

U.S. Political Institutions and U.S.-Mexico Relations Summer Seminar 2022 Final Report

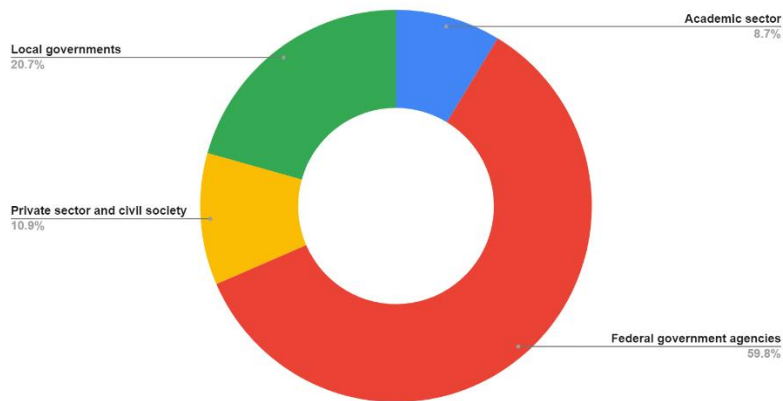
This Report is organized to include information regarding the participants' profiles, the program's content, faculty, and the results of the in-person activities. It also includes the feedback and course evaluation.

I. Participants

USMEX received almost 200 applications from different agencies of the federal and local government, as well as the private sector, civil society, and academic sector. In total, we accepted 92 participants for the online program; out of them, 82 successfully completed the program. The participants that failed to complete the program stated that their professional agenda had impacted their performance in the course, hence could no longer participate.

Of those who completed the program, 35 participants attended the in-person activities. Please refer to Annex I to see their contact information.

Distribution by sector



The federal government officials that participated in the Summer Seminar are currently working in agencies such as the Mexican Congress, Comisión Federal de Competencia Económica, Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores, Guardia Nacional, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, Instituto Nacional Electoral, Secretaría de Marina, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, Secretaría de Seguridad y Protección Ciudadana, Secretaría de Trabajo y Previsión Social, Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública, Mexican Senate, Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados, Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, Instituto Nacional de Migración, Secretaría de Desarrollo Agrario, Territorial y Urbano, and Secretaría de Economía.

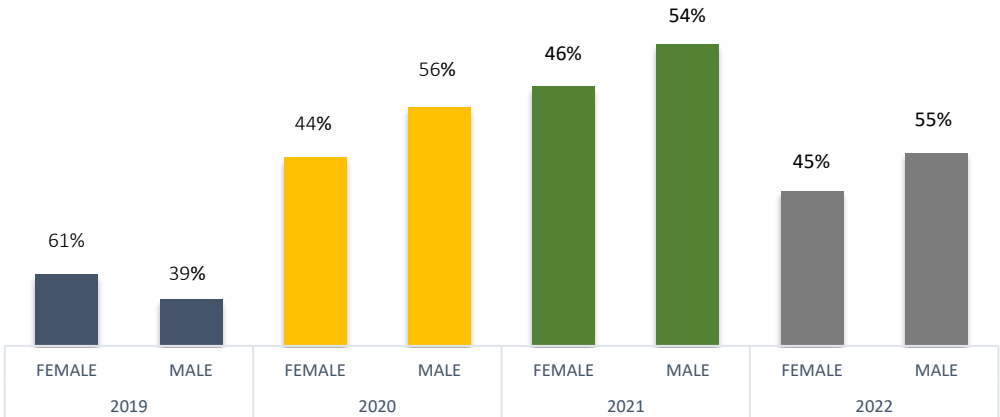
Regarding the federal and local governments, we had participants representing the following Mexican states: Baja California, Chiapas, Jalisco, Mexico, Mexico City, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Puebla,

Sonora, and Yucatan. Considering the aforementioned, we can see the efforts implemented by the Center each year to reach a more diverse group of participants from different regions of Mexico, as well as different government agencies from both federal and local levels.

In sum, USMEX has included representatives from 23 out of 32 Mexican states throughout these four years. Nevertheless, our commitment to increasing regional government participation remains, particularly in states in the southern part of Mexico, such as Oaxaca, Tabasco, Chiapas, and Veracruz.

