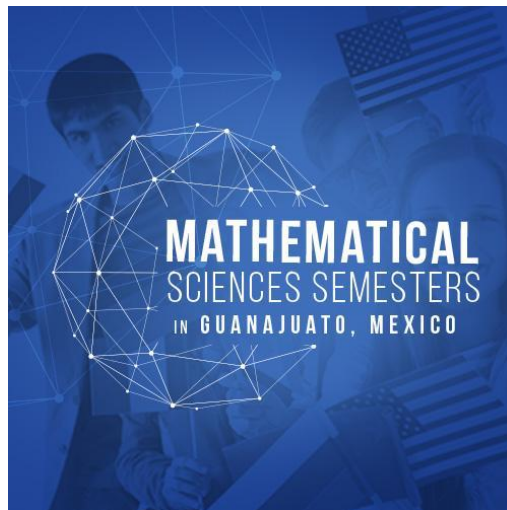


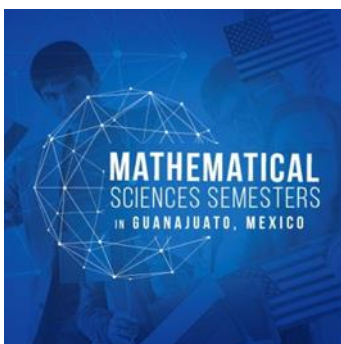
# MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES SEMESTERS IN GUANAJUATO

SPRING 2020



## STUDENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK

[mathsciencesgto.cimat.mx](http://mathsciencesgto.cimat.mx)



MSSG Program Coordinator: Dr. Víctor Manuel PÉREZ-ABREU (Mr.)

MSSG Program Administrator: Araceli LOVELLE (Ms.)

### Checklist to complete once you are admitted to the program

- EMail [mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx](mailto:mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx) confirming you have received the letter of admission and that you agree to participate in MSSG.
- Pay non-refundable Admission Fee within 3 weeks after admission notification and send proof of payment (See *Payments*, pages 7 to 9).
- Pay Tuition Fee before November 1, 2019 and send proof of payment (See *Payment* on pages 7 to 9)
- If you have chosen to attend the Optional Mexican Culture course, pay fee before November 1, 2019 and send proof of payment.
- Have the MSSG letter of admission with you when you leave for Mexico.
- Read the Student Handbook in its entirety.
- Prescription medications:** If you require any type of prescription medication, be sure to bring enough to cover the duration of your stay in Mexico. Do not remove them from their original packaging and keep your doctor's prescription handy in case you are asked to provide it. **It is illegal to mail prescription medicines to Mexico** without a permit from the Mexican Health Department.
- Read, sign and email all the required forms. (See *Required Forms*, page 11)
- Contact MSSG if you have any questions:

Email: [mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx](mailto:mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx)

Phone: Monday to Friday, 09:00 am– 05:00 pm

+ 52 473 732 7155

+52 473 735 0800

Ext. 4592

### **Quick Reference and Emergency Numbers**

Guanajuato City Police	066
Emergency Services	911
Red Cross	065
<i>Centro Médico la Presa, Guanajuato</i>	473 102 3100
<i>Aranda de la Parra Hospital, León</i>	+1 (477) 779 0505, Ext. 168 and 169
<i>Los Ángeles Hospital, León</i>	+1 (477) 788 5600, Ext. 2105
<i>Médica Campestre Hospital, León</i>	+1 (477) 719 7101

## Contents

Welcome	5
1. Contact Information	5
2. Quick Reference and Emergency Numbers	7
3. Payments	7
4. Approximate Living Costs	9
5. Withdrawal from the Program	10
6. Required Forms	11
Important information	11
1. Passport and Visa	11
2. Mandatory Medical Insurance	14
3. Medications	14
4. GRE and Graduate School Applications	15
5. Cellphones	15
6. Currency	15
7. Housing	16
8. Getting Around	17
9. Climate	18
10. Spanish Language Courses	18
11. Mexican Culture Course	19
12. Ethics and Prohibitions	19
Arrival suggestions and procedures	19
1. Getting to Guanajuato	20
2. From El Bajío International Airport to the City	20
3. From Mexico City International Airport	20
4. By Bus	21
What to Include in Your Carry-on Luggage	21
Academics	22
1. Academic Calendar	22
2. Credit Transfer and Course Weight	24

## Welcome

Congratulations on your admission to the program! MSSG is a rigorous program aimed at students with a strong grounding in Mathematics who want to increase their knowledge of data science, modeling and partial differential equations from a comprehensive, forward-looking, and cutting-edge perspective while acquiring a solid theoretical foundation.

