

PROGRAMS OFFERED YEAR ROUND

OFEA

Oaxaca Foundation for Education and the Arts

<https://www.ofea.info/>

US Non-for-Profit Corporation

with facilities and programs operating in Oaxaca, Mexico

Questions: please direct questions to debra@ofeanfp.org

Location: San Francisco Tula, San Lucia del Camino
Oaxaca, Mexico

San Francisco Tutla is neighborhood just east of the capital city of Oaxaca. It is a short 20-minute drive to Oaxaca's downtown (El Centro or Zócolo). We are 10 minutes from the famous tree of El Tule.

Website regarding Oaxaca:

<https://www.visit-mexico.mx/oaxaca/>

OFEA'S Website:

<https://www.ofea.info/>

Academic Year and Summer Opportunities

OFEA offers multiple opportunities for students to perform community service while learning and/or enhancing their own Spanish skills. Part of the program is cultural immersion and exploration. Each student selects her/his dates in conjunction with the foundation team. Friends and siblings are welcome to join together. Families are also welcome.

Due to students' complicated schedules and lives, we strive to be as flexible as possible. Students may come during Thanksgiving, winter and/or spring break(s). The summer yields endless opportunities for students, June- August. Students taking a gap year may come at any time. We will work with you and your family to accommodate student or family availability and interest.

The timeline is as follows:

Registration & Planning

After students register and select dates, they begin working with Debra. They will discuss the student's interests and passions. Debra will help the student create a community service project or experience to fit the student's needs or interests. Examples of such opportunities include:

Working with community, children in particular.

- English instruction
- Sports instruction
- Community education (in English with or without translators) about the importance of donating blood and observing work in a local blood bank
- Premedical experiences—shadowing a physician, observing surgeries, etc.
- Teaching a student-specific skill (art, music, dance, science, etc.)

- Composting and gardening, enhancing nutritional knowledge of children and their parents.
- Working with dog rescue
- Working with community beatification

Art history and artist collaboration

- Learning about the art and art history of Oaxaca
- Working with artists in their workshops to learn different processes and techniques
- Creating own art under supervision of different artists
- Cataloguing art collection of OFEA
- Photographing art collection of OFEA
- Creating art catalog for art exhibitions by local artists
- Photographing art for catalogues
- Teaching art to elementary school children.

Sample schedule

Thursday-Sunday	Students arrive Ready to begin work Monday. Students may choose their arrival day to save on airfare, have free time prior to program, etc.
Monday- Friday	Engage in community or summer educational programs in morning through mid-day.
Saturday- Sunday	Enrichment Days for US students staying for 2 weeks. Departure dates for students serving only one week.
Family Week	Student, parent(s) and family members are welcome to come for cultural and educational excursions and experiences. They may also engage in a family community service project.

Property on which Students will Live

OFEA is a fully enclosed compound surrounded by walls approximately 8-10 feet tall. Victor and Debra have their home and live on the property. OFEA has 5 bungalows for staff and student residences. Their descriptions are below.

The interior land between the bungalows is an English garden style design with a cactus garden as well. With multiple patios and sitting areas, there is also a giant Palapa where classes will be held.

Common meals will be served at the Palapa. Breakfast will generally be at home with a variety offered daily (both traditional American and Oaxacan options). The main meal will vary between going to restaurants, comida at home, or “bag” lunches if going on excursions. The light evening meal or “cena” may be at home or out a local restaurant,

In the main second area is a solar heated relaxing pool, an exercise room, 2 additional ½ baths and an outdoor shower for rinsing off after swimming. Ample quantities of pool chairs, tables, and umbrellas available. Surrounding the pool area is a cactus garden with works of art made by local artists. OFEA also has a “vivero” or gardening area for students wish to teach children about plants, composting, etc.

Smoking and/or drinking alcohol is prohibited. A student may be directed to return home for breaking these rules or engaging in any dangerous and/or inappropriate behavior.