Distribution by gender

The screening of the nearly 200 candidates carefully sought a balanced gender representation. As a result, 45% of the participants were women, and 55% were men. This distribution is consistent with the gender distribution observed in previous years:



II. Content of the program

During the five-week online program and three-day in-person activities, the students learned about the status of the U.S.- Mexico relations, U.S. elections and politics, U.S. policy-making processes, immigration, and economics, among other topics, according to the following curriculum:

	Date	Start (CT)	End (CT)	Lecture	Instructor
I. U.S.-Mexico Relations	Friday, July 15, 2022	05:00:00 p. m.	05:30:00 p. m.	Course Introduction and Inauguration	Rafael Fernández de Castro
	Friday, July 15, 2022	05:30:00 p. m.	06:30:00 p. m.	Conversation with Deputy Chief of Mission	Rafael Fernández de Castro and Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath
	Friday, July 15, 2022	06:30:00 p. m.	07:30:00 p. m.	U.S.-Mexico Cooperation	Rafael Fernández de Castro
	Friday, July 15, 2022	07:30:00 p. m.	07:45:00 p. m.	Break	
	Friday, July 15, 2022	07:45:00 p. m.	08:30:00 p. m.	Discussion Session	Rafael Fernández de Castro
	Saturday, July 16, 2022	10:00:00 a. m.	11:00:00 a. m.	Regional Cooperation: Calibaja	Marcela Celorio and William Ostick
	Saturday, July 16, 2022	11:00:00 a. m.	12:00:00 p. m.	The Future of U.S.-Mexico Economic Integration	Ildefonso Guajardo
	Saturday, July 16, 2022	12:00:00 p. m.	12:15:00 p. m.	Break	
	Saturday, July 16, 2022	12:15:00 p. m.	01:15:00 p. m.	The State of U.S.-Mexico Relations	Martha Bárcena
	Saturday, July 16, 2022	01:15:00 p. m.	02:00:00 p. m.	Decisionmaking in U.S.-Mexico Relations	Andrés Rozental
	Wednesday July 20, 2022	07:00:00 p. m.	09:00:00 p. m.	U.S.-Mexico Relations Conversation	Rafael Fernández de Castro and Amb. Lilian Ferrer

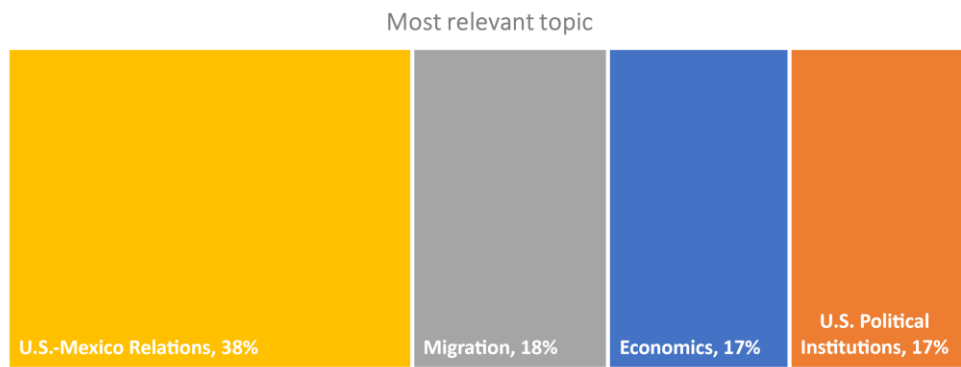
II. U.S. Political Institutions	Friday, July 22, 2022	05:00:00 p. m.	06:00:00 p. m.	The Supreme Court	Hazel Blackmore
	Friday, July 22, 2022	06:00:00 p. m.	07:00:00 p. m.	Contemporary U.S.-Immigration Policy	Theresa Brown
	Friday, July 22, 2022	07:00:00 p. m.	07:15:00 p. m.	Break	
	Friday, July 22, 2022	07:15:00 p. m.	08:00:00 p. m.	Discussion Session on the Supreme Court	Hazel Blackmore
	Saturday, July 23, 2022	10:00:00 a. m.	11:00:00 a. m.	The Evolution of the Presidency and Congress	Jeff Weldon
	Saturday, July 23, 2022	11:00:00 a. m.	11:45:00 a. m.	Mechanics of U.S. Policymaking and the U.S. Congress	Jeff Weldon
	Saturday, July 23, 2022	11:45:00 a. m.	12:00:00 p. m.	Break	
	Saturday, July 23, 2022	12:00:00 p. m.	01:15:00 p. m.	Outlook on U.S. -Mexican Relations towards 2024	Martha Bárcena
	Saturday, July 23, 2022	01:15:00 p. m.	02:30:00 p. m.	The Supreme Court and Current Reform Debates	Hazel Blackmore
	Wednesday, July 27, 2022	07:00:00 p. m.	09:00:00 p. m.	U.S. Political Institutions Conversation	Hazel Blackmore

