


### Welcome


Congratulations on being selected to attend New Mexico State University on exchange. We welcome you to the U. S. south-west which is known for good weather, multiple cultures, and friendly people.

The opportunity to study abroad on exchange should be the start of a life changing adventure. This adventure must be approached with an open mind and a willingness to accept whatever you may face. Learning in a new environment will prepare you to handle new academic and professional challenges. Remember that while you are here on exchange you must excel in your academic work, but you also will want to experience the people, places, sounds, smells and general ambience of your home-away-from-home.

The staff in the Office of Study Abroad will be responsible for assisting you to have a pleasant stay in New Mexico. This Guidebook is designed to help you learn about us and answer many basic questions. If you have other questions or concerns, e-mail or fax us. Have a safe journey.

  
Dr. Paul E. Huntsberger,  
Assistant Dean for Study  
Abroad



  
Cindy Dielstra,  
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Secretary for  
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**Room 237 Garcia Annex • MSC 3567 PO Box 30001 Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001 USA**  
**505-646-5107, Fax 505-646-3482 • e-mail [inbound@nmsu.edu](mailto:inbound@nmsu.edu)**

### Essential Pre-departure Checklist

- Fill out NMSU Non-degree or Graduate application (if sent to you) and fax to us at 505-646-3482.
- Send us your address, telephone number, and e-mail address if different from that listed on your application so we can contact you as needed.
- Check that you have a passport that is valid 6 months beyond the end of your exchange.
- Obtain the J-1 student visa (J-1 exchange visitor). To obtain the J visa, you should have received the document DS-2019 from NMSU, or from ISEP if you are coming on that program. The U.S. Consulate will charge you \$100 for the SEVIS visa processing fee.
- Arrange your travel to El Paso, Texas, the international airport closest to Las Cruces. Make sure you arrive on time for the mandatory orientation.
- Inform the Office of Study Abroad of your time of arrival in El Paso two weeks in advance of coming so you can be picked up. Send us a picture so we can identify you at the airport.
- Register for classes on-line after you have received your NMSU registration documents or your Student ID number. Check that your university has approved any courses you need for your program at home. Contact us if you have any problems.
- Bring some U.S. dollars so you can pay for incidentals and hotels until you are provided your stipend for the exchange.

## Academic Calendar

Exchange students must arrive on the dates listed below so they can attend the mandatory orientations. Students will be placed in their on-campus room on the day of arrival if the dormitory or apartment is open. Those arriving earlier or after hours will be placed in a hotel near the campus. See the calendar below for important dates for the current academic year.

	Fall Semester 2006	Spring Semester 2007
<b>Exchange Students Arrive</b> . . . . .	<b>August 20-21</b> . . . . .	<b>January 14-15</b>
Housing Facilities Open . . . . .	August 22 . . . . .	January 16
<b>Mandatory Orientation</b> . . . . .	<b>August 22-23</b> . . . . .	<b>January 16-17</b>
Instruction Begins . . . . .	August 24 . . . . .	January 18
Last Day of classes . . . . .	December 15 . . . . .	May 11
Exam week . . . . .	December 11-15 . . . . .	May 7-11
Housing Facilities Close . . . . .	December 16 . . . . .	May 12
<b>Holidays</b>		
Labor Day Weekend . . . . .	September 2-4	
Thanksgiving . . . . .	November 18-26	
Winter Holiday . . . . .	December 17-January 17	
Martin Luther King Day . . . . .		January 15
Spring Break . . . . .		March 17-25
Spring (Easter) Holiday . . . . .		April 6-8

\*Exchange students may request to enter campus apartments early, and students continuing from Fall to Spring may stay in their apartments over the Winter Holiday. University offices closed for MLK Day, but Study Abroad staff available to pick up students at airport.

## Passport

All international students studying in the U.S. are required to obtain a passport and a student visa. Passports must be valid for the duration of the stay in the U.S. plus at least six months into the future. Students will need to carry their passport with them while traveling in the U.S., even just outside of Las Cruces.

## Visa Requirement

### Student Visa

Exchange students are issued the DS-2019 document by the University (or by the International Student Exchange Program if an ISEP student) which they take to a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in their home country with their passport to obtain the J-1 visa.

