My name is Rhett Loban and I spent a year in Tecnologico de Monterrey in Mexico on exchange. How can I describe the best time of my university life or perhaps the best time of my life I have ever had? Well first do not let the first week you arrive put you off. When I arrived in Mexico I had not slept for days, the food from the cafeteria did not taste so good and I had no family or friends to talk to. This will pass, you will adapt to the new environment, find the good places to eat and find many friends both Mexican and International.

Perhaps the aspect I liked most about Mexico is the people of Mexico, they are often late and a bit laid back sometimes, however they are the nicest and most accommodating people you will ever meet and will they will give you the shirt off their back. Never have I encountered a people more warm and open than the Mexican people.

The food may take some getting used to, especially if you are not a fan of spicy food. Tortillas form the base of almost any meal and you will often find yourself eating it about once a day in one form or another. The food from the north is also different from the centre and south, ranging from sandwiches to tacos to crickets (they are not that bad), so be sure to try all the different types of food.

On a dune formation in Cuatro Cienegas
Rhett Loban

Mexico is a very diverse place, with the deserts in the North and more Americanised cities like Monterrey and Tijuana that are close to the US-Mexican border. The centre is a bit more European and colonial in its architecture and boasts large cities like Mexico City D.F. and Guadalajara. While the south is more indigenous and has more jungle like terrain and has places like Oaxaca and Cancun you can visit.

I have a great care and interest for the Mexican people now and I would like to return sometime in the future. There is something magical and captivating about Mexico and its people and having experienced Mexico, I ask myself if it is possible to love another place and people more than my own?

One of the many floats at Carnival in Veracruz