

2026 GUIDEBOOK

AVANCE SUMMER

 MEXICO





Letter from the Directors

I, Rosie, arrived in Latin America in 2020, fresh out of college, wondering if God might use my desire to further my language studies for the extension of His Kingdom. While I "imagined," I never really "expected" to fall in love with Latino culture and purposefully choose a career path that would leave me constantly humbled and in awe of God's creation. **I'm content to spend the rest of my life learning about different aspects of God's character reflected through the cultures He's created.** It will be my privilege to walk alongside you and share in your joys and challenges as you step out in faith to join us serving here in Mexico.

I, Tracey, first came to Mexico as a college student with the Avance summer program in 1984. In those two months, **God planted in me a deep love for the Mexican people and culture.** As I saw this great city lit up at night, every light represented for me, a soul who needed Jesus. That summer turned my world upside down and led me to a wonderful lifetime adventure in missions. My husband, John, and I are now working on our 5th church plant on the northern edge of Mexico City where we look forward to guiding you through this unique and exciting ministry opportunity.

In Avance, we seek to identify with the culture and serve the church, coming alongside them in every way possible to reach people, especially in the urban centers. In the process, **we are forming leaders and missionaries through training, discipleship, mentoring and spiritual formation.**

We look forward to having you join our team this summer and are excited about all that God might do in *your* life as you step out in faith to participate in what He is already doing in Mexico!



Tracey Pieters and Rosie Sawatski
Avance Mexico Summer Directors

To see a church that surprises the world with the love of Jesus.



LET'S JUMP IN

Looking to spend a summer using your skills to serve cross-culturally?

Mexico City is the largest city in Latin America, with approximately 27 million people in the metropolitan area. The State of Mexico (EdoMex) is home to 17 million of that population and wraps around two sides of Mexico City. The greater Metropolitan area, formed by Mexico City and EdoMex where our summer program is hosted, is an important and strategic location for ministry outreach and church planting.

As a Mesa Intern in the Avance Mexico program, you'll be immersed in cross-cultural ministry and primarily focused on church planting with opportunities to be involved in: evangelism, discipleship, home groups, English classes, music classes, worship leading, open-air children's ministry, youth and college ministry, sports ministry, community development, and more.



INTERNSHIP DETAILS

What to Expect

Explore program deadlines, what to expect in your 8 weeks, and where you'll be located if you join the summer internship.

Summer Details

June 17 - August 11, 2026

Application Deadlines & Cost

Apply by Feb. 1, 2026 / \$3,300 + airfare

Fundraising Deadline

Funds in full by May 1, 2026



Experience **cross-cultural immersion** on the outskirts of a metropolitan city



Participate in **Spanish language classes** to connect with the culture and engage in ministry at a heart level



Serve in Mexican-led ministries to learn how to use your skills and gifts to glorify God



Be equipped through **cross-cultural training** and spiritual formation



Have weekly **rhythms with a team** of young adults and seasoned leaders





SUMMER INTERN

Week in the life

Every week on the field is different! But here are some rhythms to expect each week of your summer internship.

- **Worship at a local church**
1-3 times per week
 - **Serve alongside Mexican ministries**
3-5 times per week
 - **Language classes and tutoring**
2-3 times per week
 - **Advance training and spiritual formation**
1-2 times per week
 - **Language and cultural learning**
Continually through the immersion experience
 - **Sabbath**
1 day per week
- 📍 See day in the life posts from our interns by heading to our “Interns” story highlight on [Instagram](#)





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Living & Weekly Rhythms



What will the church placement be like?

You'll serve under local church leadership and alongside global workers in one of two placements:

1. A network of churches across five neighborhoods in northern Mexico City that collaborate in church planting and outreach.
2. A medium-sized church in an under-resourced neighborhood in southeastern Mexico City.

The northern church plants are located in large housing developments that function like urban villages, home to many young families who, unlike their parents, have little or no religious background—creating a spiritual environment that can be described as "urban agnostic." One church in the network also offers opportunities in community development through gardening and aquaponics.

The southeastern church has a high percentage of young adults and operates a vibrant community center that offers classes to engage kids, teens, and adults. A new coffee shop is also being launched to deepen connections with the neighborhood and within the church community.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Where will I live?

