

**MESOAMERICA STUDY ABROAD:
2008 Application Packet**



I. Directors (for more information):

Joelle Moen
English Dept., Smith 356
496-1462
MoenJ@byui.edu

Greg Palmer
Religion Dept., Taylor 224
496-2236
PalmerG@byui.edu

John Griffith
Biology Dept., Benson 294A
496-2026
GriffithJo@byui.edu

Visit our web site. <http://emp.byui.edu/GRIFFITHJO/MesoAmerica/default.htm>

II. To Apply:

- a. Fill out the application at the back of this packet. Get the necessary signatures (parents/guardians and witnesses).
- b. Take/send the last two of the application to Sis. Moen in Smith 356. (Fax: 208-496-5462. Address: Joelle Moen, English Dept., Rexburg, ID 83460-0820). If Sis. Moen isn't in, slide the application under her door, leave it with the English Dept. office in Rigby Hall 180, or with one of the other directors—Bro. Palmer in Taylor 224 or Bro. Griffith in Benson 294A.
- c. You'll receive an e-mail notifying you of acceptance to the program. Once you've been accepted you have a week to pay the \$300 deposit. Otherwise we'll give that spot to someone else.

III. Selection/Screening Process:

Your position on the tour is final after a short screening process and you pay your deposit. First, you're screened by the Admission and Dean of Students offices. Then, tour directors consider student demeanor, personality, health, academics, and interests. Evaluation is based on recommendations, director knowledge, and information supplied by the student. Preference is given to earliest applications. However, not all applicants will be accepted, even if they apply early. *Students on any track may apply.* If for some reason students aren't accepted to the tour, they receive a full refund of their deposit. Students may lose the \$300 deposit only after being accepted to the program.

IV. Tentative Dates: 1st block, Summer Semester, April 15 - June 2, 2007

We will stay on campus approximately 13 days (April 15-26) and travel in MesoAmerica 4 weeks (returning no later than June 2). Exact dates will be announced at a later date.

V. Tentative Itinerary:

We will fly into Mexico City. We then travel by charter bus and boat to other locations.

MEXICO:

Mexico City
Latin American Tower
Zócalo (town square—the heart of the city)
National Palace, National Cathedral
Archeological Museum
Pyramids of Teotihuacán and Palenque
Oaxaca and the ruins at Monte Alban
Colonial San Cristobal de las Casas
Villahermosa--the zoo and outdoor Olmec exhibit
Stay with an LDS Family
Practice your Spanish as much as you like

HONDURAS:

Copan ruins and town

GUATEMALA:

Tikal
Hike through a rain forest with monkeys and toucans
Stay on a farm with tree houses, horses, and rainforest
Colonial Antigua and Guatemala City
Market in Chichicastenango
Lake Atitlan with Panajachel and Santiago Atitlan
Hike an active volcano and swim through a cave
Witness indigenous Maya religious and cultural ceremonies

BELIZE:

Snorkeling in the coral reef and stay on an island
Belize Zoo
Immerse yourself in Caribbean Creole culture

Various proposed Book of Mormon sites along the way

VI. TENTATIVE Classes (may be dropped, added, or changed):

Anthropology 101, Cultural Anthropology	GE social science credit	3 credits
Anthropology 290, Tour Anthropology/Culture	GE elective credit	1 credit
Biology 118, Field Biology	GE Biological science credit	4 credits
English 250, Introduction to Literature	GE Letters credit	3 credits
English 362, World Literature	English major or elective credit	3 credits
FA 100, Fine Arts Attendance	GE required credit	0 credits
International Studies 350, Latin American Culture	GE elective credit	3 credits
Religion 122, Book of Mormon	GE religion credit	2 credits
Spanish 490, Tutoring Spanish Conversation	GE elective credit	1-2 credits

Notes on classes:

- All students must take one anthropology/culture class (Anthro 290 or Anthro 101).
- Students must take at least five credits and can take up to ten credits.
- Some of the above classes may not be offered if not enough students are enrolled.
- You must have a new Bishop's endorsement, pay all college fees, and see your advisor before registration.

VII. Cost: \$2495 + tuition

Includes:

Transportation (round trip air fare to and from Salt Lake, bus/boat fare, airport taxes)
All meals in MesoAmerica
All lodging in MesoAmerica
Entrance fees/tickets to mandatory attractions

Does not include:

Tuition (\$127 per credit, up to \$1530 for a full summer semester)
Souvenirs, camera, film/cards, snacks, water (about \$1/day)
Passport application fee (\$97)
Extra activities during free time
Books, supplies for classes (usually less than \$75)
Expenses for your stay in Rexburg (We suggest you stay with a friend, bishop, or professor)

Payment Schedule:

You may pay for the tour in one lump sum or use the following payment schedule:

\$300 non-refundable deposit, due at time of registration (deposit will be refunded only if you are not selected)
\$700 by January 10, 2008 \$700 by February 1, 2008 \$795 by March 1, 2008

Payment of the non-refundable deposit (\$300) secures your space. In the case of cancellation on the students' part (no matter the cause), students will lose the deposit as well as any additional costs already incurred. However, every effort will be made to hold losses to a minimum. Students not accepted to the tour receive a full deposit refund.

VIII. Information/Meetings:

Fall semester we have information meetings for prospective tour members (those who are thinking of applying). At those meetings we talk about the tour and answer a lot of questions. Feel free to contact a director at any time to ask questions.

Starting in December and continuing through April, we have meetings once a month for those who have been selected for the tour. In the past, some students have not been in Rexburg winter semester or were unable to attend the meetings. Although that's usually a little more difficult for the student, we send e-mail updates and reminders.

