

Fulbright ETA

Aguascalientes, Mexico

Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes
(UAA)

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Aguascalientes and the UAA

- Rapidly growing city of one million
- Texas Instruments, Nissan, Flextronics



Aguascalientes and the UAA

- UAA founded in 1973
 - Only majors: Accounting and Business Administration
- Current student population: 14,000
 - Offers 44 majors in addition to Master's and Doctoral programs
- Plans to expand



English Programs at the UAA

- Three categories of classes
 - 1) English major (advanced)
 - Propedeúutico is a year-long preparation before students begin the major sequence
 - 2) Fomento (all levels)--students of other majors taking English as a requirement
 - 3) Extensión (all levels)--learners are not students of the UAA but enroll in English classes for different motivations
- All levels (beginner to advanced), all interests, age 17-70

English Classes at the UAA

- Schedule
- Classroom Activities
 - First Day: Ask me questions
 - Presentation on People and Places in the US
 - Presentation on US History/culture
 - American Slang
 - Various Grammar Activities
- Conversation Clubs (all levels, often 12 students)
 - Introductions activity, catchphrase, favorite movie
 - Spontaneous Conversation

The Faculty at the UAA

- For the English major beyond the Propedeúutico, all instructors have at least a Master's degree related to Teaching English
- For classes within Propedeúutico, Fomento, and Extensión all instructors have at least a Bachelor's degree in Teaching English
- Only positive experiences with faculty members

Cross-Cultural Aspects

- Cell phones/talking
 - Tiling, not carpet
- Arriving to class 15 minutes late-- “May I come in?”
- Use of yahoo/hotmail accounts
- “What do you think of Mexican girls?”
- “What religion are you?”
- “Do you like tequila?”
- Very friendly and outgoing
 - Lagos de Moreno, golfing

Best/Worst Part of the Assignment

- Best part: Faculty, classes that go well
 - Sensible attitude (don't cry over spilt milk)
 - Really fun classes/conversation clubs
- Worst part:
 - Talking in class, arriving late (but I don't lose sleep over it)

Goals and Expectations

- Be more comfortable at the beginning of second semester compared to first semester
- Have at least half of my schedule be fixed
- Talk with students before professors arrive