



NEWS

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Copy by Suzanne Brown

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El Camino College to Offer Two Study Abroad Opportunities this Winter

The El Camino College Study Abroad Program will offer two study abroad opportunities this winter, one in Guadalajara, Mexico and the other in Australia and New Zealand.

Students who attend the program will learn about each country's culture and history through immersion and taking five weeks worth of classes.

"One of the things I always tell my students is when you are there for 24 hours a day, that's your classroom; not only are we going to be in an official classroom, but anytime you are outside of the classroom you are seeing the cities, you are experiencing the culture and the people, their system of politics and their economics," said Arthur Verge, history professor and coordinator for the New Zealand and Australia study abroad program. "Changes in latitudes leads to changes in attitudes."

The study abroad program in Australia and New Zealand runs from Jan. 7-28 and begins with a 13½ hour flight from LAX to New Zealand. Students will visit New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, which is located in the southwest corner of the Pacific Ocean. On Jan. 13, the group will travel to Sydney where they will stay in a hotel in the center of the city and participate in sightseeing and cultural field trips.

The academic program offers a total of six transferable units beginning with History 4: History of World Civilization Part II, which is a broad study of the major elements of history from the 16th century to the present. It is designed to develop understanding of institutions basic to world civilizations. Another course is Political Science 2: Introduction to Comparative Governments, which is a comparative study of constitutional principles, governmental institutions and political problems of selected governments. Particular attention is given to the contemporary problems of established and emerging nations.

"The students come away with a different perspective when they travel out of the United States," Verge said. "They learn what it means to be an American. Australia is basically the size of the United States, but there's only 21 million people opposed to the near 300 million people here. That's almost an empty continent. So, the students learn how the

Australians manage things such as military protection and their economic system and the students are fascinated by it.”

The program price for the Australia/New Zealand study abroad program is \$4,750. This includes air transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, sightseeing tours and excursions and a 14-day Green Travel Pass in Sydney.

The students are scheduled to visit the Blue Mountains, visit an island off of New Zealand, view the beaches, zoos and farms and attend different concerts and events.

“When students get ready to transfer, a study abroad program looks so good on a transcript,” Verge said. “A lot of universities are starting to require it because they want people to get outside of the United States and see different peoples and different cultures, and here they can do it at a great price, get six units and have a great time.”

The Study Abroad Program also offers a trip to Guadalajara, Mexico from Jan. 11-31. Guadalajara is known as the “City of Roses” and is the most representative of the nation’s traditional culture. The students will attend the University of Guadalajara, which is the second largest university in Mexico and they will visit Tlaquepaque, Michoacan, Guanajuato, Tequila Town and Guachimontones. Classes will take place Monday through Friday in the mornings.

The academic program offers Art 7, a survey of the art of pre-Columbian civilizations in Mexico and Central and South America, with emphasis on the development of Mexican art from the Spanish Colonial period through contemporary times. Spanish 1, Elementary Spanish, taught within the context of Spanish and Spanish-American culture, introduces students to listening, speaking, reading and writing elementary Spanish.

Spanish 24, Introduction to Spanish and Latin American Language and Cultures, focuses on an introduction to the cultural aspects of the Spanish language through a study of Spanish and Latin American culture, geography, social institutions, literature, art, architecture and music.

The total cost of the program to Guadalajara is \$2,050 and it includes airfare, accommodations, transportation and admission to various attractions.

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