

Social Work in a Latin American Context

CUERNAVACA, MEXICO Spring Semester

Goal of the Program

To develop cross-culturally competent, ethical social work professionals with a global perspective by providing a semester of transformative, experiential learning focused on social and economic justice.

This program offers students the opportunity to:

- Learn directly from social work practitioners, social welfare policy makers, and community leaders
- Take part in fieldwork in a Mexican organization
- Meet CSWE EPAS competencies toward a BSW degree
- Develop Spanish language proficiency
- Gain valuable knowledge and skills for working with diverse and immigrant populations

Course Offerings

- International Social Welfare: The Mexican Context (*required*)
- Social Work with Groups and Families: Theory and Practice
- Comparative Social Policy
- Social Work Field Experience
- Spanish—select one or two courses from 18 beginning to advanced options

* All courses taught in English except language classes

Engaging Conversations

- Engage with members of rural and urban communities that have been affected by globalization and U.S. immigration policies.
- Interact with people who have migrated to Cuernavaca, people who have worked in the U.S. with and without documents, family members who have been left behind, and people who have been deported.
- Speak with social workers from state agencies, health centers, and an addiction service program.

Regional Travel

- Weekend excursions to locations such as Mexico City, Puebla, Teotihuacan, Toluca, a volcano, and a natural water park
- You will spend one week at the National School of Social Work at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City, where you will participate in classes and fieldwork alongside Mexican social work students. The Mexican students also travel to Cuernavaca for one week.



“The decision to study abroad was by far the best decision I made in my undergraduate years. CGEE’s Social Work in Mexico program exposed me to a different world, a different view of social work, a different way of living, and it was all so enriching. I walked out of this program as a different person with a different respect of the world. I still reflect back on everything I learned in this program and I am beyond blessed to have the experience of living and studying abroad.”

**UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS STUDENT,
SPRING 2015.**

This program is managed by the Center for Global Education and Experience in consortium with:

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STUDY SOCIAL WORK IN MEXICO!



“Living and working in a small community of students, faculty, and staff challenged me to grow as an individual, and I learned a lot about how I interact in a diverse group. I particularly enjoyed the exchanges with the UNAM social work students as it gave me a deeper understanding of social work in Mexico and made me think critically about the pros and cons of U.S. social work. I also enjoyed getting to know the UNAM students and spending an entire week with them. The experiential learning component was also very powerful and enabled me to witness social justice issues first-hand.”

**ST. OLAF COLLEGE STUDENT,
SPRING 2016**

Application Deadline and Requirements

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with a final deadline of October 15. Space is limited; early application is encouraged. You must be a BSW major. No Spanish language prerequisite.

Cost

If you are a student at an institution listed on the opposite page, please check with the department of social work and/or your home study abroad office for financial information. If you do not attend one of these institutions, you will pay the Center for Global Education and Experience's regular program fees, which are listed on our website.

Housing and Homestays

In Cuernavaca, students live in our study center, while also experiencing a short-term urban homestay. Additionally, students live for one week in a rural village that has been greatly affected by migration to bigger cities within Mexico and by immigration to the United States.

Joining the Consortium: For Faculty and Study Abroad Offices

The Social Work in a Latin American Context program is managed by the Center for Global Education and Experience at Augsburg College in consortium and affiliation with 13 institutions of higher education. Full membership varies from basic affiliation, but both levels offer attractive benefits that allow more students of social work to study abroad and gain critical intercultural competencies. Contact us at gloaled@augsborg.edu for more information.

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