

**Report on Research trip partially funded by Santander International Exchange Bursary 2011-12.**

**Destination:** Mexico City. **Dates:** 15 March 2012 to 17 April 2012.

**Activities:**

Days before heading to Mexico, I learned that I had been unsuccessful in gaining a major grant to construct a project of Mexican cultural diplomacy in the twentieth century. This news had two immediate effects: it meant that my research in Mexico would be more tightly focused on the area of sport in Mexican cultural diplomacy; and b) it underlined further still, the value of the Santander Bursary scheme for the development of academic research in Latin America. As outlined in my proposal, the majority of my research activity focused on the documents housed in the historic archive and library of the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores and the National Archive in Mexico City. The excellent cataloguing system in the SRE meant that I was swiftly able to find a range of material relating to the research topic. This created more time than I previously imagined for work in the Archivo General de la Nación (Mexico's national archive) and two additional sources of information: the National Library and the National Newspaper Archive (both housed in the National University). As a result of my activities in these and other archives in Mexico City, I now have a digital archive collection of over 3,000 new images, all of which relate to the topic of sport and cultural diplomacy in Mexico during the twentieth century. These additions to my archival collection will greatly strengthen the quality of my analysis and will, I believe, improve the chances of me being able to publish results in quality journals and/or publishing houses. Acknowledgment of Santander's financial support will, of course, be given in all related publications.

Dr Keith Brewster

School of History, Classics and Archaeology  
Newcastle University