**Advisory: Students need to provide ISEP or the Office of Study Abroad accurate information to prepare the DS-2019 (should be the same as on your passport). Inaccurate information (names, date of birth, city and country of birth, etc.) may result in delays in obtaining the student visa. U.S. policy currently requires in-person interviews for all visas, so plan early to obtain the visa. You will have to pay the \$100 SEVIS processing fee to the Embassy or consulate that processes your visa.**

## Airport Destination and Pick-up

The airport closest to Las Cruces is El Paso, Texas, which is about 50 miles from the university. If you send in the airport pick-up request form (fax it first then send by air mail), our office will arrange for your pick-up and transport from El Paso to Las Cruces. If for some reason your flight is delayed and office staff cannot meet you at the airport as arranged, contact the Las Cruces Shuttle Service (1-800-288-1784) for a reservation (about \$40 fee). They have vehicles that leave the airport as late as 11:45 pm. If delayed while in the U.S. call Dr. Huntsberger at home (505-523-7911) or on his cell phone (505-644-5436) so he can alert the drivers to change their schedule. Students arriving after midnight in El Paso will have to stay overnight in a local hotel, and the office will pick up the next morning.

## Baggage & Shipping Advice

### Baggage Limits

When packing, be aware of the airline limitations on baggage. Airline regulations are stricter now and you will be charged for excess pieces of baggage or weight. Check with your airline for specific information on baggage allowances.

### Passport

Always carry your passport and important documents (such as DS 2019) with you for easy access for immigration and customs. Put essential documents and other items you will need immediately in your carry-on luggage in case your checked-in luggage is delayed.

## Prescription Drugs

If you are bringing prescription drugs, please keep them with you in their original containers.

## Travel Light

It is always best to travel light, since most items you may need are available in the U.S. Some items suggested by other exchange students to bring:

- sewing kit • electric outlet adapter (110 volts) • travel alarm clock • Copy of medical and dental records • good walking shoes • address book & diary • photos of family and friends • Mementos of your country • catalogs or other information about your university

## Shipping Instructions

If it is necessary to ship personal items prior to your arrival in Las Cruces, mark boxes clearly with your name and arrival date. They should be sent to the following address:

Office of Study Abroad, International Programs, New Mexico State University, MSC 3567 PO Box 30001, Room 237 Garcia Annex, Corner of Stewart and Locust, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001 USA

## Pre-Registration On-line

### Permit to Enroll

The University will issue you an Official Permit to Enroll which includes your student ID number used for registration. Exchange students are admitted non-degree to the college in which they plan to do the majority of their class work, but they can take course in other colleges. Students qualified for graduate study may be admitted non-degree post baccalaureate, but must be admitted graduate level if seeking a degree (restricted to ISEP). **Bring the Permit to Enroll with you**, and show it to embassy or immigration officials if requested.

### Activating Your NMSU Web Page Account

Go to <http://www.nmsu.edu>, and click on the My NMSU.edu link (lower left corner of page). This is where you will activate your student web account which is used for registration and many other student functions. You will need your student ID number. You cannot pre-register until you activate your account with a unique user name and a pin number you select for security.

### Registration Procedures

Exchange students in undergraduate status may pre-register before they arrive on campus. Since some classes close early, being able to pre-register is advantageous to enrolling in the courses you want. After arrival, you will have time to add and drop classes for about 10 days.

**Advisory: The last day to register for a class is about 10 days after the beginning of classes. Adding classes late in the semester, allowed in some other countries, cannot be done at NMSU. Graduate students will register after arriving on campus.**

## Exchange Costs Estimates

### Inbound Exchange Estimated Costs Per Semester 2006-2007

#### Tuition and fees (covered by the exchange) \$0

**Advisory: Exchange students taking more than the maximum credits allowed have to pay the difference for additional credit cost. Also, special course fees (such as for Physical Education courses) are borne by the exchange student. Undergraduates are limited to 18 credits, and graduates to 9 credits (11 for ISEP) while on exchange.**

#### Housing on-campus single room apartment per semester \$1680 to \$2195

**Advisory: For ISEP and other exchanges with a housing benefit provided, NMSU covers the cost of a single room in Cervantes Apartments which cost \$1680. Students would have to pay the cost above \$1680 if they choose other more expensive accommodations on campus. Shared accommodations may be available at lower cost. Off campus housing rents vary. ISEP students may take the \$1680 and apply it to off-campus housing.**

#### Full Meal Plan on-campus (does not cover holidays) \$1175

**Advisory: For ISEP and other exchanges with a meal benefit provided, NMSU covers the cost of the full meal plan (or provides the same amount as a stipend). Students are also provided an allowance for days the cafeteria service is not available.**

#### Books and educational supplies \$350-500

#### Health Insurance (if not paid under an exchange agreement) \$37 per month

#### Miscellaneous personal expenses \$1000

Students on exchange who have to pay for housing and meals need to submit proof of financial ability with the non-degree exchange application. This proof can be a bank statement showing availability per semester of \$4,600 (or less if housing and meal plan covered by exchange) or a letter from a parent or guardian guaranteeing financial responsibility.

