

Personal Safety Recommendations

In Mexico City, as in many other large cities all over the world, foreign visitors should exercise caution in order to avoid possibly conflictive situations. Please read the following security recommendations carefully.



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Be sure to have the most important emergency telephone numbers at hand at all times. You can get a pocket card with these numbers at the Student Mobility Office.

Be aware that foreigners are easily identified as targets, so be especially careful when moving around.

Avoid talking to complete strangers about personal issues (family related, economic, etc.).

If you become a robbery victim, give the perpetrator your valuables without discussion.

ON THE STREET AND GOING OUT:

When walking on the street, be aware of your surroundings at all times.

When you leave your home, don't carry more cash and bank cards than you will need during the day.

- Avoid large public gatherings like demonstrations, celebrations, etc. Be aware of pickpockets.
- Be aware that in Mexico City safe and unsafe/problematic areas can be located next to each other. Ask your host family or Mexican friends where not to go (especially at night).

- Do not carry your original passport, migration documents or other important documents. Carry a copy and leave the originals in a safe place.



- Be careful when strangers address you.
- Avoid walking on solitary streets. Never walk alone at night or in unfamiliar neighborhoods. Walk in groups whenever it is possible.
- If you feel you are being followed by an individual or a group of people, avoid them and don't stop walking. Head towards a public establishment.
- Do not leave briefcases or handbags on the floor or hanging from a chair in a restaurant. Always keep them in sight.
- When you go out, keep a low profile. Avoid attracting attention by carrying valuable or ostentatious personal items, like jewelry or lots of cash. Adjust your clothing style to the respective situation and to local habits.
- At a bar or a club, always keep an eye on your drink, in order to avoid that someone drops something into it.
- Not all car drivers will respect the traffic rules, not even red lights. Be careful when crossing the street.

AT HOME:

- Don't allow strangers to enter your home.
- When you leave home, avoid leaving hints that indicate that you are not there. Never leave a message at your door that indicates you are absent.
- Be sure to keep your doors and windows closed securely.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

- When waiting for public transportation, do so in a well lit area, close to other people.
- Don't fall asleep while travelling on public transportation.
- If you carry a backpack, carry it on your chest, especially in the subway.
- Avoid using public transportation at night.
- When traveling outside Mexico City, take an airplane or use a first-class bus service. Don't ever hitchhike.



BANKS AND CREDIT CARDS:

- When inside a bank, don't trust anyone who offers you his/her help.
- Don't let anyone approach you while you are at the counter or at an ATM.
- Don't help strangers with any kind of banking transactions.
- Never carry all your bank cards with you.



TAXI SERVICE:

- Do not flag down taxis on the street.
- Use only taxis from a *sitio*, a registered taxi service. You can find the telephone numbers of some *sitios* in the Ibero Study Guide. Smartphone apps like Yaxi, Cabify or Uber are an excellent alternative.
- As a security measure, when you order a taxi, ask for the characteristics of the vehicle, the license plate number and/or the driver's name. When the taxi arrives to pick you up, wait until the driver calls your name before you get in the vehicle.
- Never get in a taxi if there is another person besides the driver.
- When boarding a taxi, sit on the back seat, preferably behind the driver, and lock the doors.
- If the driver acts strangely, pay and get out of the taxi at a location where there are other people around.
- If the driver does not look trustworthy, don't get in the taxi!
- Investigate a route to the location where you are going before getting in the taxi. If the driver asks you which route he should take, tell him the route.
- Do not reveal any personal information when engaging in a conversation with the driver.



Official coloring of Mexico City taxis

- Be especially careful when using an ATM. Try to use only ATMs that are located inside the IBERO campus. Make sure that you are not being watched when using the ATM.
- If you lose your cards or get robbed, contact your bank(s) immediately and cancel your cards. You should keep the card numbers of each of your cards, and the telephone number of your bank, in a safe and easily/quickly accessible place.
- Regularly revise your bank statements carefully in order to detect any possible abuse of your cards.
- Avoid cloning or misuse of your cards: try to use cash when paying in bars or restaurants. If you use a card, insist that the payment terminal is brought to your table so your card is never out of sight.

Be aware of potential dangers and try to avoid them, but don't let worry dominate your stay in Mexico. By following the above mentioned recommendations, an exciting world of opportunity, experience and adventure awaits you!

Welcome

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EARTHQUAKE:



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

When it starts to tremble: If you are outside, stay outside; if you are inside, stay inside until the shaking stops, unless an official asks you to evacuate.

IF YOU ARE INDOORS (IN GENERAL):

- If you are indoors, when you feel a major earthquake starting, drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it firmly until the shaking stops ("DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON"). If you are not near a desk or table, drop to the floor against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms.
- Avoid exterior walls, windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture, large appliances, and cabinets filled with heavy or glass objects. Do not use elevators.
- Do not go outside until well after the shaking stops!

AT THE IBERO CAMPUS:

- If you are outside when you hear the alarm (early-warning system) or feel an earthquake starting, stay outside and head towards one of the meeting points marked with this sign:
- If you are inside a building and hear the alarm, or feel an earthquake starting, stay inside and seek shelter at one of the spots marked with this sign:



Remember that IBERO's infrastructure is largely earthquake-proof, and Santa Fe is considered to be a low-risk area. It is safer to stay inside instead of running outside during an earthquake!

After the earthquake stops, wait a few more minutes at the security spot before resuming your activities. If an IBERO authority instructs you to evacuate the building, do so, following these signs:



What to do in case of an earthquake (continues)

IN BED:

Hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow. You are less likely to be injured staying where you are. Broken glass on the floor can cause injuries; be careful when getting out of bed.

IN A STADIUM OR THEATER:

Remain in your seat and protect your head and neck with your arms. Don't try to leave until the shaking is over. Then walk out slowly, watching for fallen debris or anything that could fall on you in aftershocks.

IF YOU ARE OUTDOORS:

Move to a clear area if you can safely do so; avoid buildings, powerlines, trees, and other hazards. Always assume that fallen powerlines are live!

NEAR TALL BUILDINGS:

Windows, facades, and architectural details are often the first parts of a building to come down. Get away from this danger zone by staying inside. If outdoors, take refuge in an open space.

IN A CAR:

Stop as quickly and safely as possible. Move your car to the hard shoulder or curb, away from utility poles, overhead wires, and under- or overpasses. Stay in the car and set the parking brake. If a power line falls on the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.

CONTACT:

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