**Please make sure you read the entire *Student Handbook* and our website [mathsciencesgto.cimat.mx](http://mathsciencesgto.cimat.mx) for in-depth information about the program.**

Contact the MSSG Office with any questions or concerns you might have.

### 1. *Contact Information*

**Email:** [mathsciencesgto@ciamat.mx](mailto:mathsciencesgto@ciamat.mx)

**Phone number:** + 52 473 732 7155 / +52 473 735 0800 Ext. 4592

**Office hours:** 9.00 am -5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

#### **Address:**

Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas (CIMAT)

Jalisco S/N, Valenciana, Guanajuato, Gto, Mexico 36023

#### **Reference email addresses**

Víctor PÉREZ-ABREU

pabreu@ciamat.mx

MSSG Program Coordinator

Araceli LOVELLE

araceli.lovelle@ciamat.mx

MSSG Program Administrator

Ignacio BARRADAS

barradas@cimat.mx

CIMAT Academic Training Coordinator

Jannet VEGA

jannet@cimat.mx

CIMAT Director of Student Services

The MSSG 24/7 emergency cellphone number:

+52 473 738 1355

The above number is for emergencies only. For normal office business, please call the office number or email us. Emails are the best way to communicate in non-emergency situations and are answered promptly during business hours.

For more information about consular protection and governmental emergency contacts, please check the website of your home country's department of Foreign Affairs/State Department or that of your country's Embassy in Mexico.

For deliveries or correspondence, please use these addresses:

<b>Student Mailing Address (letters only)</b>	<b>Student Mailing Address (parcels)</b>
Name of Student Mathematical Sciences Semesters in Guanajuato Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas (CIMAT) Apartado Postal 402 Guanajuato, Gto. 36000 MEXICO	Name of Student Mathematical Sciences Semesters in Guanajuato Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas (CIMAT) Jalisco S/N, Colonia Valenciana, Guanajuato, Gto. 36023 MEXICO

## 2. Quick Reference and Emergency Numbers

Guanajuato City Police	066
Emergency Services	911
Red Cross	065
<i>Centro Médico la Presa, Guanajuato</i>	473 102 3100
<i>Aranda de la Parra Hospital, León</i>	+1 (477) 779 0505, Ext. 168 and 169
<i>Los Ángeles Hospital, León</i>	+1 (477) 788 5600, Ext. 2105
<i>Médica Campestre Hospital, León</i>	+1 (477) 719 7101

## 3. Payments

All tuition must be paid in full to CIMAT before July 1, 2019. All fees are in US dollars. **If you require an invoice or if your institution is responsible for your tuition, please contact MSSG.** An invoice is not automatically sent to home institutions.

### Payments breakdown and important dates

Tuition costs for the Mathematical Sciences Semesters in Guanajuato (MSSG) spring 2020 semester

- 1) Non-refundable Admission Fee: due within 3 weeks of receipt of Letter of Admission \$360.00

2) Tuition Fee: payable by **November 1, 2019**

\$4,740.00

---

Total Tuition and Admission Fee for Spring 2020 Semester

USD \$5,100.00

### Optional Mexican Culture Course

For more information about the Mexican Culture Course, please see

<http://mathsciencesgto.cimat.mx/es/node/605>

**Cost: USD \$250.00**

Payment Deadline: November 1, 2019

Payment can be made via PayPal or wire/electronic funds transfer.

If you wish to make your payment via PayPal, go to mathsciencesgto > Application > Costs and Payments

(<http://mathsciencesgto.cimat.mx/es/node/595>). Once the payment has been made, **please send legible proof of payment (.pdf or .jpg format) to [mathsciencesgto@ciamat.mx](mailto:mathsciencesgto@ciamat.mx).**

Payment via wire transfer:

Bank Name:	HSBC, S.A.
Account Holder:	Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas, A.C.
Account Number:	2150031426
CLABE (for Mexican accounts only):	021210021500314264
ABA:	026003052
SWIFT Code:	BIMEMXMM



Bank Address:	Víctor Cervera Pacheco #14 MZ 10 L4, Colonia Burócratas, 36250, Guanajuato, Gto., Mexico
---------------	--

The costs of the bank-to-bank transfers are borne by the student and are not covered by the tuition.

