I. Directors (for more information):

Jim Richards  Greg Palmer  BJ Rowe
English Department  Religious Ed Department  Religious Ed Department
Rigby Hall 309  Taylor 224  Taylor 104
496.4396  496.3948  496.3953
richardsj@byui.edu  palmerg@byui.edu  roweb@byui.edu

Visit our web site:  [http://www.byui.edu/english/travel-opportunities/mesoamerica-tour]

To Apply:
Fill out the application at the back of this packet. Get the necessary signatures (parents/guardians and witnesses).
Take/send the last two pages of the application to Bro. Richards in Rigby 309. (Fax: 208-496-4363. Address: Jim Richards, English Dept., Rexburg, ID 83460-4360). If Bro. Richards isn’t in, slide the application under his door, leave it with the English Dept. office in Rigby 180, or with one of the other directors. 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. Dates
Classes will begin on campus the Monday after winter semester ends and will last for two weeks. Afterwards, students will travel for about 25 days, returning in time for second block.

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
Archaeological Museum
Pyramids of Teotihuacán and Palenque
Oaxaca and the ruins at Monte Alban
Colonial San Cristobal de la Casas
Villahermosa—the zoo and outdoor Olmec exhibit
Stay with an LDS family
Practice your Spanish as much as you like

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 Satigo Atitlan
Hike an active volcano and swim through a cave
Witness indigenous Maya religious and cultural ceremonies

BELIZE
Snorkeling in the coral reef an stay on an island
Belize Zoo
Immerse yourself in Caribbean Creole culture
Various proposed Book of Mormon sites along the way

VI. Classes (Classes will be held on campus for two weeks starting the Monday after winter semester ends, and then continue during travel. Students can take 5-10 credits, and will return in time to take other classes on 2nd block if they desire.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 390R Mesoamerica</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td>Required for all students on the tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 122 2nd half Book of Mormon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IntStu 350 Latin American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Palmer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmF 101 American Foundations</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rowe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 342 Church History-2nd half</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rowe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 490 Independent Study: Spanish Tutor/Translator</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>Rowe</td>
<td>Spanish fluency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDENG 201 Advanced Writing and Critical Reading</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Richards</td>
<td>FDENG 101.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 218 Creative Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Richards</td>
<td>FDENG 101.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 490 Special Topics: Identifying Birds of Mesoamerica</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Richards</td>
<td>Binoculars and/or high quality camera with telephoto lens (no point-&amp;-shoots)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes on classes: 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: $2695 + tuition

Includes:
All transportation (round trip air fare to and from Salt Lake, bus/boat fare, airport taxes), all meals, all lodging in MesoAmerica, and entrance fees/tickets to attractions.

Does not include:
Tuition, souvenirs, film, camera, snacks, water (about $2/day), passport application fee, extra activities during free time, books, supplies for classes (scholarship and financial aid apply), and 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 acceptance to the program $750 by end of December, $750 by end of January, and $795 by end of February.

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:
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.

For four months before leaving, 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 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 prepared physically to enjoy these adventures.
# MesoAmerica Tour
## Application Form

**Full Name** ____________________________________________  **I-number**

**Preferred Name** ________________________________________  **Citizenship**  

**Date of Birth** ____________________________________________  **Rexburg Address**

**Cell Phone** ____________________________  **BYU-I E-mail**

**Alternate Email**

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

**Major** ________________________________________  **GPA**

**Spanish experience (how many classes, mission, etc.)** ________________________________________________________________

**References:**
- Name and e-mail of BYU-Idaho professor (or other professor)______________________________
- Name, phone, e-mail of BYU-Idaho bishop (or other bishop)______________________________

**Write a paragraph telling us a little about yourself and why you would like to go on the tour:**

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**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:
   a. 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;
   b. 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;
   c. 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

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 capsizing;
- 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 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_______________

(Notary not required. Witness certifies that you appear to be of sound mind and are not being forced to participate)

Parent/Guardian Signature___________________________________________________Date________________

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