



The Edron Academy
(El Colegio Británico) A.C

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Background

The Edron Academy (El Colegio Británico) A.C. is a non-profit making institution founded in 1963 by Edward Foulkes, a Welshman who worked in Mexico in the publishing business and as a teacher for the British Council, and by Ronald Stech, a Canadian who became the school's first administrator. Their vision was to create a learning community in which every child would feel secure, wanted, cared for and free from tension and hostility.

Over the years the school has retained these fundamental values, whilst adapting to change and expansion. In 1985, it moved from San Angel to its present site in a pleasant residential area close to the forested hills of Desierto de los Leones. At the same time, it achieved its bi-cultural status through incorporation with the Mexican education authority.

Edron Academy continues to be a non profit schools and in 2014, following a successful British Schools Overseas Inspection, the school became the first school in Mexico to be fully accredited to the Council of British International Schools, COBIS, and recognised by the Department for Education in London. The school is also affiliated to the LAHC organisation that works to promote links between schools in Latin America.

Today, the Edron Academy has 1,100 mainly Mexican students aged between 2 and 18 and an academic staff of 125. The curriculum is based on the Foundation Stage Programme, the English National Curriculum, IGCSE, IB and the Mexican National Curriculum.

The school is led by the Senior Leadership Team comprising of an Executive Head/CEO, Director of Administration, Head of Lower School and Head of Secondary. The SLT is overseen by a Board of Governors and the School Assembly. A comprehensive middle leadership team is distributed throughout the school and opportunities for professional development occur regularly.



About the Lower School

The Lower school begins in with our Early Years department and runs through to the end of Year 6. Children from EY to Year 1 are based at our Kinder site about 500 metres away from the 'Big School' or 'Colegio'.



Class size is around 24 pupils per group. This enables teachers to identify and respond to a variety of learning styles and provide differentiated activities according to individual and group needs. Year group teams plan collaboratively and all staff work together to ensure that the curriculum is broad, balanced and developmental. Student progress is monitored through both formative and summative assessments and progress is discussed regularly at all levels within the school.

Learning in the Lower School is supported by the well established Additional Needs Department who work in partnership with the class teachers to support more able learners, those students with particular learning needs as well as students who may need emotional support for one reason or another.

There is a well established programme of camps and day trips, with all year groups from Year 2 and up going on camps within Mexico.

The Lower School Leadership Team is made up of the Head of Lower School, Deputy Head of Lower School, Directora Tecnica, Phase Coordinators for EY, FS, Year 1, Years 2,3,&4, Years 5&6.



About the Secondary School



The Secondary school at Edron begins in Year 7 and ends with Year 13. Each subject area is led by a Head of Department and larger departments also have a second lead.

Student learning is supported by the Additional Support Department who carry out a range of intervention strategies for both academic and emotional development.

The school operates a vertical tutor system that is set up across three Houses – Windsor, Balmoral and Sandringham. Many teachers also act as Tutors and each House is led by a House Leader.

Students in Years 7 to 9 follow both the UK and Mexican National Curricula. In Years 10 and 11 students take the IGCSE examinations. In Years 12 and 13 students follow the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

There is an annual camps week which normally takes place in November. Students also have the opportunity to take part in a range of extra-curricular activities including; sports, performing arts, debating and model UN.

The Secondary Leadership Team is made up of the Head of Secondary, Deputy Head Academic, Deputy Head Pastoral, Directora Tecnica, Leader of Key Stage Three and Leader of Key Stage Four.

Following the completion of the IB Diploma Edron students go on to study at universities around the world and these have included Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford, New York, Edinburgh and UNAM.



Staff Profile and Professional Development

The school employs a mixture of both overseas and local teachers. The majority of the overseas teachers are from the UK with Canada, Australia and Brazil also represented. All teachers hold appropriate teaching qualifications, have an academic degree and most have taught for at least two years.

Staff development plays a significant part in the schools philosophy and staff are encouraged to use their skills and specialisms to support one another. Training is provided for teachers who deliver the IB curriculum and there are a host of other professional development opportunities including management training and support for further education qualifications. Many local staff study for the IPGCE qualification offered by Buckingham University and facilitated through a college in the Mexico City.



In order to apply, applicants should have:

- An initial degree (B.A., B. Sc., B. Ed., etc.)
- Teaching qualification (PGCE, QTS, etc.)
- Commitment for at least 2 years
- As a COBIS accredited school we are able to offer UK validated QTS for NQTs.