Please be sure to include your complete name as a reference.

Once payment has been made, **please send proof of payment to [mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx](mailto:mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx)**. Any document used to prove payment should be sent in a legible PDF file, stating the date of payment and the name of the student. CIMAT will not accept any document that does not fulfill this requirement.

#### 4. *Approximate Living Costs*

**Tuition fee for one semester: USD \$5,100.00 (five thousand one hundred dollars)**

**Tuition fee for a full academic year (two semesters): USD \$10,200.00 (ten thousand two hundred dollars)**

This is an estimated breakdown of how much the cost of living in Guanajuato would be for a month. Keep in mind that fees are calculated in Mexican pesos (MXN), so final amounts are prone to variations based on the current exchange rate.

Expenses	Costs
Monthly Rent (including utilities)	MXN \$7,000 (≈ USD \$350)
Meals	MXN \$3,000 (≈ USD \$150)

Local transportation	MXN \$900 (≈ USD \$45)
Leisure activities (museums, tours, cinemas, etc.)	MXN \$300-\$400 (≈ USD \$15-\$20)

**Tuition does not include:**

- Health insurance and medical care (excepting onsite first aid and nursing services)
- Housing
- Round-trip airfare and/or ground transportation from home institution to Mexico and/or Guanajuato
- Ground transportation from Mexico City or any other place in Mexico to Guanajuato
- Ground transportation within Guanajuato
- Ground or air transportation within Mexico
- Meals and leisure activities
- Textbooks and other academic materials
- Expenses for spouses or other family members or relatives

*5. Withdrawal from the Program*

If you wish or need to withdraw from the program after less than one week, the program will reimburse you 90% of your refundable tuition; after less than two weeks, 80%; less than 3 weeks, 60%; less than 4 weeks, 40%, less than 5 weeks, 20%.

No reimbursement will be made when the withdrawal has been imposed as a disciplinary measure.

## 6. *Required Forms*

Once you have been accepted by MSSG, please make sure you fill out and **send the following documents to mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx by November 1, 2019, 11:59 pm CST**. Please note these forms are mandatory.

- **Health Insurance and Medical Information form.** This must include all the necessary medical information needed for a medical emergency, as well as your insurance company information and code number.
- **Travel Information form.** It is essential that the travel details you provide here are accurate. **Be sure to contact the MSSG office with any arrival changes or delays to keep them informed about your situation.**
- **Housing form.** This is used to determine the housing assignment. Remember that every student will have an individual bedroom.
- **Transcript Release form.** In this form, you indicate where an official transcript will be mailed at the end of the semester.
- **Waiver form.** It is compulsory to sign and return this form in order to be able to participate in the program.

### **Important information**

#### 1. *Passport and Visa*

#### **US Citizens and Residents**

All US citizens are required to present a valid US Passport when entering Mexico (whether by air, land or sea). No visa is required for tourists (people visiting Mexico for unpaid activities and for a stay of less than 180 days).

Permanent US Residents traveling by air, land or sea to Mexico are required to present a valid Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) and a current, valid passport or travel document.

For stays of less than 180 days for study, no visa is required, but you will need to present the original letter of admission from CIMAT to the immigration officer at passport control.

However, **if you are applying for a two-semester stay (longer than 180 days) you will need to obtain a Temporary Resident Student Visa.** Please schedule an appointment at your nearest Mexican Consulate. You can find it [here](https://directorio.sre.gob.mx/index.php/consulados-de-mexico-en-el-exterior): <https://directorio.sre.gob.mx/index.php/consulados-de-mexico-en-el-exterior> and make the appointment [here](https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx/citas.webportal/pages/public/login/login.jsf): <https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx/citas.webportal/pages/public/login/login.jsf>. You will need to present the following documents (for more information, check your nearest Mexican Consulate webpage):

