



Faculty Led Travel Program in Mexico (Summer)  
6 Credit Hours (applicable toward SOCPR minor)

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Location: San Miguel de Allende, Mexico  
Dates: 6/19/25 - 7/21/25

### Course Description

Students enrolled in this cultural immersion program will spend four weeks living in an enchanting colonial city designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Steeped in nearly 500 years of post colonial history and thousands of years of pre-colonial civilizations, San Miguel de Allende represents an extraordinary instance of the confluence and melding of ancient and modern civilizations. The abundance of culture in this walkable town, will have students moving between their artist's studios, town squares, restaurants, cafes, markets and ancient ruins.

The 6 credits of coursework will be divided between the following two courses.

#### CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH MATERIAL

Credit Hours: 3

This course considers the use of material processes found in the San Miguel de Allende region and teaches students to employ these methods. Students will have options of studio classes they can enroll in at the Instituto Allende, specifically a ceramics workshop using locally harvested clay or a fiber workshop focusing on naturally dyed wool and weaving. Students will produce self directed studio works while inevitably drawing from their immersion in the local environment and culture. Students interested in focusing on a directed study in a medium other than ceramics or fiber are encouraged to submit a proposal to trip leaders.

## ARTIST AS TRAVELER

Credit Hours: 3

This course addresses immersion into a new cultural context as a springboard for creative practice. The multifaceted curriculum engages the world as a classroom while students learn about regional culture and work with local community partners. The class includes excursions to the Cañada de la Virgen archeological ruins and the capital city of Guanajuato. We will discuss a spectrum of regional ethnic dynamics from the Pre-Columbian era to the colonialist past and touristic present. Students will be enrolled in Spanish language classes at the Instituto Allende. From this foundation, students will produce diaristic work, choosing media that they feel is most appropriate, such as text, photo, video, sculpture and/or drawing, to personally investigate their experience of cultural immersion.

### EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Cultural sensitivity and engagement through art practice
- Develop personal ethics for engaging with other cultural contexts
- New understanding of material practices from the San Miguel de Allende region
- Gain a more global awareness of the world outside the United States