**Disclaimer: These are estimated costs and actual costs may be higher or lower depending on life style of the student. University rates quoted are subject to change.**

## Banking Advice

Students should arrive with sufficient funds to cover charges not included in their exchange benefits. Traveler's checks are convenient and are accepted almost everywhere. Major credit cards may also be used most places.

Most students set up checking or savings accounts in a local bank. The Office will take you to set up a bank account. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), which have Pulse, Plus, Visa, Master Card, Cirrus, Express Cash and Discover, are located in the Corbett Center student union. Local banks also have ATMs from which you can take cash out of an established account with them.

You will always be asked for your identification when cashing a check of any kind. When you first arrive, you can use a passport for identification. You may also use your student I.D. card for identification.

If you have a bank account, you may cash a check you brought with you at that bank. Checks from other countries that are not drawn on a U.S. bank can take a week or so to clear, and may be assessed a service fee. It is wiser to bring your funds in U.S. dollar traveler's checks.

## Insurance Requirements for Exchange Students

### Health and Accident Insurance

All students on the J-1 visa are required by the U.S. government to carry adequate accident and health insurance. At a minimum, this policy must provide for \$50,000 coverage for expenses of illnesses and accidents, \$10,000 medical evacuation, and \$7,500 repatriation of remains. **The Office of Study Abroad requires purchase of IMG insurance** except when students have already been required to purchase a policy such as ISEP's insurance. Under some NMSU exchange agreements, the Office will pay for the IMG insurance. Students not covered under an exchange agreement for IMG insurance will be billed the cost of this insurance by the Office.

***Advisory: Since travel insurance policies do not cover dental and eye care (except for injury), and pregnancy, students are advised to take care of any dental or eye care problems or purchase maternity insurance prior to coming to the U.S. Also be advised that most policies do not cover pre-existing medical conditions for a period up to 12 months or more.***

### Responsibility and Liability on Exchange

Exchange students are expected to follow standards of conduct consistent with the maintenance of a positive reputation of the university and to abide by all applicable rules, regulations, and policies of the University. Students are expected:

- to comply with all participation requirements established by the University for the program,
- to agree to expend their best efforts in successfully completing the academic requirements of the courses in which they enroll,
- to obtain the necessary medical insurance coverage for participating in the exchange, and
- to be aware of the safety challenges inherent in traveling abroad.

The Office of Study Abroad cannot guarantee the absolute safety of participants or ensure that risk will not at times be greater than at home. Nor can we monitor the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of individual participants that may violate local laws and norms of behavior. The University expects students to conduct themselves legally, morally, and ethically at all times while studying at New Mexico State University. Inbound Student Orientation

Exchange students are required to attend new student exchange orientation according to the schedule advertised for the period on exchange. During this orientation the Office will review students official documents and collect personal information needed by the Office. We will also cover topics such as:

- immigration law and reporting requirements
- employment regulations
- registration procedures (adding and dropping classes)
- banking, shopping, social activities, communication
- housing and meal plan options
- benefits of each exchange program

The Association of Study Abroad Ambassadors will be available to help students through the registration process and to help them become adjusted to the campus and the Las Cruces community. Transportation will be provided to take care of banking, shopping, and other affairs needing transportation for the first few days. A new student reception will be held during the first week of classes and an International Welcome Picnic is scheduled each September.

***Advisory: Students who cannot make the scheduled time for new exchange student orientation must inform the Assistant Dean in advance. The last day for registration for Fall 2006 is August 29, and for Spring 2007 is January 23. Students must be registered full time by noon on these dates or their exchange status will be cancelled.***

## Health Services for Exchange Students

### Student Health Care On Campus

Full-time students are eligible for routine health care services at the University Health Center. Services are provided on an appointment and walk-in basis. You must present your student I.D. Card with each visit. Services include evaluations by physicians and nurses as well as:

- laboratory • pharmacy • immunizations & allergy injections
- consultation/referral • women's healthcare

Dental and eye care is not provided by the Student Health Center.