- 1) Original passport, valid for at least the duration of your stay plus your return trip
- 2) 1 photocopy of the personal information page of your passport
- 3) Original and 1 photocopy of another valid ID (Driver's License, ID card)
- 4) 1 visa application form duly completed and signed
- 5) 1 recent passport-size photo (size 1.5 x 1.3/4 inches), in color, with your face clearly visible, without glasses and taken against a white background
- 6) Confirmation printout of your consular appointment
- 7) Letter of admission from CIMAT
- 8) Documents demonstrating financial solvency
- 9) Processing fees: \$36.00 USD (Not covered by CIMAT)

Visas are generally issued on the same day. Once you arrive in Mexico, MSSG will help you exchange your visa for a Resident Card through the Mexican Immigration authorities. Your Resident Card allows you to travel back and forth without a visa for the duration of your stay.

### **Other Nationalities or Non-Permanent US Residents**

You can find the list of nationalities that are required to obtain a Mexican visa to enter the country as a tourist at

<https://www.inm.gob.mx/gobmx/word/index.php/paises-requieren-visa-para-mexico/>.

No foreign nationals, regardless of nationality, are required to obtain a Mexican visa if they already possess a current, valid US visa and they plan to study in Mexico for less than 180 days. However, if the USA visa stamped in your passport has expired, even if you have an official document or form proving your legal status in the US, you will have to apply for a Mexican visa.

For stays of less than 180 days for study, no visa is required, but you will need to present the original letter of admission from CIMAT to the immigration officer at passport control upon your arrival.

**If you are admitted for a two-semester stay (more than 180 days), you will need to obtain a Temporary Resident Student Visa.** To do so, you will need to schedule an appointment at your nearest Mexican Embassy or Consulate. You can find it [here: https://directorio.sre.gob.mx/index.php/consulados-de-mexico-en-el-exterior](https://directorio.sre.gob.mx/index.php/consulados-de-mexico-en-el-exterior) and make the appointment [here: https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx/citas.webportal/pages/public/login/login.jsf](https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx/citas.webportal/pages/public/login/login.jsf). Check your nearest consulate webpage to learn about the documents you need to submit.

Once you arrive in Mexico, MSSG will help you exchange your visa for a Resident Card. This card allows you to travel back and forth without a visa.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

You will need to get a visitor's permit—known as *Forma Migratoria Múltiple* (FMM)—to enter Mexico. Air crews on international flights will hand them out to all the non-Mexican passengers before landing. It must be filled out prior to going through passport control.

The FMM requires you to fill out your name, date of birth, sex, citizenship, passport number, country of residence, purpose of the trip, means of

transportation, airline name and flight number, as well as your address in Mexico during your stay.

The immigration officer at passport control will retain part of the FMM and return the other part to you. **Do not lose this document, as you will need it to exit the country. If you lose it, you will be unable to leave Mexico and might be subject to federal penalties.**

Please provide “Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas (CIMAT) Jalisco S/N, Valenciana, Guanajuato, Gto, Mexico 36023” as your address.

## *2. Mandatory Medical Insurance*

It is mandatory to have comprehensive international health insurance that is valid in Mexico for at least the duration of your stay. We strongly advise you to contact your insurance provider to make sure of the costs and exactly what the insurance covers. CIMAT requires this international insurance policy to meet the following requirements:

- 1) Coverage of a minimum of \$100,000 USD in medical expenses
- 2) Emergency medical evacuation and repatriation benefits
- 3) Legal assistance
- 4) Transportation costs for one family member in the event of hospitalization

You will be asked to provide proof of your medical insurance upon admission. **If you cannot deliver this proof by November 1, 2019 CIMAT will cancel your admission.** Buying additional travel insurance is also highly recommended. If you require medical attention, there are several hospitals in the area that have agreements with different insurance companies. We can help you find the right one for you.

In case of a chronic condition, please verify with your insurance company that all your healthcare expenses will be covered.

## *3. Medications*

If you require any type of prescription medication, be sure to bring enough to cover the duration of your stay in Mexico. Do not remove them from their original packaging and keep your doctor's prescription handy in case you are asked to provide it.

If you are a US citizen, keep in mind that it is forbidden by the law to bring some American over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine or codeine into Mexico. We advise that you follow the instructions of the US Embassy in Mexico (<https://mx.usembassy.gov/information-regarding-bringing-medications-into-mexico/>) and, if you take any kind of medication that you are not allowed to bring with you, ask your doctor about their equivalent in Mexico.