III. U.S. Elections and Politics Conversation	Friday, July 29, 2022	05:00:00 p. m.	06:00:00 p. m.	The Impact of State and Local Politics on U.S.-MX Relations	Reyna Torres
	Friday, July 29, 2022	06:00:00 p. m.	07:00:00 p. m.	The Local Government: San Diego	Denisse Garcia, Chief of Staff de la Supervisora Nora Vargas
	Friday, July 29, 2022	07:00:00 p. m.	07:15:00 p. m.	Break	
	Friday, July 29, 2022	07:15:00 p. m.	08:30:00 p. m.	U.S. Congress	Clare Seelke
	Saturday, July 30, 2022	10:00:00 a. m.	11:00:00 a. m.	The Latino Vote	David Ayón
	Saturday, July 30, 2022	11:00:00 a. m.	11:15:00 a. m.	Break	
	Saturday, July 30, 2022	11:15:00 a. m.	12:15:00 p. m.	Mexico and its Diaspora in the U.S.	Allert Brown-Gort
	Saturday, July 30, 2022	12:00:00 p. m.	01:00:00 p. m.	Census, Redistricting, Local Elections	Sergio Garcia-Rios
Wednesday, August 3, 2022	07:00:00 p. m.	09:00:00 p. m.	U.S. Elections and Politics Conversation	Allert Brown-Gort	

IV. Immigration	Friday, August 5, 2022	05:00:00 p. m.	06:30:00 p. m.	The Assimilation of Latinos in the U.S.	Allert Brown-Gort
	Friday, August 5, 2022	06:30:00 p. m.	06:45:00 p. m.	Break	
	Friday, August 5, 2022	06:45:00 p. m.	07:45:00 p. m.	Migration from Central America and Other Regions	Ariel Ruiz
	Friday, August 5, 2022	07:45:00 p. m.	08:30:00 p. m.	Governing immigration flows in the border	Hector Padilla
	Saturday, August 6, 2022	10:00:00 a. m.	11:00:00 a. m.	Migration from the Perspective of Civil Society	Ana Saiz
	Saturday, August 6, 2022	11:00:00 a. m.	12:00:00 p. m.	Migration and Development	Carlos Serrano y Juan Li
	Saturday, August 6, 2022	12:00:00 p. m.	12:15:00 p. m.	Break	
	Saturday, August 6, 2022	12:15:00 p. m.	01:45:00 p. m.	U.S. National Security	Robert Thomas
	Saturday, August 6, 2022	01:45:00 p. m.	02:30:00 p. m.	Mexico's Legal Strategy against Firearms Trafficking	Alejandro Celorio
	Wednesday, August 10, 2022	07:00:00 p. m.	09:00:00 p. m.	Immigration Conversation	Ana Saiz