Services are provided Monday–Friday, 8:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M. throughout the entire school year, except for summer when the facility is closed between 11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Emergency medical care in Las Cruces is provided by Memorial Medical Center (521-2286).

### Cost of Health Care

The cost of the physician's service at the Student Health Center is free, but other costs are borne by the student. If referred to an outside physician, students pay the fees. These costs may be reimbursed totally or partially by the student's insurance carrier. A claim must be submitted to the insurance company to receive reimbursement. For assistance submitting health insurance claims contact the Office of Study Abroad.

**Note: The American College Health Association recommends, and New Mexico State University requires, international students to undergo TB screening. This testing is provided at the NMSU Student Health Center for a fee. This is usually completed before students register for their second semester.**

## Housing Options for Exchange Students

(<http://www.nmsu.edu/~housing/>)

### On-Campus Housing

Students on exchange may choose to live on or off campus. Students receiving a housing benefit as part of their exchange (such as ISEP) will have the cost of living in Cervantes (B, D, E, and F complex) apartments (single rooms in a 4 room complex) or any double room on campus covered. Students are encouraged to live in Cervantes 4 Bedroom apartments which provide single rooms, kitchen facilities, and a common living area, and two bathrooms. These are open year round. Additional cost above that of the Cervantes 4 bedroom option will be borne by the student.

**Advisory: Students should choose to live on or off campus prior to arrival. Students who sign an on-campus housing contract may be obligated to stay for the academic year.**

The on-campus housing options are: (subject to availability)

- Single rooms in Cervantes (B, D, E, and F complex): Cost covered for ISEP and other exchanges that include housing benefits.

### Off-Campus Housing

Students who choose to live off-campus in an apartment will be provided the equivalent cost of a single room on campus in the 4-bedroom Cervantes apartments as a stipend each semester. We will send students a guide to apartment rental which may be used to look for an apartment.

**Some exchange students have chosen to live off campus in Campus Suites, an apartment with 4 bedrooms similar to Cervantes. Students interested in this arrangement can contact Mathers Realty, 2223 E. Missouri, Las Cruces, NM 88001, phone 505-522-4224, fax 505-522-7105.**

## Meal Service Options

### On-Campus Service

University cafeterias and food vendors are located in the Corbett Student Union and at other convenient locations around the campus. The university offers several meal plans. Students with meal benefits may choose any meal plan offered. The exchange meal allowance is based on the cost of Plan A, unlimited meals per week plan, plus additional money for times when the cafeteria is closed for holidays. Students who choose a plan with fewer meals provided, or who decline to take a meal plan, will be provided the difference between the lower cost plan chosen and the maximum cost plan, or the whole allowance to purchase food anywhere they please on or off campus. For more information about meal plans contact dining services.

### Off-Campus Services

Many types of restaurants and food stores are located near the campus and throughout Las Cruces. While Mexican food is popular, you can find Thai, Japanese, Italian, and many other types of cuisine.

## Course Credit Limits

Most courses are 3 to 4 credits (although some may be 1-6 credits). While in exchange status at NMSU, undergraduates must

take a minimum of 12 credits and may take a maximum of 18 credits. Graduates must take and are limited to 9 credits (ISEP students may take up to 11 credits on exchange). Full-time enrollment is a condition of the J-1 student visa status of exchange students.

Students are responsible for any extra charges, such as classes that carry a special fee. Included in the fees paid by the office are the Activity Fee, which allows use of all facilities on campus and attendance at athletic events at no cost, and the Health Center Fee, which allows use of the Student Health Center.

**Advisory: Exchange students taking more than the maximum allowed have to pay the difference for additional credit cost. Also, special course fees (such as for Physical Education courses) are borne by the exchange student.**

## Miscellaneous Information

### Books

Students usually purchase their books in the University Bookstore on campus. Books are expensive and can cost \$300-500 per semester, depending on the number of courses taken and the nature of the subject. Books can be sold back to the bookstore at the end of the semester.

### Communicating While at NMSU

#### E-mail

Students may obtain free e-mail access on campus. Many computers are available in the various computer labs around campus. The Office requires you to have a current e-mail address on file at all times.

