



PATHWAYS TO IMMIGRATION MEXICO

Introducing MSW students to the social issues related to delivering essential services to immigrants.

This 10-day immersion program is offered during the spring semester. Students will participate in “hybrid” classes in Los Angeles with some connecting virtually. Students will complete a social policy brief before beginning the immersion in San Diego, where they will spend three days exploring firsthand what immigrants experience when arriving in the United States. Participants will then “migrate” across the international border with Mexico, with stops in Ensenada, San Quintín, Mexico City, Puebla City, ending in a *comunidad expulsora de migrantes* (migrant sending community). Students will be exposed to the realities families and individuals from Mexico and Central America experience when they migrate to the United States.

Site visits to Barrio Logan, Chicano Park, organizations that work with immigrants, an immigrant youth shelter, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Custom and Border Protection (CBP).

Sessions with faculty and staff from universities in the United States and Mexico, including Universidad Iberoamericana, and other institutions like Impact Hub based throughout the course’s “migratory pathway”.

Post-immersion classes requiring students to develop and present a clinical treatment plan and debate the social policy brief.



Who can participate?

The program accepts a limited number of graduate-level social work students on a rolling admissions basis. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and have completed all foundation/generalist practice requirements. Priority will be given to second year students, but first year students are still encouraged to apply.

Will I get credit for the program?

If you are enrolled in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, you will receive 3-unit credits for completing the program.

What if I am taking 15 units of credit during the spring semester?

If you are a student in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and are enrolled in 15 units during the spring semester, you will not need to pay additional tuition for the required 3-elective unit course.

Will this program help my chances of finding a job?

The Mexico immersion program addresses a core issue for social service providers, particularly those in Los Angeles and Southern California, home to one of the largest concentrations of immigrants in the nation. Employers, regardless of profession, are eager for employees who bring new and innovative approaches shaped by cross-cultural experiences.

Is financial aid available?

If you are receiving or are eligible for financial aid, you may be able to apply it toward this program. For details, contact the School's Scholarship Programs Office.

Where will we stay?

USC will arrange lodging in San Diego, Ensenada, Mexico City and Puebla City.

How much will the program cost?

Program costs include daily breakfast and weekday lunches, as well as transportation from Los Angeles to San Diego, and all other local transportation during program hours and field excursions. In addition, costs include a program administrative fee. Other fees are additional, including tuition for a required 3-unit course and a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health or other insurance plan. All participants will be responsible for their own travel from their homes to Los Angeles, airfare from Tijuana to Mexico City and Mexico City to home, dinners, weekend meals, non-program-related transportation, and other incidentals. Students will also be required to have a valid US passport for travel.

For additional information, please contact:

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“ This course was truly AMAZING — how the trip was coordinated with visiting different cities, scheduling guest speakers and workshops, the assignments, group/class activities, the safe space to debrief, etc. — everything was great! I admire Professor Hu and Professor Lopez very much. The hard work, energy and time they put into this global immersion was recognized and appreciated. I will never forget it. Definitely one of the most valuable experiences in my graduate career. Thank you again for this beautiful experience.

Student comments from past immersion in Mexico



“ This course has gone way above and beyond any expectations I could have had as a student. The class material and lectures during the trip have enriched my learning experience and I will be a better social worker because of it. Thanks so much to Professors Lopez and Hu.

“ This class has completely changed my role and perspective as a social worker forever.

Student comments from past immersion in Mexico



Apply online and attend an info session to learn more:
dworakpeck.usc.edu/global/global-immersion-programs