Sin Fronteras 2016
SOC WEL 272: Health and Human Services in Mexico

What is Sin Fronteras 2016?

Sin Fronteras 2016 is a comprehensive and integrated learning program conducted in Oaxaca, Mexico as a service learning course, SOC WEL 272: Health and Human Services in Mexico.

Sin Fronteras includes field-based service learning, language instruction, coursework and an integration seminar. Latino and non-Latino social work students will expand their language skills, and acquire relevant competencies and practice behaviors as they prepare to provide social welfare services to Latino communities in the Bay Area. Learning about Mexican culture will also help students to better understand their own culture, including cultural values and biases, and hence influence their interactions with Latinos when they return to the States. Ultimately, social work students will gain a transnational perspective that will shape their approach to providing services to Latino communities in the US.

When will it be offered?

- The program is offered during Berkeley Summer Sessions. Travel dates are May 23- July 2, 106.
- Language instruction, service learning, colloquia and integration seminars will take place Monday through Thursday from approximately 9:00 am to 1:00pm and again from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.
- There are also additional mandatory pre-departure orientation sessions in April and May.

Who is eligible to participate?

Sin Fronteras 2016 will be open to all Berkeley Social Welfare graduate students, students from other MSW programs, and other mental health professionals. Participants must have Spanish language capacity beyond beginner, casual conversation level.

How do I apply?

All potential participants must submit a pre-screening application prior to receiving the Course Control Number to enroll in SOC WEL 272. The application is a Qualtrics survey form available online at: https://berkeleyssw.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_riKVToMoRnhAbJ3

Applications must be submitted online via the Qualtrics link by 5:00pm, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11. Paper copies will not be accepted.

What are the requirements to participate?

All participants must:

- Be able to speak and understand Spanish beyond beginning conversational level. Participants will be asked to verify language capacity in the pre-screening application.
- Register for the 3-unit Berkeley Summer Sessions SOC WEL 272 course in by the summer registration deadline (see Summer Sessions registration information at http://summer.berkeley.edu/registration).
- Have or obtain a valid U.S. passport.
- Register the trip to Mexico with UC for mandatory Student Off-Campus Travel Insurance for accident/sudden illness coverage; and provide evidence of adequate personal health insurance (UC SHIP or other) prior to departure.
- Sign and agree to abide by all provisions of a Financial Disclaimer, Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement; and the Core Expectations and Professional Conduct Agreement.

How much does it cost? Is financial aid available?

The minimum estimated total cost for this activity, which includes registration for Summer Sessions units, language school tuition, housing, and air travel, is approximately $5500. Current Berkeley MSW students may be eligible to apply for departmental Summer Grants in the amount of $2,500. Visiting (non-Berkeley) students and professional participants are not eligible for university financial support for this activity.

Where will I stay while in Mexico?

Sin Fronteras participants will be housed with local host families. Homestays are arranged by Becari Tonanzin, our partner language school. Students are provided with private rooms, breakfast and lunch. Students are lodged in or near downtown Oaxaca, within walking distance from the language school.