#### Telephone

All rooms in the residence halls have telephone connections, but phones must be purchased. You will have to sign-up for the campus run long distance service to be able to call outside Las Cruces. You will be billed for the cost of this service and any calls made. Students should check into obtaining long distance international calling cards to reduce the cost of calling home. You are entitled to use our office phone for business calls long distance to your home university only.

#### Fax

The office fax may be used for business only. Students wanting to use it for personal affairs may do so by paying the established fee for fax transmissions.

#### Mail

The Office of Study Abroad mailing address may be used temporarily as your mailing address. After you have established residence, you must use your new address. A limited service Post Office is located in the Corbett Center Student Union.

**Advisory: Immigration regulations require that you provide the Office of Study Abroad with your current physical address (no P.O. Boxes) after arrival, and to report any changes within 10 days of occurrence. The Office has the forms used to make address change reports to immigration.**

### Cultural Adjustment

When you arrive in Las Cruces you will probably feel excited, nervous and a little confused at times. The culture, food, customs, and people are different here than what you're used to in your home country. It's exciting to learn about these differences. But be aware that the excitement and novelty might wear off and leave you with feelings of confusion and loneliness. You might miss your family, friends and home country and have second thoughts about studying so far away from home. Don't worry! These thoughts and feelings are normal and are experienced by most students who study abroad.

People experience this phenomenon, culture shock, to varying degrees and for different periods of time. Other people don't experience it at all. The best way to get through times such as these is through socializing. Make friends, join clubs and get involved in the community or university. Also, find or continue hobbies to concentrate on. If you play a certain sport, join an intramural team through the university. Do not focus on your culture shock. Set aside one time a week to reflect on your adjustment. Keep a diary or talk about your feelings with other exchange students: more than likely, they're feeling the same way you are. Finally, give yourself time to adjust to your new home. And most importantly, keep an open mind. Try to avoid comparing everything about your host country to your home country. It's a new culture and should be considered as an adventure.

#### Previous Students' Observations

"The most positive aspect ...was the chance to get in touch with new cultures by meeting people from other countries. \*\* Being in a place where the US style and the Mexican one get together was also really nice." —Canada

"... most people around here are really friendly, and people show themselves to be open-minded. ...Personally, I like the climate and culture. Be sure to get some good Mexican food while you're here." —Netherlands

"New Mexico State University presents many aspects of what an American university should have to welcome foreign students. The quality of the courses, the highly enjoyable weather, the opportunity to meet people both from the area and from all over the world, the obvious opportunity to improve your knowledge of English, all this will make your stay here an unforgettable experience. Come and enjoy the enriching mix of American and Mexican cultures in a great academic and social environment, I guarantee you that you will have fun!" —France

“... NMSU becomes your new home. Do not be reticent to go out, enjoy (even if you think you have too much to study). Do not reject other exchange students because you want to only be with Americans. Exchange people live the same experience as you do and can understand you and talk with you. Of course it is wonderful to meet new American friends, I did and I am really going to miss them! Good luck and have fun.”—France

“What I like about the United States is that the people here treat you very friendly and don't hesitate to talk to strangers. This makes it easy to feel more integrated and part of the country.”—Germany

“If you are interested to broaden your horizon in a multicultural environment, where you can work on your English and Spanish skills in a region where people are very open and easy-going, Las Cruces may be just right for you.”—Austria

“New Mexico State University is a great campus, huge with access to all facilities, the activity center, well equipped and lots of computer-labs, etc. The Study Abroad Office takes real good care of you, you can always be sure to have the help you would eventually need for whatever your problem is. The weather here is great the whole year, that's wonderful, and helps you to be in a good mood all the time! Cruces is small and secure, but it's true that without a car, you cannot do much around here. But you always find nice people to bring you everywhere all the time. And with a bike, you don't have problems to move around, and on campus.”—France

## **Employment of Exchange Students:**

### **On-campus Employment**

Students may be considered for part-time employment on campus only with written permission of Dr. Huntsberger (or with written permission of ISEP for those under their visa program). Employment is limited to 20 hours per week on campus and must be arranged through the Student Employment Office.

### **Post Program Academic Training**

Students may request to work in their field of study off campus after they complete their exchange. Normally, an exchange student can be approved for 4 months of “academic training” if they attended one semester, and up to 9 months if they attended two semesters.