All of our interns live with Mexican host families in houses and apartments throughout the State of Mexico or Mexico City. Interns will be placed with families that may have young, adult or no children. Sometimes the houses may be very small, but the families are warm and hospitable.



How do you decide which ministry I'll be placed at?

For the summer program, you'll be assigned to a specific local church, but one day each week, you'll be given the opportunity to serve in different ministries to see where your passion lies and where the needs are greatest. You will also be exposed through cultural outings to different aspects of Mexican history and culture.



What do program costs include?

The program cost covers all your living expenses during your time in Mexico. This includes food, educational material and rent. Airfare is not included, but it is recommended you raise extra funds for this.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Language Learning



Do I need to know Spanish beforehand?

Although it is important to speak the language to be able to communicate effectively, it's okay if you do not know Spanish before serving in Mexico! All participants will be placed in semi-private tutoring or small group Spanish classes according to their level. Since Spanish is the heart language of Mexicans, we expect our interns to dedicate themselves to learning the language and ministering in Spanish.



How will I learn Spanish?

Throughout the summer, you will be placed in a beginner, intermediate, or advanced level Spanish class with the other interns. You will have plenty of time to practice by speaking with your host family & serving at your ministries.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Safety & Healthcare



Are the State of Mexico and Mexico City safe?

Mexico City is the largest city in Latin America and one of the largest cities in the world so naturally it has the problems of crime and corruption that abound in any large city. These problems can be worse at night and some areas are known to be more dangerous than others. However, the host families are experts on their neighborhoods and will be your best guides for what is safe and prudent. The important thing is to be careful and exercise common-sense precautions. As Christians, we look at the crime problem as both a danger to avoid and as evidence of the city's deep need for the gospel.

We're happy to respond to any questions you have. Although there are risks involved in any overseas assignment, and specifically here in Mexico, we can confidently say, that our participant's safety is of high importance for us.



What does Avance Mexico do to ensure safety?

Over the last 50 years of the Avance program, we've continually assessed risk & adjusted to ensure we have safety precautions in place to keep participants safe. These are all reviewed during the orientation that takes place during the first three days of the program.



CHURCH AT A GLANCE

Some churches like this one in Edomex meet outside for Sunday worship.



Quiz

Is a Summer Missions Program For Me?

Let's see if you check some boxes:

- I'm available for 8 weeks this summer
- I'm a follower of Jesus and wanting to grow spiritually
- I'm adaptable and teachable
- I want to serve in a cross-cultural environment
- I'm willing to raise funds for this role

— / 5 Score



TESTIMONIALS

Hear from our Avance Mexico Alumni



“I got to experience a lot of different things this trip. From hiking down a mountain to washing someone’s feet. **But everything was a reminder of God’s remarkable love and power.** Gracias a Dios !”

KAYLEE, 2025 INTERN



“My time abroad with Avance grew my depth of understanding of the body of Christ. It was so beautiful to be welcomed into a new culture with hospitality and acceptance. **Every day I learned to challenge my perspective on who I am and how I see the world while being supported by my host family, my church, Avance staff, and other participants.** It was such a safe and secure place to be challenged and to grow.”

NANETTE, 2023 INTERN



“**Mexico completely changed my life.** Seeing the passion and love that people have for God and His people led me to commit towards doing the same thing and dedicate myself to the work of the Lord and His people.”

LEVÍ RAMIREZ, 2023 INTERN



NEXT STEPS

Get Connected

Ready to explore serving and training in missions for a summer in Mexico? We'd love to chat with you!

Step 01: APPLY

Submit a [Mesa Intern Application](#) for a summer of service. Then, our mobilization team will reach out with next steps!



HAVE A QUESTION? ASK OUR DIRECTOR OF MOBILIZATION & ONBOARDING, JENNIFER, AT JMCINNIS@MESAGLOBAL.CO

Step 02: FOLLOW US

Don't miss a beat & follow us on social media to keep up to date with news, stories from the field, tips for serving cross-culturally, and more!



***WE HOPE TO SEE
YOU IN MEXICO!***

