

**“SustR”: Sustainable Development for Rural
Communities
A Student Mobility Program**

Overview: Activities and Opportunities for Students

- 1 or 2 semester Student Exchange Opportunities to universities in Mexico (Sonora, Aguascalientes) and Canada (Northern British Columbia and Lakehead)
- Shorter Intensive Field Trips to Experience Rural Sustainability Issues Mexico and the USA
- A new Collaborative Web-Based Course on Rural Sustainability

History of the Project

- Researchers and Professors with interests in Rural Sustainability from six Universities in Canada, USA and Mexico
- Submitted a joint proposal to 3 national funding agencies
 - in Canada, to Human Resources and Social Development Canada
- -4 year project (2008-2011) to:
 - Create a North American perspective on rural sustainability issues in university curricula
 - Expose students from all participating universities to the problems facing rural communities in North America
 - Provide opportunities for students to study and experience first hand issues related to rural sustainability elsewhere in North America



UNBC

Michigan Tech

Lakehead

U. de Sonora

U. de Aguascalientes

U. of Puerto Rico

A Brief Review of the Partner Universities: University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)



- Main campus located at Prince George, a city of 75,000 people, 700 km/450 miles (a 1 hour flight) northeast of Vancouver, in the province of British Columbia
- 4,000 students, 64 majors at Bachelors-level, 20 graduate degree programs
- Rated as one of the best small, research-intensive universities in Canada
- Situated in a beautiful valley, within driving distance of the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean
- For more information on UNBC, see www.unbc.ca. If you are interested in attending UNBC, see the International Office website (www.unbc.ca/international/index.html) or contact the International Student Advisor (Annick Pereira - pereira@unbc.ca)

A Brief Review of the Partner Universities: Lakehead University



LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
One University. Two Campuses. One Vision.

- The main campus is nestled on wooded land in the heart of the City of Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada. Under the watchful gaze of the majestic Sleeping Giant, this home for 122,000 people is served by major and regional airlines. (1½ hrs by air from Toronto)
- Our campus in the City of Orillia brings the best of Lakehead University to Central Ontario. (1½ hrs by car from Toronto)
- 7,600 students, 9 Faculties. Bachelor, Master's and Ph.D. levels.
- Rated as Canada's #1 Value-Added University (Maclean's Guide to Universities 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006)
- For more information concerning Lakehead University, visit **www.lakeheadu.ca**
- Interested students can visit the Lakehead International Website:
<http://international.lakeheadu.ca/> or email: **international.exchange@lakeheadu.ca**



Through its Mobility, Exchange and Academic Cooperation Office, Universidad de Sonora has established a cooperation network among several Higher Education institutions, both national and international, which allows faculty, staff and student mobility to favour the permanent innovation of our teaching-learning systems.



REQUIREMENTS

The student should submit the following documents before the application deadline:

1. Current Academic Transcripts from the home institution.
2. Nomination Letter from the home institution.
3. Statement of Purpose Letter.
4. Application Form for International Students.
5. Proficiency in Spanish Certificate.
6. Birth Certificate.
7. Two color pictures.
8. Student Visa.

Deadlines:

- * Spring Semester (January-May): November 1st.
- * Fall Semester (August-December): April 1st.



CAMPUS HERMOSILLO
 HUMANITIES AND ARTS
 Hispanic Literature
 Linguistics
 English Language Teaching
 Architecture
 Dance
 Theater
 Plastic Arts
 Music

ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES
 Public Accounting
 Administration
 Economics
 Finances
 Marketing
 Administrative Informatics

EXACT AND NATURAL SCIENCES
 Mathematics
 Physics
 Geology
 Computer Science
 Electronic Technology

SOCAL SCIENCES
 Law
 Sociology
 Public Administration
 History
 Psychology
 Communication Science
 Social Work

HEALTH AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
 Agronomy
 Chemical-Biological Sciences
 Sports and Physical Culture
 Nursing
 Medicine
 Biology
 Nutritional Sciences

ENGINEERING
 Civil Engineering
 Mecatronic Engineering
 Mining Engineering
 Chemical Engineering
 Industrial and Systems Engineering
 Information Systems Engineering

AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

CAMPUS CATORCA
 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
 Public Accounting
 Administration
 Law
 International Business and Commerce
 Marketing

ENGINEERING SCIENCES
 Chemical-Biological Sciences
 Industrial and Systems Engineering

CAMPUS SANTA ANA
 ADMINISTRATIVE, ACCOUNTING AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
 Public Accounting
 Administration Systems

CAMPUS NOGALES
 ADMINISTRATIVE, ACCOUNTING AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
 Organizational Communication
 International Business and Commerce
 Administrative Informatics
 Law

CAMPUS NAVOJOA
 ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
 Public Accounting
 Administration
 Economics
 Law
 Administrative Informatics
 Marketing

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
 Chemical-Biological Sciences
 Civil Engineering
 Industrial and Systems Engineering
 Information Systems Engineering





A Brief Review of the Partner Universities: Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes



Aguascalientes is located in the central part of Mexico and has a surface of 5,589 square kilometers which represents 0.3 percent of the whole surface in the country; its population is 900,000 people. Its temperature is usually between 17 and 20°C.

The Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes (UAA) was created on June 19th, 1973; to this day, it offers high school courses, 52 B. A. programs, 11 M. A. programs and 10 doctorate programs.

The UAA is part of an association of 14 high quality universities; this distinction was obtained once the institution fulfilled external national standard requirements of accrediting organism.

website: www.uaa.mx

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

If I am planning on attending one of the Mexican universities, do I need to speak and write Spanish fluently?

Answer:

Although some courses at the Mexican universities are offered in English, it would be advisable for students to have a working knowledge of Spanish before arriving in Mexico. We are able to support some students in taking Spanish language instruction prior to departing. Spanish language courses also can be taken concurrently at the Mexican universities for students who want to “brush up” on their skills.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Are the courses offered at the other partner universities transferable back to UNBC to satisfy the requirements of my degree?

Answer:

You will need to contact the international student advisor at the host university to find out what courses are offered in the semester you expect to be abroad and to get more detail on the course content. You will then need to bring this information to your departmental advisor to determine transferability for the courses you intend to take abroad.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

What is the application process to participate in the program?

Answer:

Talk to Alex Mayer (asmayer@mtu.edu, 906-487-3372) to indicate an interest. Then check out the universities' websites and contact the international student advisors at the university you wish to attend to find out about course availability, semester dates and other information. Fill out an application form and submit it to by the deadline date. We will get back to you as soon as possible after this date.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Are funds available to support my study abroad?

Answer:

Yes, part of the grant funding we received for the program will subsidize your study abroad. This includes \$ for travel, accommodation and living expenses, health insurance and language preparation (if needed).

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

What is the deadline for application?

Answer:

The deadline for admission to study abroad are

Summer Semester—March 1

Fall Semester—April 1

Spring Semester—October 15

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Will I pay tuition and fees at my host university or at MTU?

Answer:

Even though you are studying abroad, you will pay your tuition at MTU. You will not need to pay most MTU student fees if you are studying at an out-of-country university.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Is this program open to graduate students?

Answer:

Yes, undergraduate and graduate students may apply to the program.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Could the program be extended to more than one semester?

Answer:

We expect that the majority of students will participate in the program for one semester, but it is possible that a student could stay at a visiting university for up to two semesters.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

If I am a foreign student may I participate in the program?

Answer:

The program is open only to citizens or permanent residents of the home universities' countries [only US citizens or permanent residents can apply from the US, etc.].

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

What makes for a competitive application to the program?

Answer:

The application consists of a form, an essay describing the applicant's interest in the program, and two reference letters. Students whose essays indicate that they are familiar with the program and that their interests reflect the program's objectives will be competitive. A competitive student's reference letters should indicate that the student has sufficient maturity to participate in a study abroad program and, for those students interested in the Mexican universities, has sufficient Spanish language skills.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Could I study at the other university that is located within my own country?

Answer:

No, students can only exchange to universities in other countries.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

What kind of support would be available to me in case of problems or emergencies while studying abroad?

Answer:

Each of the host universities' international programs offices has is well prepared to handle problems or emergencies that may come up during your study abroad. In addition, MTU has well established contingencies for helping students abroad with problems or emergencies.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Is this program administered through my college's study abroad program or is it a departmental program?

Answer:

This program is administered jointly by your universities' study abroad office and faculty in several departments in your university. The program director, Alex Mayer, is in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. The program director can give you information on the academic aspects of the program, but administrative details, such as supplying and reviewing your application will be handled by the study abroad office.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Are there any course requirements associated with the program?

Answer:

Yes. All students participating in a semester-long study abroad through this program are required to take the web-based course, “Rural Sustainability,” which has been developed and is taught by faculty at all six SustR universities.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Will there be any essays/presentations/technical reports due at the completion of the program?

Answer:

No, but you will be required to complete a program evaluation survey at the end of your study abroad.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

What kind of internship will be offered? Is it a paid position?

Answer:

Internships will consist of positions with university faculty, government agencies, or non-governmental organizations involved in research on rural sustainability issues or rural development. The internships will require about 10 hours per week of effort. The internships will not be paid.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

Is the program open to all majors?

Answer:

Yes.

Questions and Answers About the SUSTR Program

Question:

What does SUSTR stand for?

Answer:

Good question! SustR stands for Sustainable Development for Rural Communities: Social, Health, Economic, and Environmental Advances.

Any other questions?