Salary and Benefit Package

Salaries are reviewed annually . The basic salary for teaching posts is in the region of 23,000- 25,000 MXN (Mexican pesos) with an additional 10,000 MXN housing allowance a month. The school offers a monthly overseas allowance of 6,250 MXN for teachers recruited from overseas which basically offsets taxes paid. There is a transparent salary scale which is complemented by a Teaching and Learning Responsibility Scale for posts of responsibility.

In addition to a basic salary, full time teaching staff receive the following benefits:

- i. Settling in payment on arrival to allow for initial necessary expenditure. This is equal to one months salary.
- ii. Private Health Insurance giving access to good quality hospitals. Onsite doctor service at school for minor ailments and consultations.
- iii. A Christmas holiday cash bonus equal to not less that two weeks of salary after one full year of service (pro-rata in the first year of service). The bonus is incremental and increases to reflect the number of years service completed.
- iv. Flights between London and Mexico City at the beginning and end of contract following school policy.
- v. An initial two-year contract with annual renewals thereafter.
- vi. Furnishing of accommodation according to school policy.
- vii. Baggage allowance according to school policy.
- viii. Loans available following school policy.



- ix. A pension scheme (4% of salary) following school policy.
 - x. Reimbursement of the expenses for the legalization of documents.
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How to apply



To apply for any of these positions please visit <https://apply.uptic.net/school/edron-academy> where you can apply online and see more information. If you have any specific questions or problems please call Rose Ford (who is representing the school) on +44 (0) 2920 212083 or email <mailto:rose@ticrecruitment.com>. Please do not contact the school directly at this stage.

The deadline for all applications is **09.05.16**. Early applications prior to the closing date are appreciated as this helps with the administration of the recruitment process.

Skype interviews will be carried out on a rolling basis.

The school pays standard class travel expenses within the UK only.

Safeguarding, Child Protection and References

The Edron Academy is committed to the safeguarding of children and as such will only make appointments once full references have been received and all standard background checks have been carried out.



Appendix A

In their own words, Edron Teachers

I arrived in Mexico from Brighton as a single person with no real idea of what it might be like, thinking I might stay for 2 years only. I fell in love with Mexico and the school right from day-one. Four years later I'm still here, except now I'm married to a Mexican and our 2 year-old son is in the Edron Kinder! Even if I hadn't fallen in love with my wife and started a family, I would have probably stayed anyway as the kids I teach are such a pleasure to work with, I have great support from my friendly colleagues (Mexican and expat alike), the food's fantastic and there's always so much to do for fun in Mexico. My top tip: bring cold weather clothes as it gets chillier in winter than you'd imagine.- ***Alistair Pearson – French Teacher***

I came to the Edron as a 52 year old grandma on “Gap year” adventure, 5 years on and I am still living and working with the most amazing people. Mexico and its people are warm and generous, its children are a pleasure to teach. Working in an international school is both rewarding and interesting. I was an experienced teacher before I arrived, during my time in the Edron. I have enriched that part of me, I am life long learner and I do learn every day. ***Sharon Moore – Art Teacher***



This is my 5th year now working for The Edron Academy in Mexico. I'm currently working in Year 2 and have worked in most other year groups. I always really enjoy working with the pupils here in Mexico as they are enthusiastic, keen to learn and well behaved. The parents are also very helpful and supportive. The school has made lots of good, positive changes over the years and continues to grow and develop. Working at The Edron Academy allows you to travel and explore Mexico and further afield. For me though, one of the best things about working here is the city itself. Mexico City is an exciting, vibrant place to live with lots of different things to see and do. ***John Reston – Lower School Teacher***

Moving to Mexico was a big step for me, but I am very glad I did it! I have rediscovered a work life balance, something I found difficult to achieve whilst teaching in England. The opportunities for Professional Development here are wide and varied and I have even applied for a Masters which will be partly funded by the school. Aside from the work-life, the people here are fantastic! The teachers are a real "community" and I have many friends here that will be friends for life! People will be ready to support you in your early weeks here and they will do whatever they can to make the transition as smooth as possible! – ***Jemma Gaskill – Lower School Teacher***



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Appendix B

Living in Mexico

Travel

Living in Mexico City places you in an ideal location to explore North, Central and South Americas as well as the Caribbean with ease. The beach resorts on both the Pacific and Caribbean coasts are around an hour and half flight time away.