Please remember that it is illegal to mail prescription medicines to Mexico without a permit from the Mexican Health Department.

#### 4. *GRE*

It is possible to take the GRE exam in certain Mexican cities, but not in Guanajuato. If you need to take the GRE exam, our recommendation is to take it before your trip.

#### 5. *Cellphones*

You should consider buying a Mexican SIM card. Several providers, such as Telcel or AT&T, offer prepaid plans that include calls to the USA and Canada or worldwide with no additional charges. You will need to bring an unlocked cellphone or buy one here.

If you choose to bring your cellphone with you, be sure to check your cell phone service provider's conditions in advance so that you do not end up paying more than necessary. Many cellphone carriers in the United States include unlimited calling, texting, and internet roaming in Mexico and Canada with their plans or for a fee.

#### 6. *Currency*

There are ATM machines available throughout Guanajuato. Nevertheless, we recommend using only the ATMs inside the bank offices. It is important to notify your bank and credit card companies you will be traveling abroad for an extended period, otherwise your cards might be blocked due to fraud prevention procedures.

The Mexico currency is the Mexican peso (MXN). The exchange rate between the US dollar and the Mexican peso is constantly fluctuating (you can check the Banxico official page:

<http://www.banxico.org.mx/tipcamb/main.do?page=tip&idioma=en> to find out the current exchange rate). Although there are also several *casas de cambio* - money exchange offices - in Guanajuato, ATMs are the quickest and most convenient way to obtain the local currency and their exchange rate is usually good. Please contact your bank/credit card companies about their international rates. We discourage bringing traveler checks, as you will only be able to exchange them at the bank during certain limited hours.

International airports in Mexico also have ATMs and money exchange offices.

## 7. Housing

Students will live in furnished apartments approved by CIMAT. The arrangements will be made upon admission to the program. Apartments are completely furnished and are equipped with linen, towels, etc. Please note that clothes dryers are not common in Mexico. Usually, three to four students are housed together based on the Housing Form that they sent to us upon acceptance. Each student will have his/her own bedroom. Housing assignments will be given upon arrival. Specific questions on housing can be sent to [mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx](mailto:mathsciencesgto@cimat.mx).

Students will be accompanied by MSSG staff to their accommodation and, once there, they will receive a brief explanation on how to navigate their surroundings



and general information such as the location of the nearest ATMs, bus stops and food stores in the area and how to get there.

The owner of the property will provide you with a lease agreement for you to sign. The agreement will be drafted and signed in Spanish, accompanied by an English courtesy translation of the original document. Make sure you understand and agree with the terms before signing. Rent is usually due during the first five days of the month, and is generally paid in cash.

Most rents will be payable within a week of arrival, plus, usually, a security deposit equal to one month's rent. Note that you will be renting apartments from private owners. Rent per person should be between \$350-\$400 per month, including utilities and Wi-Fi. After the term of the contract is completed, we will ask you to fill out an evaluation form on the apartment for the benefit of future MSSG students.

You are expected to treat each apartment and its contents with respect and landlords will provide rulebooks for each accommodation. Any violation of these rules or misbehavior will result in expulsion from the MSSG program.

### *8. Getting Around*

The downtown area of Guanajuato is fairly compact and most of the places where you are likely to find accommodation will be within a twenty-minute walk of the main square, Guanajuato University and all the main social hubs.

For longer distances within the city limits, there is an extensive and cheap bus service, but timing can be unreliable, and some routes are less well-served than others. Since the Valenciana area which is home to CIMAT is located in the mountains on the outskirts of the city, the frequency of the service is only around one bus per hour. So, if you — as many students do — choose to live downtown, this can sometimes prove inconvenient.

Nevertheless, if your bus does not show up on time, Guanajuato has many taxis. However, these are not metered, and if you are evidently not familiar with the city, some drivers may seek to exploit this. The common local practice is to tell the driver where you are going before you get in and ask what the charge would be, and—once you know the city a little better—understand whether the fare is reasonable.

Alternatively, if you would prefer not to haggle with drivers, Guanajuato also has an Uber taxi network which, though not yet as widely available as conventional taxis, will specify the fare before you confirm the ride.

