

# Career Advancement **Mexico City Guide:**

## How to Prepare for a Successful Summer in Mexico City

*The resources in this guide are for informational purposes only. Career Advancement does not endorse or guarantee any of the services described in this document. Students should exercise discretion when planning for their internship. If you have questions about this document, please speak with a Career Advancement advisor. You can make an appointment on UChicago Handshake.*

### **Mexico City Housing Overview**

If you enjoy visiting museums, discovering outdoor markets, and trying amazing food from talented chefs, then Mexico City is the city for you to be this summer!

Many University of Chicago students choose internships based in Mexico City every year. The summer break provides students with the opportunity to explore the city and take advantage of the fun activities it has to offer. Whether you opt to live in the city or in surrounding areas, there are plenty of housing options for every preference.

The type of housing you're looking for, your budget, and your connections in Mexico City are all factors that should help determine where you begin your housing search. The earlier you begin looking, the more options you will have and the easier it will be to choose exactly where you want to live for the summer. In the end, it is best to find housing that is near your job location with easy access to public transportation. This should be a priority when looking for housing; it will make your commute to and from work easier and it will save you a lot of time and money.

### **Finding Summer Housing**

#### **Steps you should take when looking for housing:**

1. *Consider finding a roommate.* You may end up spending a good amount of your summer income paying for rent. If you can find classmates, friends, or relatives willing to room with you, this could be your best option for saving some money.

2. *Location is everything.* One strategy is to search for housing that is close to your workplace or near transportation that will get you to work quickly. Mexico City has a variety of public transportation options for navigating the expanse of the city.
3. *Decide what is important to you.* Once you've decided on what neighborhoods would be convenient for you, it's always helpful to explore what attractions they have to offer. Whether you love trying new restaurants, shopping, or visiting cultural institutions, find a place that will give you the most time to explore your favorite things.
4. *Politely ask your employer about housing resources.* Your employer may have suggestions for where to live or be able to give you the contact information of other interns who are searching for housing so that you can room together or get advice.

#### **Online Housing Resources**

There are a variety of online housing resources that provide short-term housing vacancies, including:

- <https://www.airbnb.com/>
- <http://www.bestmexicoapartments.com/>
- <https://www.hometogo.com/>
- <https://www.likibu.com/>
- <https://www.sublet.com/>

In addition to the links above, Facebook groups are good places to look for short-term housing or roommates.

## Student Housing Organizations

Student Housing Organizations are corporations that own large residential buildings and rent out rooms to students. Sometimes the buildings are set up like dormitories with single rooms and collective bathrooms, and other times the rooms are more like studio or one-bedroom apartments. It is important to look and apply for housing as soon as possible. There are pros and cons to living in student housing, just as there are for living in a dormitory.

### *Pros*

- Amenities such as security, maintenance, etc.
- Opportunity to easily meet other students.
- Several options ranging from economical setups to ones with more amenities: prices can range between \$1,013 and \$4,311 for the entire summer.

### *Cons*

- Possibility you'll be matched with a roommate.
- There are rules and regulations in most of these places that you will have to abide by.

## These institutions offer summer housing:

### **Casa Puno Lindavista:**

<https://casa-puno.negocio.site/>

Each room is equipped with a bed, desk, chair, and storage space. Fees include Wi-Fi, utilities, washing and drying services, and access to a communal kitchen. Telephone: (+52) 552 699 9302 and (+52) 552 737 4908.

### **U-Co Juarez CDMX:**

<https://u-co.co/u-co-juarez-mexico-city/>

Housing organization that prompts communal living and working for university students. Available accommodation includes double or quadruple occupancy rooms. This organization can be reached at (+52) 556 783 2802.

### **U-Co Roma CDMX:**

<https://u-co.co/u-co-roma-mexico-city/>

Similar living arrangements to those found at the U-Co Juarez residential building: double and quadruple occupancy rooms. Both hostels include work spaces, kitchens, living rooms and web meeting areas. Call (+52) 554 635 9988 for more information about this location.

## Mexico City Neighborhoods

The majority of students with summer internships in Mexico City choose to live in different neighborhoods based on their internship location. Below is a list of neighborhoods that could be suitable housing options:

**San Rafael** is known for its outstanding architecture and traditional food. Its central location and access to public transportation makes it a convenient neighborhood to live in for students with internships in the heart of the city.

