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AMPEI

Student Visas in Mexico for Canadian and US Students

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Legal Issues:

- General Law of Population in Mexico
- Characteristics of the visa with status of student (FM3):
 - Conduct studies in an accredited institution
 - For any period of time
 - Student registered as a regular student
- The National Institute of Migration is the ruling body
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the administration body
- Mexican Embassies and Consulates are the abroad missions in charge to issue the visa



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Procedure:

- Student application (directly or through an exchange program)
- If admitted by the Mexican institution, then Issuing of the official letter of acceptance
- Application for the visa (FM3) with status of student at the nearest embassy or consulate of Mexico
- No cost
- Once in Mexico, it is an obligation to register at the "*National Registration for Foreign*" (350 pesos) - 30 days limit.



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Regularization process:

When a Canadian or USA student comes into Mexico as a tourist visitor:

- It is feasible to change the status from Tourist to Student
- Process takes from three to four months
- Cost of around 2,500 pesos
- The student is not legally registered until the FM3 with student status is issued



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Current problematic and solution

- Some Embassies and Consulates are denying the FM3 with student status
- There is some confusion based on the length of stay
- There is lack of understanding of the figure of regular student
- The Mexican Association for International Education (AMPEI) is negotiating through the support of the Ministry of Education with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute of Migration
- An updated agreement will be issued in the following months in order to clarify and speed up the process for visas to International students coming to Mexico



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Current problematic for Mexican students applying for Visa for the USA and Canada

CANADA

- no special visa for Mexican students when the length of stay is up to six months.
- Letter of acceptance from a Canadian Institution
- The process is simple and fast
- No cost

USA

- Hard and expensive process (100 usd application fee)
- Special formats issued by the USA Institution
- Mistreatment at the moment of interview at the embassy
- Denial of visa based on unexplained issues