### *9. Climate*

Guanajuato lies 6,558 feet above sea level in Mexico's central highlands. Therefore, the city has a mostly warm and mild climate, May being the hottest month of the year and December and January the coldest months.

During June, July, August and September it is Guanajuato's rainy season, and the summer temperatures are cooled by the rain. Note that the rain can be very heavy, so you should definitely bring some kind of protection, though nothing too bulky, as it is also summer time.

Note that, due to these climate conditions, most houses don't have heating or air conditioning systems.

### *10. Spanish Language Courses*

The MSSG offers a set of optional Spanish courses—Spanish 1, Spanish 2, and Spanish 3— focused on developing students' communicative skills so that they attain a working knowledge of everyday Spanish. **These courses are included in the MSSG tuition.**

Classroom time in Spanish Courses is devoted to using the language in conversation and activities, and the classes are conducted mostly in Spanish. Classroom activities and tasks are designed to improve the student's ability to

communicate in the real world while they seamlessly build up their knowledge of its rules, its refinements, and its quirks.

### *11. Mexican Culture Course*

The MSSG program offers an optional Mexican Culture Course to provide students with an overview of Mexican culture that will help them achieve an overall understanding of both the country as a whole and the breadth of its diversity, together with the historical events that made it what it is today.

**This course will meet two times a week, and has an additional cost of USD \$250.00, to be paid along with the main tuition fees.**

### *12. Ethics and Prohibitions*

Students are subject to the same standards of conduct stipulated by their home institutions and are expected to work hard, participate actively in class, be punctual, and cooperate in the proper functioning of the program.

Students are also expected to engage positively with the local community, treat others with respect and dignity, and abide by Mexican law.

Students must remember that bringing weapons or illegal substances into Mexico is a crime under Mexican law and will result in their expulsion from the program. **The program has a zero-tolerance policy concerning misbehavior caused by alcohol or drug abuse, as well as for all forms of harassment, discrimination, and intimidation.** All allegations will promptly be investigated by CIMAT authorities.

### **Arrival suggestions and procedures**

Students will be offered two separate dates on which a member of the MSSG staff will pick you up at El Bajío International Airport (BJX). In the airport, proceed to the Arrivals area and look for the MSSG signs. You should already have

informed the program administrator of your travel plans by completing the required Travel Information form, indicating whether or not you will be using the pickup service.

If you wish to arrive on some other date, below you will find some of the other options available. Once you arrive at CIMAT, a MSSG representative will take you to your residence. **Please remember that is essential to inform MSSG of any change in your travel arrangements.**

### *1. Getting to Guanajuato*

Guanajuato city is just a thirty-minute drive from El Bajío International Airport (BJX), which handles domestic flights from Mexico City, Monterrey and Tijuana, and direct international flights from the United States (Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago and Los Angeles).

Connections are available from Mexico City airport to Guanajuato and there is also a frequent bus service available from the [ETN](https://etn.com.mx/) (<https://etn.com.mx/>) or [Primera Plus](https://ventas.primeraplus.com.mx/en/web/primerapluspublico/home) (<https://ventas.primeraplus.com.mx/en/web/primerapluspublico/home>) bus lines.

### *2. From El Bajío International Airport to the City*

The easiest way to get from the airport to the town is by taxi. The system is controlled and the fare must be paid inside the airport. Just down the hall from the arrival area, you will find a booth selling tickets. Ask for a ticket to "Guanajuato / La Valenciana" if you are going directly to CIMAT. The taxi ride takes about an hour and costs approximately 600 pesos.

### *3. From Mexico City International Airport*

If you are not connecting to Guanajuato airport, once you have passed through customs, go to any of the taxi ticket booths located in the Arrivals area and ask

for a ticket to the *Terminal Central del Norte*. Make sure you specify *del Norte*, as there are several bus terminals in Mexico City – one for every point of the compass. Once there, follow the instructions on how to get to CIMAT by bus.

#### 4. *By Bus*

You can reach Guanajuato by bus from Mexico City from the Central de Autobuses del Norte terminal. The ETN line is recommended. Departures start at 7:30 and continue approximately every 90 minutes until 21:15. The trip takes 5 hrs. and costs around 600 pesos. Another option is the Primera Plus line, which is priced 20% lower and offers seven departures throughout the day.

