Exchange Scheme with the Universidad de las Américas Puebla

Where is UDLAP?

Founded in 1940 - UDLAP is considered to be one of the most prestigious universities in Latin America. Situated in San Andrés Cholula, near Puebla and around 120km southeast of Mexico City, the university has a relatively small student population of approximately 8000 undergraduates.

Who can go?

- Up to four full year places (8 semester places) will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2020-21. Priority will be given to Language and Linguistic Science students. Students from other departments may apply.
- **Students will be required to be proficient in Spanish for this exchange.**
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re on a 4 year programme) for credit-replacing programmes. Please speak to your department about the availability of extended degrees that allow you to take an additional year to study abroad.
- Please consult the [Opportunities by Subject](webpage) webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses

- Students will be expected to take **60 credits** during their year at UDLAP (i.e. **30 credits per semester**). All 60 credits should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- Students are expected to take the majority of their classes in their school; no departmental restrictions.
- The course catalogue serves as a general guide to the courses available. However, not all courses may be available in each semester and some may be restricted. Course listings for exchange students are released one month before classes start.
- The course catalogue can be accessed here: [udlap.mx/ofertaacademica/mapaoferta.aspx?idioma=2](udlap.mx/ofertaacademica/mapaoferta.aspx?idioma=2)

National Internships:

- All UDLAP students can undertake an internship as part of their degree (it is credit bearing). This is open to York exchange students as well. Internships are for a semester, but students need to let UDLAP know they are interested **2-4 months prior** to the placement beginning.
- **B2 level** of Spanish is required to undertake it.
- It requires 96 hours of work per term - and documentation needs to be provided to say this level of work has been done.
- Normally unpaid due to visa restrictions.
- Students can either find the organisation themselves or the University has a list of organisations linked to each degree.
- If you are interested you will need to let UDLAP know when completing their application for the exchange – allowing them to find a suitable post.
- The internship is seen as a subject, and each student will have a Professor they will need to report into.
• Language and Linguistic students could choose to take a 6 month academic placement and a 6 month internship. Please check with your department before you make this selection.

How will my marks be assessed/converted?
• Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants. Grades will only be converted for credit replacement students.
• University of York staff can access Grade Conversion Tables here: york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5
• Please ensure that you are fully aware of how your grades will be converted on your return to York. Students on additional years will have different arrangements to those on credit-replacing exchange.

Costs
Please note that the costs below are based on previous years and are provided for guidance only. Exact costs may vary due to exchange rates, inflation, personal circumstance and/or other reasons.
• Tuition Fees: Students will pay no tuition fees to UDLAP and in 2019/20 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
• Visas: Students who are studying for more than six months must apply for a Temporary Resident Student Visa (FM3)
• Medical insurance and waiver: Medical insurance is mandatory and must meet all the international coverage requirements (including repatriation and emergency evacuation). Students must provide a copy of their medical insurance policy to the International Affairs Office at UDLAP to complete their registration process: udlap.mx/international/exchange-students.aspx
• Additional costs to consider: flights, accommodation, travel insurance and visas (see below), living costs (food, books, money for additional travel). More information on UDLAP costs on their website here.

Financial Assistance
• York Futures Scholarship new for 2019/20. Support for personal and professional development. Funding of up to £6000 available to students applying to study abroad in 2020/21. There are two rounds of applications for this funding, Autumn Term and Easter Vacation/start of Summer Term. We recommend that you apply for the first round of funding to secure this before you have received confirmation of your study abroad place. For more information please see the following web pages: york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/skills/work-experience/yfs/

