



HONORS PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Guardians may consider the thought of sending their students abroad for five to six weeks daunting. The Program Fees of the IUHPFL may also discourage some families, though the costs compared to other study abroad programs of equal length and quality are much higher. IUHPFL recommends sharing the following information.

The History and Tradition of the Program

IUHPFL began in 1962 and has a well-established history at Indiana University, Bloomington (IUB). The IUHPFL is proud to have had more than 8,000 participants in its fifty-plus years of existence.

IUHPFL's Relationship with Indiana University

As a unit of the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs (OVPIA), IUHPFL is well advised and supervised through OVPIA policies and procedures. IUHPFL reports directly to the Office of Overseas Study (OVST) at IUB, under the direction of Associate Vice President for Overseas Study, Kathleen Sideli. Additionally, IUHPFL has its own Advisory Committee, comprised of IUB faculty and staff as well as high school teachers. The Advisory Committee meets once a year or more to keep the program abreast of current practices in the field of Study Abroad and to assess the effectiveness of current IUHPFL procedures.

The Safety of Program Sites

Given that the IUHPFL is a unit of OVPIA, the program stays well informed about safety issues in the eight countries in which the program maintains sites. Some guardians worry about student safety in Mexico. In 2011, as a proactive measure, the IUHPFL moved the program from San Luis Potosí to Mérida, Mexico. Mérida, located on the Yucatan Peninsula, was nominated by the United Nations as one of the safest cities in the world.

The Value of the IUHPFL

Participation in the IUHPFL has many benefits that carry over to the guardian and family. While students and their parents have to make a significant financial investment, it is by comparison much less expensive than competing programs. The IUHPFL is committed to making the program as affordable as possible and manages its resources efficiently.

1. Financial Benefits

- On average, IUHPFL alumni place into the fifth semester of foreign language instruction at IUB*
- IUHPFL should be considered a long-term investment given that, on average, IUHPFL alumni bypass on average up to 6 credit hours of university instruction*

**based on research done at Indiana University, Bloomington*

2. Lifelong Benefits

Along with tuition dollars saved, there are, of course, the intangibles that come from an experience abroad:

- Increased confidence, maturity and independence

- Greater perspective and broadened world view
- Greater sense of self
- Speaking a second language is a marketable skill and enables world travel
- Friendships that often last a lifetime

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is offered based on need and merit to help students take advantage of this unique opportunity. It is the IUHPFL's goal to continuously improve the quality of the IUHPFL and give as much funding to its students as possible.

- The majority of students who apply for financial assistance, receive financial assistance. Awards range from \$250-1,500 per student.
- Additional funds are available for some program sites and may depend on the language and high school.
- Financial assistance has risen over the years, from \$44,750 in 2009 to \$65,000 in 2017.

The IUHPFL Website

<https://iuhpfl.indiana.edu/> contains much information, including factsheets, photos, alumni reports and videos. A dedicated "Guardian Section" discusses important subjects such as student safety and health and provides helpful tips.

Open House/Conferences/School Events

Many teachers are pressed for time. Something as simple as handing out a flyer or bookmark and mentioning the benefits of IUHPFL experience to guardians helps spread the word.

- Teachers may want to present (or hand out) materials about IUHPFL during an Open House or Parent/Teacher conferences.
- IUHPFL alumni may volunteer to support teachers and share their experiences during these events.

For Small Schools

- Smaller schools may want to collaborate with nearby school and pool resources and events to promote IUHPFL.