IX. Baggage:

Pack lightly! Most hotels we stay in have multiple floors and usually no elevator. You don't want to be weighed down by lots of luggage. You will be limited to one *small* suitcase and one carry-on. Try to find a bag no larger than 29" X 20" X 10". We will give you a suggested packing list, currently available on our web site.

X. Insurance:

You must have health insurance to travel with a BYU-Idaho program. You may also want to purchase life insurance and/or a basic travel insurance policy. BYU-Idaho has no funds to compensate for the loss, damage, or theft of luggage and/or personal belongings, or to cover hospitalization or other medical expenses.

XI. LDS Standards and the BYU-Idaho Code of Honor:

While traveling you are ambassadors of the church, BYUI, Idaho, your home state, and the US (or your home country). As such, all participants are required to maintain high standards of honor, integrity, and morality in harmony with the values of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This includes abstinence from coffee, tea, alcohol, and narcotics, as well as following the LDS standards of chastity. Participants will dress modestly and appropriately for the occasion.

XII. Health:

While you aren't required to climb *all* the pyramids, go on every hike, swim in every river, etc., that's half the fun. Be in shape before you go. Also, you will be asked to fill out a health form.



MesoAmerica Tour 2008 Application Form

**Directions:**

1. Neatly complete all information on both sides of this form. Print clearly. Get all necessary signatures.
2. Take/send both pages of this application (or front and back of this page) to Joelle Moen in Smith 356, English Dept., Rexburg, ID 83460-0820. Fax: 208-496-5462. Your application is NOT final until the form has reached Sis. Moen.
3. Once you've received notification of acceptance, pay the \$300 deposit (non-refundable upon acceptance to the program) at the BYU-I Cashier's Office, Kimball 130, Rexburg, ID 83460-1625.

Full Name _____ **I-number (BYUI ID number)** _____

Preferred Name _____ **Citizenship** _____ **Admitted to BYU-Idaho** yes ___ no ___

Date of Birth _____ **Rexburg Address** _____

Rexburg Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Year in school Freshman (0-30 credits) Sophomore (31-60) Junior (61-90) Senior (91-120)

Spanish experience (how many classes, mission, etc.) _____

References: **Name BYU-Idaho professor (or other professor)** _____

Name and phone of BYU-Idaho bishop (home and work if possible) _____

Reasons you want to go: _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ **Phone(_____)** _____

Address _____ **City/State/ZIP** _____

Emergency contact (other than parent/guardian):

Name _____ **Relationship** _____ **Phone (_____)** _____

Address _____ **City/State/ZIP** _____

STUDENT COMMITMENT

If accepted as a member of the MesoAmerica Study Abroad program, I promise to

1. Support and uphold the moral standards and ideals of the LDS Church.
2. Follow the behavior, honor, and moral codes and expectations of BYU-Idaho and MesoAmerica Study Abroad program.
3. Abide by the decisions of the tour directors in all matters pertaining to the tour.
4. Make all payments by the deadlines as outlined in the tour packet. I understand that if I choose to or am forced to withdraw from the program after being accepted, I may lose not only the deposit, but all expenses incurred in my behalf.
5. Fill out a physical and mental health information and release form before final acceptance.

I understand that

1. To participate in this program I must fulfill all requirements for enrollment in BYU-I, including but not limited to clearance from the Dean of Students and a bishop, and enrollment in college courses;
2. If I do not conform with Church, Tour, and University standards and policies, I may be denied acceptance, removed from the tour, and/or sent home from the tour at my own expense;
3. A variety of my professors will be contacted, beyond those I've listed, to learn more about my academic preparation and dedication.

Signature of Applicant _____ **Date** _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____

(Participants under 21 or financially dependent upon parents/guardians must have parental/guardian approval.)

MesoAmerica Tour 2008

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I know and recognize that participation in the MesoAmerica Tour conducted by BYU-Idaho is done on a voluntary basis without compulsion or coercion and is not a mandatory class or program. However, if I choose to participate in the tour, I know I must take at least five academic credits. I know there may be dangers and hazards associated with the tour and assume the risks associated with participation in the tour, including but not limited to:

hazards associated with travel, whether by land, sea, or air, and including airplane, auto, or bus failures or crashes and boat crashes or capsizings; hazards of hiking, running, climbing natural and man-made objects, horseback riding, walking, biking, scootering, snorkeling, and swimming, such as falls, crashes, being struck by a vehicle, drowning, being harmed by a water or land animal, or suffering physical exertion; hazards of storms; hazards of unstable governments, rebels, bandits, and related potential violence; hate crimes; illness caused by food, water, heat, cold, altitude, contagious diseases or other foreign agents; assault, theft, or robbery; trip cancellation or change in itinerary and travel plans; acts of God; any activity I decide to participate in during free time.

I acknowledge that these hazards could cause physical, mental, or emotional harm or even death.

Knowing the risks, and in consideration for being permitted to participate in the 2006 MesoAmerica Tour, and as inducement to BYU-Idaho to permit me to participate in this tour, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue and waive liability for death, personal injury or property damage of any kind or nature, and any other claims whatsoever arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in this tour., even though liability may arise out of carelessness on the part of BYU-Idaho, including its officers and employees.

This release extends to all claims of every kind or nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown.

MY SIGNATURE BELOW AFFIRMS THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE AGREEMENT AND THE OTHER TERMS; I UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT AND PURPOSES AND I VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO ALL THE TERMS SET FORTH ABOVE.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Witness signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

(required if participant is under 21 or dependant on parent/guardian)