PROPOSAL FOR NEW STUDY ABROAD or EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Study Abroad and Exchange with Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP)

RATIONALE: There is strong student interest in study in Mexico, and, as our largest Spanish-speaking neighbor, there are excellent reasons from both academic and career perspectives for students to study there. Representatives of UPAEP originally visited UW-Eau Claire in November 2013, as a CONAHEC exchange partner interested in establishing more direct agreements with UW-System Institutions. They are interested in sending their students to our summer IEP and as regular semester exchange students, as well as receiving our students both in the summer and during the academic year.

UW-Eau Claire sent students to Mexico for many years through an exchange with the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), primarily to the main campus in Monterrey and, during the summer to the campus in Cuernavaca. We stopped sending students to ITESM in spring 2010 due to the U.S. State Department Travel Warning in Mexico. The Travel Warning, which was originally issued for the entire country, is now issued by state and has been divided into three levels: no advisory in effect, exercise caution, and defer non-essential travel. Nuevo León, where the main campus of ITESM is located, has a “defer non-essential travel” assessment, and Morales, where the Cuernavaca campus is located, is in the “exercise caution” level. However, the state of Puebla, where UPAEP is located, has no advisory in effect.

ENROLLMENT LIMITS: There are no specific limits on study abroad numbers for summer programs; exchange numbers during the academic year are anticipated to be 3-5 students/semester.

CURRICULUM:

Semester/Academic Year
During the academic year, students have the option of taking Spanish as a Foreign Language courses, regular university courses, or both, depending on the results of a Spanish language placement exam.

Spanish as a Foreign Language courses are available at beginning to advanced levels and are reported on the regular university transcript with other academic courses.

In the regular university, students may take any courses for which they have the appropriate pre-requisites. A limited number of courses is taught in English.

Service-learning opportunities are available through the Liberal Arts Service-Learning program, a credit-bearing service program open to both Mexican and international students.

Summer
UPAEP has a number of established six-credit (U.S.), five-week summer programs.
Those that may be of greatest interest to our students are Spanish for Business, Spanish for Education, and Spanish for Health Professions. All of these programs include ~ 64 classroom teaching hours (45 in Spanish and 20-24 in seminars related to the specific topic) and 64 practicum/internship hours in local schools, hospitals or businesses. There is also a six-credit, five-week Spanish language & culture course offered at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels.

From the perspective of having one of our faculty teach in the summer, UPAEP will work with us on a customized program, allowing our students to take one three-credit class from regular UPAEP summer offerings and one three-credit class from an accompanying UWEC Spanish professor. Other summer students, both Mexican and international, at UPAEP would be allowed to enroll in the UWEC professor’s class. UWEC students would not be required to take the course offered by the UWEC faculty member, and if there were a summer in which no UWEC faculty member could teach, our students could take two UPAEP courses.

**UW-Eau Claire Six-Week Requirement**
Because our Spanish majors and minors need to spend at least six weeks abroad, UPAEP will customize our programs to add a week of service-learning, or potentially for business students, another full week of internship. There are service-learning sites both in Puebla and in a nearby community affected by migration into the United States.

**ACADEMIC LOGISTICS:**
1. **How are grades reported?**
   *UPAEP will issue a transcript to the designated office at UW-Eau Claire as long as the student has no outstanding financial obligations at UPAEP.*

2. **What language is used on the above document? If not English, what resources are required for an English translation?**
   *The transcript will be in Spanish in Spanish. Course titles will be translated by Spanish faculty and CIE staff at the time that course equivalencies are established.*

3. **What credit system is used and how does it translate into U.S. credits?** *One UPAEP credit is worth .5 US credits. Most UPAEP courses are 6 UPAEP/3 US credits.*

4. **How is course level determined?**
   *Course descriptions indicate in which semester of an academic program a student is expected to take a course.*

5. **What grade scale is used and what is the conversion to UWEC grades?**
6. What is a normal course load? 
15 U.S. credits/30 UPAEP credits is considered a normal load.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Students have the option of living with a Mexican family or in a university dormitory.

CALENDAR: Fall semester runs from mid-August to mid-December; spring is mid-January-mid-May. Summer programs are four-six weeks long and begin in late May.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
- 2.8 GPA.
- For the UPAEP summer language option, no previous Spanish required.
- For the UPAEP summer options for business, education and healthcare, completion of Span 202 prior to participation.
- For the summer option with a UW-Eau Claire faculty member, Span 302 prior to departure, unless the UW-Eau Claire faculty member will be teaching Span 302 on the program.
- For academic year programs, completion of Span 301 prior to participation.

FOREIGN CULTURE REQUIREMENT: 
The semester or academic year program would fulfill the current foreign culture requirement. The summer programs would fulfill 2/3rds/waive six credits of the foreign culture requirement.