***Advisory: If you want to consider the on-campus or off-campus employment options, contact the office early so the documents needed to be prepared to give permission are done on time. Students approved for work will also need to obtain a U.S. Social Security ID Card before they can begin their employment, and this application can take two or more weeks.***

## **Local Transportation**

The office will provide transportation during the orientation period to do shopping, banking, and other matters necessary to settling in to the community. After orientation ends, students are expected to arrange their own transportation for personal matters.

The Roadrunner Bus system operates on and off campus during the daytime and early evening, with limited service on Saturdays. Service is not available on Sundays. Taxi service is limited. Most students make friends and arrange for private transportation when going off campus. Other students purchase bicycles to use around campus.

## **Field Trips**

During each semester the office will sponsor some day trips to local areas of interest. The NMSU Association of Study Abroad Ambassadors will also organize trips for its members. Students will share the cost of transportation and pay any costs for hotels, food, and admissions to attractions.

Trips are periodically offered by the International Student Services Office, and exchange students are welcomed to participate in these trips. Students may subscribe to FSN, a listserv service for international students, to learn about international student activities. This will be done after arrival.

## **International Clubs**

The University charters many student clubs that engage in social, professional, sports, and service activities. Two clubs sponsored by the Office of Study Abroad are the NMSU Association of Study Abroad Ambassadors, which brings together returned NMSU exchange students, in-coming exchange students, and other interested students to engage in social activities that lend to cultural understanding; and the NMSU Rotaract Club, which is chartered by Rotary International and which brings together U.S. and international students to work on service projects (U.S. and international) and to have fun through fellowship. The International Ambassadors help incoming exchange students to settle in, and the Rotaract Club supports the Annual International Student Welcome Picnic each Fall in September.

## **International Festival**

The Office for International Student Services arranges opportunities for students to showcase their countries and culture with the Las Cruces community through a spring International Festival. The festival is open to the public on Saturday. International students decorate booths to display information about their country. Some students sing, dance and play musical instruments. Others prepare food items for sharing with the audience of 500+ people who attend. On the Friday, school children visit the booths and students teach them games or engage in other activities related to their home country. Sometimes students are asked to talk about

their country in local schools. Exchange students are encouraged to become involved with this and other activities sponsored by the Office of International Student Services.

### Las Cruces Facts

Las Cruces, a city of 75,000+ inhabitants, is located only 45 miles north of El Paso, TX and 50 miles north of Juárez, Mexico. The city is popular for its sunny weather which promises an average of 350 days of sunshine per year (and only 8.5 inches of rain)—perfect weather for hikers, bikers, swimmers, golfers and people who enjoy the outdoors. The city also attracts visitors drawn by the easy access to deserts and mountains, historic forts, and old plazas. Las Cruces spreads over the green Mesilla Valley, which lies at 4,000 feet (1,200 meters) and is traversed by the Río Grande which irrigates the desert.

#### Basic Facts:

Population	City 75,000+ / County 150,000+
Elevation	3,900 feet above sea level
Terrain	Desert, fertile valley, high mountain ranges (north & east)
Temperature hi/low	January 59°/27° (15°C/-3°C) April 77°/42° (25°C/6°C) July 94°/62° (34°C/17°C) October 77°/48° (25°C/9°C)
Sunshine	350 sunny days (annual average)
Precipitation	8.5 inches (216 mm) annually
Snowfall	3.2 inches (81 mm) annually
Golf Courses	2 public courses, 1 private
Tennis Courts	18 public courts
Travel Distance to	El Paso, TX 45 miles Juárez, Mexico 50 miles Albuquerque, NM 225 miles Santa Fe, NM 285 miles Tucson, AZ 275 miles Denver, CO 611 miles Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX 639 miles Los Angeles, CA 731 miles Houston, TX 784 miles Chicago, IL 1,408 miles Atlanta, GA 1,422 miles Detroit, MI 1,644 miles New York, NY 2,106 miles
Hospital	Memorial Medical Center, Mountain West
Radio Stations	2 AM & 6 FM Stations
Television Stations	1 PBS affiliate; networks, independents & PBS received from El Paso
Newspapers	1 daily & 1 weekly

### New Mexico Attractions

Las Cruces is at the heart of some of the most beautiful scenery and fascinating history of the southwest. While you're here visit the White Sands National Monument, which contains miles and miles of pure white gypsum dunes between two mountain ranges. This sight is especially stunning at sunset or on a full moon night.

