Language & Culture in Buenos Aires

Online Orientation

Argentina Program Contacts

Learning Abroad Center
  • http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/
  • umabroad@umn.edu
  • 612.626.9000

Argentina home page:
  http://umabroad.umn.edu/programs/americas/argentina/

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  • 612.626.4823

Pre-Departure Preparation

• Program Paperwork
  – Log into application

• Academic Planning

• Financial Planning
  – Financial Aid Preview Meeting
  – Review program fees

• Registration

• Cancellation Policy
  – http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/students/policies/finances/cancellation
Passport & Visa

- Valid passport required
  - See: travel.state.gov
  - Allow 4-6 weeks
- No visa required for summer or semester students
- Entry Fee
  - $160; must be paid in advance
- Non-US citizens

Flight Information

- Village Travel
  - www.villageinc.com
- Booking your flight independently
  - Arrive before the group, especially semester students
- Email itinerary to Learning Abroad Center
- Book in advance!
- Arriving early/staying late

Arrival & First Days

- Met at airport by Argentina staff
- Orientation Schedule
- Adjusting to a new culture
  - Be flexible & patient!
  - Speaking Spanish

Fundación Ortega y Gasset
Onsite Staff & Academics

- Onsite Staff
  - Beatriz Comte
  - Carola Bracco
- Classes at the Fundacion
  - Class times & daily routine
  - Attendance and grading
  - Add/drop period

Housing: Apartments

- Available only during the semester
- Roommates
- Amenities
- Laundry
- Meals

Housing: Apartments

- Living with a Host Family
  - Rules of the house
  - Communication
  - Security & keys
  - Guests
Living with a Host Family

- What is provided?
  - Meals & water
  - Linens
- Laundry
- Getting to/from school
- Gifts

Staying Healthy in Argentina

- Health form
- Pre-departure vaccinations
  - Boyton Travel Clinic
- Prescriptions
- Food and drink
- CISI
  - http://global.umn.edu/travel/insurance/outgoing.html#policy-tab
- Reach out when you are ill

Excursions & Travel

- Program excursions
- Independent travel
  - Avoid travel-warning countries
  - Inform host family & onsite staff of your plans
- Modes of transportation
  - Driving/renting vehicles not allowed

Communication

- Mailing address
  - Packages discouraged
- Internet access
- Laptops
- Cell phones
  - Local number required
  - Free incoming calls
- Skype/Google Hangout
Safety

• Be proactive about your safety
• Be vigilant and aware of your surroundings
• Leave valuables at home
• Carry belongings with caution
• Maintain a low profile

Safety

• Go out in groups
• Meet in public places
  – No overnight guests
• Take a cab; don’t walk home alone at night
• Trust your instincts
• Gender & relationships
• Adopt a more cautious attitude

Drugs & Alcohol

• Illegal Drugs
  – Zero tolerance; grounds for immediate dismissal
• Alcohol
  – Responsible drinking allowed if you are of legal age in host country
  – Must not impact academic performance, homestay experience
  – Being intoxicated makes you vulnerable
  – Reinforces negative stereotypes about US

Money Matters

• Local currency
• How much
  – http://www.xe.com
  – Budget estimate
• Beware of counterfeit bills
• Ways to pay
• Emergency funds
• Notify your bank
• Safeguarding your money
Packing

- Be strategic; pack light!
- Review packing list
- Consider the weather
- Local norms
- Activities & excursions
- Electricity
- Carry-on items
- Photocopy important documents

Returning to the US

- Reverse culture shock
- Stay connected with others from your program
- LAC opportunities
  - [http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/process/reentry/experiences](http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/process/reentry/experiences)

¡Buen Viaje!