V. Security and Commerce	Friday, August 12, 2022	05:00:00 p. m.	06:30:00 p. m.	The Future of US Trade Policy	Caroline Freund
	Friday, August 12, 2022	06:30:00 p. m.	06:45:00 p. m.	Break	
	Friday, August 12, 2022	06:45:00 p. m.	07:45:00 p. m.	From NAFTA to USMCA	Juan Carlos Baker
	Friday, August 12, 2022	07:45:00 p. m.	08:30:00 p. m.	U.S.-Mexico Border Economic Challenges	Saúl de los Santos
	Saturday, August 13, 2022	10:00:00 a. m.	11:00:00 a. m.	U.S.-Mexico Cooperation - Security	Cecilia Farfan
	Saturday, August 13, 2022	11:00:00 a. m.	12:00:00 p. m.	Trade and Economics	José Antonio Meade
	Saturday, August 13, 2022	12:00:00 p. m.	12:15:00 p. m.	Break	
	Saturday, August 13, 2022	12:15:00 p. m.	01:45:00 p. m.	Analysis of Energy Systems and Global Trends	John McNeece and Al Sweedler
	Saturday, August 13, 2022	01:45:00 p. m.	02:30:00 p. m.	Closing Remarks	Rafael Fernández de Castro and U.S. Ambassador

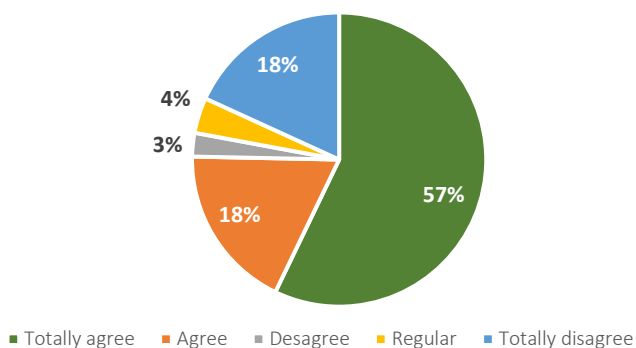
In this regard, the course evaluation showed that the students had more interest in the general panorama of U.S.-Mexico relations, followed by economics, immigration issues, and the study of U.S. political institutions:



Regarding the evaluation of the academic content, 74% of the students agreed it was well-organized, whereas 22% disagreed with that statement, and 4% deemed it was neither organized

nor disorganized, as shown in the following chart:

The content of the program was clear and organized



The students explained these results further during the feedback session held on August 24, 2022. First, they considered the program did not include topics such as climate change, cultural agenda, or consular relations, which limited the program to a more political agenda. Nevertheless, the students also recognized the challenges of incorporating all the areas of study in the program. Therefore, the students suggested increasing the seminar's duration to include more topics and having more time with the speakers during each session.

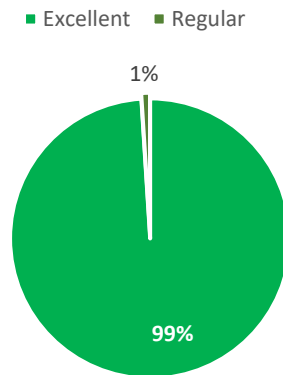
Secondly, the students deemed the program confusing because some immigration lectures were included in sessions with different topics, such as U.S. Political Institutions. Concerning this situation, it is important to mention that, due to the health issues of the speakers, the program had to be updated on short notice.

Faculty

In addition to the UC System faculty, we hosted VIP lecturers, specialists, and prominent speakers such as Martha Bárcena, José Antonio Meade, Juan Carlos Baker, and Andrés Rozental. The students also had the opportunity to meet representatives from the U.S. Embassy such as Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath, William Osnick, and Silvio Gonzalez. See Annex II for more information about the faculty and speakers invited.

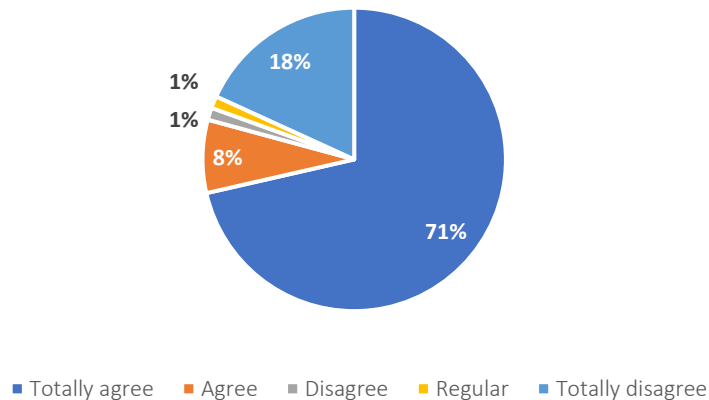
The overall evaluation of the faculty and speakers invited was remarkably positive since 99% of the students agreed that they had excellent academic profiles, professional experience as policymakers, or highly specialized experience in the different fields of study:

The overall evaluation of the faculty and speakers is



Regarding the performance of the faculty and speakers during the lessons, almost 80% of the participants agreed that they had successfully shared their knowledge. Again, the students who attended the feedback session explained that this percentage reflected the need to increase the number of sessions -or hours- with the faculty to deepen their knowledge of the bilateral relationship.

The faculty shared their knowledge successfully



See Annex III for a more detailed evaluation of each speaker participating in the Summer Seminar.

III. In-person activities

Selection process

The students accepted into the program were informed about the scholarship sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and the criteria selection determined by the Center to be eligible for the scholarship. Specifically, they were notified that the scholarship covered all expenses related to

the program for housing, meals, and transportation and did not include airfare or airport-UCSD-airport transportation.

Those who did not meet the criteria but still were interested in participating in the in-person activities were also invited to attend all the activities included in the agenda, if they covered their expenses for housing and airfare. With the grant approved, we offered them sponsorship for meals and transportation.

In total, 35 participants attended the in-person program. See Annex I to identify each participant marked in gray.

Agenda

The activities organized by the Center for the students who visited San Diego are the following:

Monday - August 15, 2022

8:15 am – 9:00 am. Breakfast
09:45 am – 10:30 am. Departure from UCSD to the Estuario facility
10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Visit to Estuario with Carlos de la Parra

- Carlos de la Parra, expert on water issues

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm. Departure to Chicano Park
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. Guided visit with Víctor Ochoa and lunch in Chicano Park

- Víctor Ochoa, muralist and activist, co-founder of Centro Cultural de la Raza in Balboa Park

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm. Departure to Cross Border Xpress (CBX)
3:00 pm – 4:15 pm. CBX Tour with Jorge Goytortúa

- Jorge Goytortúa, CEO CBX

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm. Departure to UC San Diego Park & Market
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Meeting with Amb. Carlos González Gutiérrez, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego
6:00 pm. Return to UC San Diego

Tuesday - August 16, 2022

8:00 am. Departure to Instituto Nacional de Migración
9:00 am – 10:30 am. Meeting with Manuel Alfonso Marín Salazar and tour at Instituto Nacional de Migración, El Chaparral

- Manuel Alfonso Marín Salazar, Head of Instituto Nacional de Migración, El Chaparral

11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Visit to the shelter “Casa Migrante”
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm. Departure to Telefonica Gastro Park
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Lunch at Telefonica Gastro Park
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm. Departure to Thomas E. Reott’s residency
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Meeting with Thomas E. Reott, U.S. Consul General in Tijuana
5:30 pm – Return to UC San Diego

Wednesday – August 17, 2022

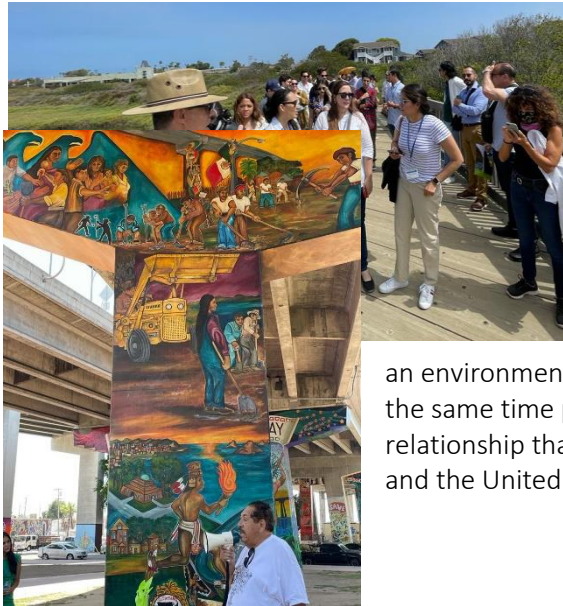
- 9:00 am – 10:00 am. Outlook on U.S.-relationship in security issues
- Cecilia Farfán, Managing Editor, Mexico Violence Resource Project
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am. Discussion session
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Mexican migrants' vote abroad
- Yuriko Takahashi, Professor of Political Science, Waseda University
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm. Lunch with José Galicot to discuss about the importance of the border for the U.S.-Mexico relations
- José Galicot, Tijuana Innovadora
- End of agenda

