



Directed Research Project (Optional) Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán

The opportunity to study in great detail current events and issues of importance to individual countries, Latin America as a whole and even the global society is one of the strengths of the faculty and associated researchers affiliated with the UADY directed research project.

Each semester, a small number of highly qualified participants in our programs opt to conduct in-depth research on a contemporary issue of their choosing. Students work closely with IFSA-Butler staff to hone their proposals and identify suitable faculty sponsors to guide their work. Before students begin to conduct interviews and collect data, they attend 20 hours of a research methodology seminar taught by a local faculty member. During the course of their research, students are also required to meet weekly with the academic director and every 21 days with their faculty sponsor to assess progress and garner further advice. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 25 hours engaged in directed research and meeting regularly with faculty and staff.

The research component is designed individually for each participant on the basis of past academic work, research skills and area of personal research interest. The directed research project carries 3 U.S. semester credit hours.

Attached is the research proposal form. If you wish to undertake a directed research project while on your study abroad program, return this form to our IFSA-Butler Indianapolis office as soon as possible. The research proposal form provides a basis from which you can methodically outline the type of research you are interested in and inform us of the research and skills that you bring to the research project.

You must answer in detail the questions listed on the form. Return your typed answers (in Spanish) with a copy of your résumé and any other supporting documentation you feel will be helpful in setting up your project. For instance, some students are interested in continuing research that they have already started. In this case, we recommend that you photocopy and send research notes, papers and directives from professors with whom you have been working. Finally, the academic directors of the programs are interested in receiving a cover letter with your proposal explaining your interest in the research area that you have outlined.

As you prepare to depart for Mexico, you might want to keep in mind a few items to take that past research students have recommended. These items include:

- 1. A laptop computer.** While we do not recommend that you buy a laptop if you do not already have one, you should strongly consider taking a laptop if you already own one. Computers are available in our program office in Mérida as well.
- 2. Dress clothes.** You should come prepared with an outfit that is appropriate for meeting business people and governmental functionaries. A jacket and nice pants (or a skirt for women) is appropriate.

Program staff at our IFSA-Butler Mérida office are prepared to answer your questions regarding credit issues, university registration and the overall logistics of the program, but it is the academic director in Mérida who will ultimately work with you in defining the parameters of your project. We will forward each student's complete research proposal form to the academic director, who may need to contact you before your arrival in Mexico, so be sure to include your e-mail address on your résumé.

Directed Research Project Research Proposal Form

To allow the academic director in Mérida to prepare for your arrival, answer the questions on this sheet and submit the answers with your résumé and a short letter of introduction that explains your motivating factor in undertaking such a research assignment, as well as your goals and how you hope to integrate the research project into your current studies. You must provide as much detail as possible. The quality and explicitness of your documents will have a direct bearing on the ability of our contacts in Mexico to find a suitable project for you.

Please respond to these questions in Spanish (all materials you submit should be in Spanish). In order to provide enough detail (you need to provide paragraph-length answers to these questions), use a separate sheet of paper. Your answers should be typed.

The information that you provide here is key to the success of your semester abroad. Please be as thorough as possible. You may attach a separate sheet if you wish.

Proyecto de investigación: pautas para su elaboración:

- Carta de intenciones. Incluye información personal y descripción general del tema que interesa estudiar.
- Respuesta de las preguntas abajo indicadas.
- Currículum vitae del estudiante.

Preguntas que se solicita contestar:

1. Describe brevemente el tema de investigación que quieres desarrollar y plantea en torno a esta descripción una primera hipótesis a investigar, en términos de pregunta.
2. ¿En qué ámbitos específicos quieres realizar tu investigación? (por ejemplo: medio ambiente, derechos humanos, historia, antropología, etc.)
3. ¿Qué estudios has realizado en tu universidad que te permitan tener conocimientos teóricos en torno al tema que quieres investigar?
4. ¿Cuáles son tus objetivos profesionales, a corto y a largo plazo?
5. Menciona información adicional que consideres relevante para el buen desarrollo de tu proyecto de investigación, que IFSA-Butler y tu profesor guía deban manejar para dar un mejor apoyo a tu trabajo.

Please return your letter of intent, résumé and answers to the above questions to our Indianapolis office. We will forward your documents to the appropriate program contact in Mérida, who will then help you further develop your ideas into a workable research topic.