All bungalows have:

Wi-Fi

Full kitchen including:

Cooktop	Dishes
Oven	Pots & Pans
Ful-sized refrigerator	Cooking & Eating Utensils
Hot & Cold Water dispenser. 5-gallon water jug	Cups for both indoor and outdoor use
Room temperature water dispenser- 5 gallon	Microwave, Toaster, & Coffeemaker

Property includes recreational areas:

- Solar heated swimming pool designed for relaxation
- Pool furniture
- Pool towels
- Pool Restrooms
- Outdoor/Pool shower
- Exercise room with treadmills, elliptical, free weights, etc.
- Luxurious gardens of various micro-climates

Costs:

Airfare- each student will select and purchase her/his/their roundtrip transportation to and from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Students will be met at the airport by a member of the OFEA staff. Students should insure they have a passport valid for 30 days beyond their stay. Students are responsible for securing any visa necessary.

Option 1)

1 Week Experience(s)

Cost per week: \$2500 per student. Cost includes all meals, housing, recreation, afternoon, and evening excursions.

Option 2)

2 Week Experience- Highly preferred for greater cultural immersion and impact on the community.

Cost for two weeks: \$4,500. per student.

Option 3)

Cultural and Educational Stay

This visit is designed to meet your interests and goals. Includes housing, meals, transportation, personally guided tours or classes taught by experts in their fields: cooking, real estate investing, entrepreneurship, US law, tour of local hospital(s) and/or clinics, pueblo visit, Guelaguetza, interact with local professional artists, musicians, visit Loma Noble, see a working Palanque (where mezcal is made), attend concerts by local musicians, etc.

Cost: \$2500 per week (7 days).

Discounts available for groups.



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Websites relating to excursions and experiences:

<https://www.wmf.org/project/monte-alb%C3%A1n-archaeological-site>
<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/mexico/oaxaca-state/teotitlan-del-valle>
<https://jacoboymariaangeles.com/>
https://www.cultura.gob.mx/estados/actividades_detalle.php?id=258851
https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hierve_el_Agua
https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%81rbol_del_Tule
<https://www.instagram.com/lomanobleagaves/?hl=en>

Major Airport: Oaxaca, Mexico

Direct Flights to Oaxaca from:

- Los Angeles,
- Dallas/Fort Worth
- Houston
- Tijuana (using the cross-border bridge from south San Diego)

Pick Up in Oaxaca: Greeted at airport by hosts Victor Tenorio Vasconcelos and Debra Carlson Wood (Debra Tenorio Carlson)

Background of OFEA and Your Hosts:

Debra Tenorio Carlson
(Debra Carlson Wood)

Debra is bi-lingual, English-Spanish. Born and raised in the US, Debra studied political science, international relations at Carleton College in Northfield, MN and went on to study law at Washington University School of Law.

She worked in higher education at top colleges and universities both in the US and abroad for over 30 years before settling in Oaxaca.

Victor Tenorio Vasconcelos

Victor is also bi-lingual Spanish-English. He is Oaxacan born and raised. In addition to being an OB-GYN for over 30 years, he served as a medical professor at the Oaxaca School of Medicine and lectures on health-related topics to youth in Oaxaca.

OFEA

Debra and Victor are committed to giving back to the area in which they live, San Francisco Tutla in Oaxaca, as well as the overall city of Oaxaca.

San Francisco Tutla is a small pueblo with humble, hardworking people. Many adults in the area are lucky if they attended or finished high school. Many work in historically owned and operated businesses—making tortillas or tlayudas (large tostadas), operating small stores or food stands, etc. One of their primary goals is to help change the future of the children and young people by providing educational, health, cultural opportunities to enrich their lives and pave the way for their future educations and jobs/careers.

A long term and lifetime art collector, Victor enjoys showing students art, taking them to meet and even study with the masters of Oaxaca, and accompanying them to area museums and exhibitions. OFEA has in its long-term plans to develop programs to assist students to come to Oaxaca to study and work on their art, meet and/or learn from the masters and even work with masters in their workshops.

They created OFEA to provide educational and art opportunities to local and international students, as well as creating opportunities for foreign students to learn Spanish, perform community service, and learn lifelong skills prior to and/or during college.



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