

# Study in the Heart of Mexico!



UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

## ITESM Exchange

The University of Rhode Island and the *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM or the Tec de Monterrey)*—*Campus Toluca* have developed a one-to-one student exchange program with a focus on engineering and business subject areas. It is an affordable program enabling students to study at the partner institution for a semester or year without sacrificing progress toward the degree at home. The first students were exchanged in the fall of 2000, and other collaborations now include an annual graduate summer seminar in Industrial Engineering in Rhode Island for ITESM students and study tours in both directions.

*ITESM* is a private non-profit university which was founded in 1943 by a group of Mexican businessmen with the common goal to educate students in areas critical to national development. Since then, *ITESM* has grown into a 29 campus system with national and international recognition. The Toluca Campus, which is known to be a top engineering school in Mexico, is small, with a low faculty to student ratio and few interna-

tional students, making it the ideal place to truly immerse oneself in the Mexican language and culture. There are also internship opportunities available through *ITESM's* partners, including GM, Nestle, and Dupont.

**Location:** The Toluca Campus is located in the mountains, approximately 40 miles southwest of Mexico City and about a 4-hour drive from Aca-



(Source: [www.tol.itesm.mx](http://www.tol.itesm.mx))

pulco. This ideal location has made Toluca a mecca for global industry, including IEP partner companies ZF, Aventis, Daimler-Chrysler and BMW.

**Classes:** The Toluca campus offers degree programs in Industrial, Computer, and Electronics Engineering; Mechanical Engineering Management; Mechatronics; International Commerce; Market-

ing; Business Administration; Communication Science; Finance and Accounting; and Architecture. (Students in other disciplines may opt to study at the Monterrey campus). There are also courses designed for international students, such as Spanish as a Second Language, Mexican Culture, and Doing Business in Mexico. Assuming you complete the scheduled courses successfully, your work will transfer to URI with full credit.

**Housing:** *ITESM* provides students with the option to live in residence halls or with host families. Residence halls are in close proximity to campus and give students exposure to Mexican, as well as international, students. Students who choose to live with host families experience Mexican family life (and home-cooked Mexican food!) first-hand, which helps to improve their Spanish skills more rapidly. The *Tec* will also provide information about off-campus housing if the student so desires.

**Dates:** Early August through early December and/or mid-January through mid-May. Summer session also available.

## Who is Eligible to Apply?

**Students with good academic standing (at least a 2.5 GPA).** Though aimed at students in engineering, computer science and business fields, the program is open to students in a broad range of disciplines.

**Generally speaking you will need to have completed Spanish through**

**the sixth-semester level.** There are ways to accelerate your learning of the language, however. If you are a freshman or sophomore at this point, and get started on your Spanish right away, then you will be able to go to Toluca for a semester or year during your junior or senior years.

Start now by signing up for Spanish. You can accelerate the process by attending URI's Spanish program in Salamanca, Spain next summer, or another intensive program. You can do two semesters of Spanish (up to 9 credits) in the four-week program in Salamanca!

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Check out the Tec on the Web!  
www.itesm.mx  
(click on Study in Mexico link)

*The University of Rhode Island—ITESM Exchange Program is based on the reciprocal exchange model. For every URI student who studies in Toluca, there is a Toluca student who studies in Kingston. Students pay tuition and fees at their home institution, which facilitates the retention of financial aid and scholarship awards. The study abroad program fee paid by URI students who participate on the URI-ITESM exchange is roughly equivalent to the cost of in-state tuition and fees, making this a real bargain for out-of-state students! (Note that out-of-state Centennial Scholarships are adjusted accordingly.)*

How Much Will It Cost?\* 2002-2003

In-state Tuition (Exchange Fee)	\$3670**
Round-Trip Transportation	Varies \$400-800
Health Insurance	\$641 <small>May be waived with comparable plan</small>
Room & Board	\$2000
Books	\$150
Passport and Visa	\$175
Travel in Mexico	Varies
Incidentals	Varies



\*The expense outline is approximate for one semester and intended for planning purposes only

\*\*Scholarship Aid/Financial Aid applies as usual.

## Here's What the Students Say...

*"[Here in Mexico], I have found a life that I've always envisioned. Although I have always known that places like this existed, I have never had the opportunity to live in such a place. An anonymous person might read this and think; 'This person is making a great big deal out of living in Mexico, a third world country?' Well, yes! All my life, I have classified/identified myself as a*

*Hispanic, simply because I was born in the Dominican Republic and lived there until I was six-years-old. However, growing up in Rhode Island, and basically only receiving formal education in the English language, has hindered my ability to utilize the language that associates me to the ethnic group that I identify with the most. This is why I find [Mexico] so valuable; it is a place where I am building upon my identity, while pursuing my professional development."*

- Freddy Batista, CompE, '03



Above: ITESM and URI IEP students at the Toluca Campus

*"The International Engineering Program gave me the opportunity to study at ITESM in Toluca, Mexico. It was a terrific experience because I was learning new concepts within my course of study in another language,*



Above: Courtyard of the College of Engineering in Toluca

*while at the same time being introduced to a new culture. As a native speaker of Spanish, it is common to think that my culture is close to the Mexican one, but it surprised and delighted me to see how different cultures of the same language are!"*

- Yldania Polanco, IME, '03