

## Education Abroad

March 13, 2009

Dear colleagues,

As I am sure you are all aware, there have been many reports as of late on the safety of Mexico in the news media and also on the U.S. Department of State Web site. Though the recent violence has been tragic here at the Centro de Estudios para Extranjeros at the University of Guadalajara, we would like to assure you that neither the city of Guadalajara nor the state of Jalisco have been adversely affected by recent violence in the border cities between the USA and Mexico.

Mexico is an incredibly large and diverse country. With Guadalajara located in the center of the country, the CEPE program is literally hundreds of miles from any region in which there has been increased violence. The U.S. Department of State urges that travelers be alert when in these border regions and we at CEPE echo that sentiment. However, students should also be made aware that Guadalajara **has not been affected by the recent violence located hundreds of miles away.**

Mexico is a country of rich diversity, natural beauty and incredible educational opportunities. We at CEPE hope that the terrible events occurring in the border cities do not discourage students from experiencing the myriad of opportunities available to students here in central Mexico.

If you have any questions at all regarding safety in Mexico in general or safety in the city of Guadalajara specifically, please do not hesitate to contact us. We in the CEPE program at the University of Guadalajara have worked for more than 60 years to provide the highest level of personal attention and professional excellence possible to our partners and students, including maintaining a safe environment for our visiting students.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fernandez  
Director

We are also attaching an article from a U.S. newspaper in the Jalisco Guadalajara Reporter.  
<http://guadalajarareporter.com/content/view/23945/58/>

**Safety in Guadalajara:** Though the media has recently reported on **increased** violence in Mexico, **the safety of Guadalajara and the state of Jalisco have not been affected by current events.** Safety issues do exist on the U.S./Mexican border, concentrated in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and Tijuana. Guadalajara, located deep in the center of the country, is hundreds of miles away from all of these problem zones: around 800 miles from Ciudad Juarez (the distance between New York and Chicago), 600 miles away from Chihuahua (the distance between Chicago and Birmingham, AL.) and more than 1,100 miles away from Tijuana (the distance between Washington, D.C. and Miami). The University of Guadalajara values the safety of our students and would not recommend that students study here if Guadalajara were unsafe. That being said, Guadalajara is a city of 6 million people, and students should take the same precautions they would take in a large city in any country of the world.