The Best Place to Study Mexico

History binds California together with Mexico, and much of the population in and around Los Angeles is of Mexican origin. Mexico is California’s largest trading partner and the source of musical, visual and culinary arts that are omnipresent here. All around us, we see the influence of Mexico. Precisely because of its extraordinary relevance to Los Angeles and California, promoting research and disseminating knowledge on Mexico is a fundamental part of UCLA’s scholarly and social responsibility.

The UCLA Center for Mexican Studies provides an essential Los Angeles public forum on Mexican affairs and promotes deeper understanding of Mexico in an era of globalization. Building on a UCLA Program on Mexico founded in 1982, the Center was established in 2008 to encourage comparative, interdisciplinary research by faculty and graduate students, to strengthen ties of collaboration and exchange with Mexican institutions, and to organize public lectures, conferences and cultural events.

The Center focuses on topics in Mexican society, the economy, U.S.-Mexican relations, migration and Mexico’s place in global affairs. We look at major transformations that are taking place in Mexico, such as the demographic transition, the switch to an export economy, the rise of medium-sized cities in central and northern Mexico, and the dispersal of power in multiparty politics. We seek a historically informed understanding of Mexican security challenges, poverty and the environment, and other issues that transcend national borders and continents.

Addressing such a wide range of issues requires collaboration among researchers working in varied disciplines. The Center draws on more than 60 UCLA faculty members from across the campus who teach courses related to Mexico and conduct research in literature, ethnomusicology, history, economics, sociology, public health, medicine and other fields. It provides an intellectual home for other University of California scholars in our region as well as international scholars who participate in workshops and public events and take advantage of UCLA’s extraordinary library resources. In particular, the Center benefits from close collaboration and regular exchange with such universities as the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) and the Universidad de Guadalajara.

Drawing upon a wealth of resources at UCLA, the Center for Mexican Studies promotes deeper understanding of Mexico and its roles in regional and world affairs. We educate people of all ages and backgrounds and offer insights for scholars, policymakers, businesspeople and the media.

California’s past and future are bound up with Mexico’s. By knowing Mexico better, UCLA serves the public and meets a scholarly and social responsibility.
Conferences & Public Events

The Center regularly hosts academic conferences, public lecture series and cultural events on topics spanning fields in the humanities and social sciences, and often going beyond these core disciplines. Recent programs include:

• Economic Crisis and Security in Mexico and the United States: A workshop series organized in collaboration with CIDE.
• The Musics of Greater Mexico: A multidisciplinary series on the genres, traditions, performance, production and representation of Mexican music.
• Mexican Immigrants as Workers: Workshops and lectures organized in collaboration with the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment and the UCLA Migration Study Group.

Vision for the Future

The Center continues to develop new ideas for fostering Mexican studies on campus and beyond. There are many opportunities for individuals and foundations to support our mission. These include:

• Research projects in Mexico on labor conditions, public health, migration, the environment and other areas.
• International research teams working on Mexico-U.S. migration, the musical traditions of Mexico, economic development and security, and the changing gender roles in contemporary Mexican society.
• Expansion of advanced instruction on indigenous languages and cultures.
• Lectures, seminars, performances and exhibits by visiting scholars and artists across a wide range of disciplines and performing and visual arts.
• Additional faculty and student exchange programs between UCLA and leading universities and research centers in Mexico.
• Endowed fellowships for UCLA graduate students whose work will advance Mexican studies.
• Endowed faculty chairs to recruit and retain top scholars.

Support the UCLA Center for Mexican Studies

We invite you to attend our events and support our efforts to increase knowledge and understanding of Mexico and its role in world affairs.

Private philanthropy is critical to the health and vitality of our program. There are many ways to give, including outright gifts, pledges payable over time, and permanent endowments. All gifts are tax-deductible and may be directed to the area of greatest interest to you.

We look forward to discussing with you how your gift can make a significant impact. Please write or call us using the contact information on the back cover of this brochure, or visit www.international.ucla.edu/lai/mexico.
For information about supporting CMS and for all other inquiries, please contact:

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