Full description of activities

Day 1



For the first day of activities, the students had the opportunity to discuss issues related to water, migration, Chicano culture, entrepreneurship, and consular diplomacy with experts and leaders. During the visit to the Estuary alongside Carlos de la Parra, an academic expert on water management, the students reflected on the current and persistent water pollution problem in the Tijuana River.



This visit was meaningful and productive since the students learned the importance of addressing this water contamination issue on site. In addition, through policymaking, the students reflected on the importance of solving this issue from an environmental point of view while at the same time protecting the bilateral relationship that exists between Mexico and the United States.



Afterward, the students received a guided tour to Chicano Park with Victor Ochoa. Victor is a muralist, activist, and co-founder of Centro Cultural de la Raza in Balboa Park. At Chicano Park, the students were exposed to various murals painted by members of the community and artists that had contributed to fostering Latino culture in the heart of San Diego. In addition, the students learned about the history of Mexico and the pride that the Mexican community carries in their indigenous descent.



At the Cross Border Xpress (CBX), CEO Jorge Goytortúa gave the students an in-depth presentation on the business development of CBX. This visit showed the students a business model created to serve as an equal opportunity for economic, tourism, and human development growth for both states, Mexico and the U.S. Students were exposed to first-hand information on the future of CBX.

By the end of the day, the students had also participated in an intimate conference with Ambassador Carlos González Gutiérrez, current Consul General of Mexico in San Diego. The students received a talk about the Ambassador's experiences and lessons learned from his different posts and appointments. Ambassador González Gutiérrez focused on the differences between Mexico and its diaspora. He focused on recounting his experiences from when he served as Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento and his following post as Consul General of Mexico in Austin. He also analyzed the role and importance of the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, where he previously served as Executive Director, for the relationship between Mexico and its diaspora.





Day 2

The field trip to Tijuana during the second day of activities sensitized the students to issues such as removals, deportations, and refugees. For example, the visit to INM facilities impacted the students since they witnessed a live removal process during the visit. Also, thanks to the detailed explanation addressed by Manuel Marin -head of INM in El Chaparral, the students reflected on the importance of bilateral cooperation as a key element to safeguard Mexican nationals during removal or deportation. The discussion also generated different points of view regarding the Mexican federal government's role in the humanitarian crisis across Mexico's southern border.

This dialogue was enriched by the participation of consular officials in San Diego who were present during the visit as students. They shared their experiences related to immigration issues as members of the protection department in the Mexican Consulate in San Diego, complementing the perspective of the Mexican government.



During this day, the students also had an excellent opportunity to connect with U.S. officials in Tijuana. The reception offered by Consul General Thomas Reott was a success among the participants because they visualized the importance of regional development for bilateral cooperation at a federal level. In addition, they were thrilled to have the opportunity to hear the U.S. perspective on issues related to water pollution and its potential impact on U.S.-Mexico relations. He also discussed regional cooperation and the importance of supporting academic activities between Mexico and the U.S., such as the Summer Seminar.



Day 3

During the last day of activities, the students attended classes at UC San Diego to discuss topics such as security in Mexico and the U.S, organized crime, democracy, and the participation of Mexican voters abroad.

As a result of these sessions, the students were very interested in working together and participating in an academic publication discussing some of the topics revised during the field trip from a policymaking perspective.

Finally, the students had a conversation with Jose Galicot, founder of Tijuana Innovadora, about the importance of local collaboration to promote the development of citizenship through innovative proposals with social impact.