The rich cultural and historical heritage of Mexico means that within the city and the local area there are untold places of interest to visit and explore from the pyramids at Teotihuacan to the magical 'pueblitos' such as Tepotzlan and Puebla. There is always something for you to see or do.

Language & Culture

Part of the fun of living in Mexico is the chance to learn, or improve, your Spanish. In the tourist towns on the coast English is widely spoken but in the city and provinces you will have plenty of opportunity to extend your language skills. The school offers free basic Spanish classes for all staff who are interested. We also encourage English speakers to offer classes to Spanish speaking colleagues.

Many staff teachers have private tutors to help with language acquisition and some undertake intensive courses at UNAM, the main university in the city.

Cost of Living

Staff coming out from Britain are more than able to make ends meet and are certainly able to enjoy their life in Mexico. The salary, plus benefits, competes reasonably well with the UK but the standard of living is equally comparable as your money tends to go further here than at home. It is more than feasible to eat well and to go away for the weekend.

The 'Cost of Living Comparison' documentation will give you greater insight in to this.

Security

Mexico City is a city of twenty five million people and as with any big city using common sense and a 'big city attitude' are needed. Travelling around the city by public transport is generally safe with many teachers commenting that they feel safer in the city than they do in other big cities such as London, Chicago and Madrid.

Many of the troubles that you will have read or heard about are localized in



different parts of the country and Mexico is a big country. Travel to popular tourist spots by air is safe and we keep an eye on the travel advice given by the British Embassy regarding overland travel especially to provincial areas. Nowhere in the world can be guaranteed safe however Mexico is far safer than the international press would have you believe.

Food

One of the most famous aspects of life is the food in Mexico and you will not be disappointed. The culinary heritage of the different regions can be traced back hundreds of years and for those unfamiliar with Mexican cuisine you will be surprised by the many different dishes that will tempt your tastebuds!

Vegetarians do not always find it easy in this country - ham and tuna fish are not considered as meat here, however with a bit of practice everybody manages to get by!

There is a wide range of places to eat out in Mexico City to suit every taste and pocket. At lunch time (around 3 pm here) the *comida corrida* is popular; it is a set menu with soup or rice, a main meal and a dessert – all for about \$40. On every street corner there is a taco stand, however it is advisable to go to one that has been recommended. Eat on the street only if you have a stomach of steel and come prepared to fall foul of Moctezuma's Revenge at least once.

Alcoholic drinks such as beer, tequila and rum are readily available and well priced. Other spirits tend to be roughly UK prices, except Gin which is expensive. Wine is surprisingly expensive here, both in supermarkets and restaurants.

Weather

The climate in Mexico City is surprisingly different to what you might expect. The city is 2250m above sea level and therefore is not the tropical climate that many imagine. Temperatures rarely go above 30°C but can fall as low as 0°C overnight during December and January. Houses and buildings are not equipped with central heating making the layering approach to your wardrobe essential!

November to February is the cold months, and it does get cold, especially in the mornings and at night. You will need a good winter coat at the least, a scarf and gloves wouldn't go amiss either.

March to May is when the weather is at its warmest, with hot days and warm evenings.

May through to October is the rainy season, hot days and torrential rain from about 4pm every day. The daytime temperatures can range from a cool and damp 15°C to around 25°C.

Entertainment

Mexico offers a huge selection of opportunities for entertainment and you



are sure to find something to suit your taste.

In terms of music there is a lot going on. If classical is your thing, then you will find a thriving concert culture, with numerous weekly presentations, where you can listen to composers ranging from Bach to Piazzolla. Perhaps the finest venue is the Sala Netzahualcóyotl, where the UNAM orchestra is based. Another great place to listen to music is the Centro Nacional de Bellas Artes, which also stages ballet and opera.

There are also opportunities to go to concerts by top international artists ranging from Elton John to Juanes to Metallica. Cuban music is very big here and there are dance halls where you can salsa the night away. If you have always wanted to learn to tango, this could be your big chance, with dance schools readily available for all levels of expertise.

There are too many bars and clubs to mention, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Film fans will be glad to know that all mainstream films are in English with Spanish subtitles. Films are usually released a couple of weeks after their release in the USA.

There are also “art house” cinemas which show smaller, independent films and hold film festivals.

In order to get the most out of your time in Mexico, it is best to stay well informed. Tiempo Libre comes out on a Thursday and is a weekly magazine that will let you know everything that is going on in the city.