Just one hour north of Las Cruces you'll actually find a lake in the desert! Elephant Butte State Park and Caballo Reservoir cover over 50,000 acres and offer year-round fishing, camping, hiking, water skiing, and windsurfing.

The Gila National Forest is New Mexico's largest wilderness area and has trout streams, hiking trails, and terrain ranging from scrubby piñon and juniper to maples and Douglas Fir higher up. The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument offers a glimpse back in time revealing the sophisticated culture of the ancient Mogollon Indians.

Rock Hound State park is one monument which, believe it or not, encourages you to take home some geodes, agates and opals! And just north of this attraction you can find huge chunks of volcanic tuff looking eerily like buildings on city streets.

Like to ski? Then travel about 100 miles northeast to either Cloudcroft or Ruidoso, with snowcapped mountains that offer excellent skiing from November through March.

These are just some of the attractions near Las Cruces which are definitely worth seeing in the **Land of Enchantment**.

### New Mexico State University Facts

NMSU, founded in 1888, is a comprehensive university offering bachelor, master's and doctoral degree programs. About 15,000 students attend the main campus. Of these, about 75% were New Mexico residents; 20% were residents of other states, and 5% were international students.

Some key facts:

- named one of the 100 best college buys in the U.S. in "The Student Guide to America's 100 Best College Buys."
- manages the third-largest university-operated telescope in the world at Apache Point Observatory

- has a number of nationally known authors among its English and Spanish faculty
  - offers one of only four PGA-endorsed professional golf management programs in the U.S.
  - ranked as one of 88 top research universities in the nation
  - faculty/student ratio of 1 to 17.6
  - students have access to open labs of Macintoshes and PCs across the campus, and can have free e-mail accounts
  - has art galleries, a museum, professional theatre, music ensemble and symphony, public radio and tv stations, 18-hole golf course, tennis and fitness centers, Activity Center, and indoor and outdoor swimming pools
- You can find more information about NMSU at <http://www.nmsu.edu/>

### **Payment and Refund Options**

Students on exchange who have to pay for their own housing and meal plans may arrange to pay on a payment plan as may any other student. The tuition payment made by the Office serves as the required down payment.

Outstanding balances on the student's account may be divided into 4 equal payments, which must be paid in full prior to the end of the semester. Payments may be made by major credit cards. In case a student had to leave early, refunds of tuition paid by the Office will be made to the Office's account and not returned to the student. The percent of refunds for housing and meal plans is based on date of withdrawal from the university, and after about 4 weeks no refund is allowed. Students may be liable for the full cost of the exchange if they withdraw early and they are responsible for any unrecoverable costs.

### **Tax Reporting Obligations:**

#### **U.S. and New Mexico Income Taxes**

Students who earn income by working at NMSU will have to file U.S. and State of New Mexico tax forms, since they are subject to taxes on income. All international students, whether they have earned U.S. income or not, have to fill out the form 8843 and submit to the Internal Revenue Service. Those who have earned U.S. income also fill out the form NR-1040. These forms are due for the previous tax reporting year by the 15th of April of the next year. (For example, students who earned \$ in calendar year 2005 have to submit the forms by 15th of April, 2006). Students can search for downloadable and on-line versions of the Form 8843 and NR-1040 at the IRS site. Make sure you use the form for the appropriate tax report year. These are usually available in the month of January for the previous year (e.g. January 2006 for 2005 tax year).

***Advisory: Students who want to work will also need to apply for a U.S. Social Security number. They will need a letter authorizing employment from the Office (or from ISEP) and a letter from the employer offering employment to obtain this number, which is used for tax identification purposes.***

#### **Sales Tax**

When shopping in Las Cruces, price tags of items do not usually include state sales tax, which is 7% in this area. Books bought in the bookstore are not subject to sales tax during the tax free period at the start of each semester. You will need to present the student ID to buy books tax free. Food is not taxed.

### **What Is the Office of Study Abroad?**

Study Abroad is part of the Office of the Dean for International and Border Programs. The major functions of the Office are:

- Develop and manage study abroad opportunities, including exchanges
- Advise students applying for international scholarships
- Coordinate administrative services for undergraduate/graduate exchanges
- Maintain resources for searching for study abroad programs
- Organize publicity and information programs to recruit students for study abroad
- Organize pre-departure and reentry orientation for outbound exchange students
- Organize and administer services for inbound exchange students