The quiet neighborhood of **Narvarte Poniente** is perfect for students that do not wish to live in the busier parts of Mexico City. Because this area is largely residential, it attracts less tourists and has many housing options.

**Roma** is known for being home to excellent gastronomy, spacious parks, and active nightlife. However, this neighborhood is more expensive than other options.

**Coyoacán** is an area of Mexico City that features art galleries, markets, and restaurants. This neighborhood also hosts the famous Blue House and Leon Trotsky Museums. If renting from this part of the city, keep in mind that the city center is approximately 40 minutes away.

## Rental Tips and Expectations

### Applying for a Rental Unit

Most landlords will ask you to complete a rental application form. The application will typically ask for:

- Name, address, and telephone number
- Current and past landlords

- Financial information regarding your ability to pay the rent, like monthly or annual income
- Names of people who will be living in the unit

### Cost of Living

A few notes to remember while considering housing costs:

- The average monthly rent for a studio or 1-bedroom apartment ranges from \$537 to \$2,471 per month or \$1,071 to \$5,500 per month for a 2-bedroom or 3-bedroom apartment.
- While researching for apartments to rent, be aware of scammers on rental websites. A common tactic used by the seller is stating that they will be out of the city for months, limiting their accessibility. According to two students trying to find housing over the summer, “[they] also noticed that a lot of the scam responses were the same, someone leaving the city for 3 to 9 months for a job.”
- Be sure to get in contact (via phone, Zoom, etc.) with your landlord or leaser before agreeing to rent the vacancy. When possible, visit the space or do a video tour before signing the lease.

### Mexico City Transportation

#### Metrobús and Local Buses

All buses are part of a rapid transit system that covers all parts of the city’s busiest areas. Each ride is charged at a flat rate of 6 MXN, and connections to the outer suburbs cost between 5 and 6 MXN, depending on travel distance.

#### Bikes, E-Bikes, and Scooters

Most areas of downtown Mexico City have bike and scooter stations. To use these, riders must sign up online or via an app and pay with a credit or debit card.

#### Taxis and Shared Ride Options

Fares are mostly paid in cash and are based on distance and time using the meter inside the car. You can also e-hail a cab through various mobile apps such as Uber or Lyft (<https://www.uber.com/>), (<https://www.lyft.com/>).

### Monthly Transportation Cost

#### - Tarjeta de Movilidad Integrada

This card costs an initial fee of 15 MXN and can be reloaded with up to 120 MXN or 20 individual rides. For more information, visit the Metrobús website at the following link: <https://www.metrobus.cdmx.gob.mx/>.

### Mexico City Safety

After living in Chicago for school, you should be well-versed in safety precautions for a big city. However, here are some basic tips you should be reminded of before your internship. Using common sense is good advice and you should read the following tips for a quick refresher.

#### General Safety Tips:

- Always remember that there is safety in numbers. Walk with friends, or take populated routes when going places. Be especially careful at night.
- Plan your route in advance, walk with a purpose, and be alert at all times, especially when talking on a cell phone or using headphones in public.
- Avoid deserted areas such as parks and alleys.
- If you think you are being followed, cross the street, change direction, or go to a public place.
- Never display large amounts of cash or other valuables in public. If you need to organize your wallet, duck into a store or wait until you’re home.
- Don’t keep your wallet in the back pocket of your pants or backpack, and be aware of your wallet or purse in commotions. Pickpockets often employ helpers to create disturbances nearby.

- Use caution when using ATMs and don't carry too much cash around with you. Most places accept

credit cards and ATMs are everywhere. Just make sure you choose one that is in a busy area.

### **Connect with Alumni**

While you're in Mexico City this summer, take advantage of the opportunity to connect with another great resource: University of Chicago alumni! Whether you're interested in working in Mexico City after graduation, or you wish to find out more about certain career paths, networking with alumni may be one of the most beneficial things you do during your summer. Research alumni who are currently working in Mexico City through the UChicagoWiser Network, an alumni mentoring platform: <https://uchicago.wiser.io/signup> and the online alumni directory: <http://www.uchicagoalumni.org>.