
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  ○ Time & punctuality
  Punctuality is not as important as it is here. People usually arrive late to most events.
  ○ Eye contact & staring
  Staring can cause you some problems on the metro. It is better to look away from people.
  ○ Relationships
  People always remember you, and academic and business connections will always be there to assist you in the future.
  ○ More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
  One of the things about Mexico City is that it is a custom for people to wear jeans every day, even when it is hot outside. As far as formal dress, there are plenty of people every day dressed up for their work.
  ○ Alcohol consumption
  It is common to go drinking a couple days out of the week. It is also common to see people enjoy a beer or two during their regular meals during the week days.
  ○ What culture shock did you go through?
  Not much really. I did have to adjust to things like smoking which is much more common everywhere.
  ○ Other?

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  Not very much. It is better to go with cash or change in your pocket wherever you might have to pay.

  - Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  No. I got in contact with my bank here and told them that I would be going abroad. They told me what banks they were affiliated with in my host country and where I would be able to go for banking services.

  - If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM?
    Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?
    Yes, although most charge a small 2 dollar fee for transactions. They do also charge for conversion/transfer rates.

  - Were there ATMs on campus?
    ATMs are usually only located on the streets either outside the branches or next to shopping plazas.