Visa
Please be aware that Centre for Global Programmes staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.
• Temporary Resident Student Visa: According to Mexican Immigration Law which came into force on 9 November 2012, British nationals wishing to study in Mexico for less than six months are exempt of student visa: Simply they must fill in a FMM migration form (landing card) obtained on the airplane or at the port of entry in Mexico and declare the purpose of their visit.
• The immigration officer will stamp the FMM card upon arrival. PLEASE KEEP IT IN A SAFE PLACE AND DO NOT LOSE IT. YOU WILL BE ASKED FOR THIS DOCUMENT AT YOUR DEPARTURE FROM MEXICO.
• For British nationals wishing to study in Mexico for more than six months, the Institution must request the Consulate to issue a “Temporary Resident Student Visa” (Residente Temporal Estudiante). This is a single entry Visa and will allow the applicants to enter the country and then exchange it for a Temporary Resident Student Card within 30 days upon their arrival at the nearest migration office (INM). The temporary resident student card will be valid for one year and multiple entries.
• Applicants are required to apply for a visa in person through a pre-arranged interview. More information on the Mexican Embassy website here: consulmex.sre.gob.mx/reinounido/index.php/es/contenido/98-student-visitor-carnet-visa

What’s it like to study there?
“I arrived in Cholula one month ago and have already settled in well at UDLAP, the staff in the international office here are excellent at making sure that all the international students are looked after and have the best experience while in Mexico. Mexico has a rich culture that I’m enjoying learning about and getting involved with and I’m even taking a class in Nahuatl. I’ve found that the people in Mexico are very friendly and eager to share their culture with me. I’m looking forward to travelling and exploring the country even more in the next few months to make the most of my time here as my first month has already gone past very quickly.”

Miranda, Language and Linguistic Science, Year Abroad 2017/18

“Mexico is a wonderful country. Everyone is so friendly and kind and happy. It is different to England but I have not experienced culture shock because that suggests that it is different and this means it is bad, but I have really enjoyed discovering the differences and learning about Mexican culture. Mexican food is delicious! I have been on two trips to visit other regions and towns and both have been amazing. The rainforests in Mexico are beautiful and so peaceful and the beaches are lovely with really clear warm sea. One of the first things I did to help settle in was to keep myself busy. I spent time with flatmates to get to know them. I went to the welcome events for international students. I now have a bit more of a routine which I think also helped me to settle in. I do latin dance classes three times a week which is really fun and I really enjoy discovering this aspect of Mexican culture. This helped me to settle in because I am part of the dance society at York and I have been dancing since I was 3 years old so I don’t like it when I can’t do dance classes and doing dance makes me happy.”

Alex, Natural Sciences, Year Abroad 2019/20

- Alternatively you can watch this video of students who have studied at UDLAP from all over the world.
- See what students get up to on International Day at UDLAP.

Where will I live?
- On-Campus Housing is available. Students need to apply as soon as they receive the confirmation of admission. UDLAP has 4 residential colleges, 3 on campus and one off campus.
- Costs (in pesos) for on-campus housing are as follows: from $22,100 - $35,000 per semester depending on room selected
- Meal Plans around $6,000 per month
- For more information visit: udlap.mx/colegios/

Is it the right choice for me?
- When thinking about choosing your destination for studying abroad please look through the Considerations Checklist on our web pages.
- This will help you find the best opportunity for your degree and personal circumstances.

Additional Information – Disability Services at UDLAP
Students who declare a disability will be required by UDLAP to complete a Health Services form and Responsibility letter. This document allows UDLAP to give as much assistance as needed during the exchange and is a requirement of their legal department. They have a Student Support Department that provide support and assistance to any student that asks for it. Please contact global-programmes@york.ac.uk if you would like more information regarding these forms.

Contact details at UDLAP
- Your main point of contact at UDLAP will be Incoming Coordinator – Fernanda Martinez Santamaria
- Email incoming.udlap@udlap.mx
- Tel: +52 222 2 29 31 68

Useful web links
- Main UDLAP Site
- UDLAP International Office
Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. The Centre for Global Programmes cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, October 2019.

Students are responsible for researching their own exchanges and making sure that they have considered all costs and the compatibility of the overseas programme to their own degree, in discussion with their departments and supervisors. The Centre for Global Programmes are here to offer support.