Once you arrive at the Guanajuato terminal, you can take a taxi to CIMAT or "La Valenciana" from right outside the bus terminal. The taxi ride takes approximately 20 minutes and should cost around 60 pesos.

#### **What to Include in Your Carry-on Luggage**

- This *Student Handbook*
- Your airline/ bus ticket
- Your original passport and a copy for safekeeping
- A week's supply of your prescription medication. Be sure to bring enough in your check-in luggage to cover the duration of your stay in Mexico. Do not remove them from their original packaging and keep your doctor's prescription handy in case you are asked to provide it.
- Major credit card and a small amount of cash
- Debit card for withdrawing local currency
- Original MSSG letter of admission and a copy
- MSSG contact and emergency numbers

- A copy of your health insurance card
- Computers: Most students choose to bring their personal laptop, although there are computers available for use at CIMAT. Students will generally need a computer for coursework and there is a free wireless network at CIMAT, while all the apartments have high-speed internet connections.

## **Academics**

**Academics:** The expected course load for students at MSSG is four courses in the Fall or Spring semesters and three courses for the summer program. Students can choose to take a heavier course load if they feel they are capable of handling it but should understand that this is entirely their responsibility. The academic courses and syllabi can be found at [mathsciencesgto.cimat.mx](http://mathsciencesgto.cimat.mx).

If you have chosen to attend the two-week preliminary workshop, you will be immersed in CIMAT's academic environment and meet fellow MSSG students. In addition, the MSSG program organizes a half-day mandatory orientation session on the last Friday before the start of the semester.

### *1. Academic Calendar*

A Fall semester in Mathematical Tools for Modeling, a spring semester in Mathematical Tools for Data Science and a summer program are offered each year. Each semester consists of 14 weeks of instruction (8 weeks for the summer program) and one week of exams. Prior to the start of the semester, we will provide an introductory course to the programming languages required for the courses, such as Python and R. Classes meet 2/3 times a week. Students can take part in either one or both of the semesters and in the summer program.

There is a mandatory Orientation Day on the Friday before the start of each semester or the summer program.

The Fall semester includes a break during the third week of October (October 21 to 25) while the Spring semester will break for the second week of April (April 6

to 10). There are no classes on September 16 (Mexican Independence Day), November 18 (Mexican Revolution Day), February 3 (Mexican Constitution Day), March 16 (Benito Juarez Day), May 1 (Labor Day), and May 5 (Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla).

### Important dates

	Spring 2020
Application deadline	Oct 4, 2019
Tuition payment deadline	Nov 1, 2019
Earliest arrival for preliminary workshop	Jan 8
Workshop begins	Jan 13
Workshop ends	Jan 24
Latest arrival	Jan 23
Orientation day	Jan 24
Classes begin	Jan 27
Final registration	Feb 14
Drop deadline	April 24
Classes end	May 8
Examination period begins	May 11
Program ends	May 15

Deadline to vacate accommodation	May 18
----------------------------------	--------

## 2. *Credit Transfer and Course Weight*

Although the MSSG course materials are designed in such a way that the credits will be transferable to colleges and universities worldwide, students are strongly advised to verify that their MSSG credits will be transferable for their own needs.

Ask for guidance from your institution's Department of Mathematics or Registrar's Office and let us know which documents the Study Abroad or International Mobility Department at your institution needs to corroborate CIMAT's accreditation in order to validate our transcripts, and we will provide them promptly.

Please also make absolutely sure that you fulfill your home university's requirements for studying abroad and inform yourself of the regulations on the number of courses you need to take while you are abroad.

MSSG semester courses meet 3 hours a week for the 14 weeks of class instruction, followed by a week of final exams. In total, each course meets for 42 contact hours. Usually, each course transfers to around 3 Semester Credit Hours depending on your home institution evaluation of the course material.

MSSG summer program courses meet 3 hours a week for the 8 weeks of class instruction, followed by a week of final exams. In total, each summer course meets for 24 contact hours.

The expected course load for students at MSSG is four classes in the fall or spring semesters and three classes for the summer program. Students can choose to take



a heavier course load if they feel they are capable of handling it, but should understand that this is entirely the student's responsibility.

Transcript will be graded A-F, audit/non-attending or incomplete.