

BUENOS AIRES

SITE-
SPECIFIC
GUIDE



ACADEMIC
STUDIES
ABROAD

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Pre-Departure

Please see our Pre-Departure Guide for All Programs for additional important pre-departure information!

Please add the important numbers to your phone

ASA Office in Boston, MA Academic Studies Abroad 1329 Highland Avenue - Suite 1 Needham, MA 02492 Tel: 1-617-327-9388 24-hour Emergency Cell: 857-366-6821 Email: hello@academicstudies.com Web: www.academicstudies.com Emergency Local in Argentina: 107 or 911	ASA Site Director in Buenos Aires Pamela Cortina Cell Phone (Save THIS number in your Phone Contacts): +54 9 11 5261 1152 If you save Pamela's number exactly as above and have Whatsapp, you can text/call her for free if your phone is connected to WiFi or data. If direct dialing: 011 54 9 11 5261 1152 (from the U.S.) 15 5261 1152 (in Argentina) Email: pamelaasabuenosaires@gmail.com
Universidad de Belgrano Oficina de Movilidad Internacional Universidad de Belgrano Zabala 1837 Piso 17 Oficina 23 C1426DQG Capital Federal Tel: +54 11 4788 5400 internos 2128 y 2085* * See international dialing instructions on next page.	<u>U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires</u> Avenida Colombia 4300 C1425GMN Buenos Aires For emergencies involving U.S. citizens, call: +54 11 5777 4354* The Embassy is located in the Palermo neighborhood of Buenos Aires. From Plaza Italia subway station (on the D line), walk toward the river on Sarmiento Ave. You'll come to the Embassy on the left at the corner of Sarmiento and Colombia.

In an emergency, please contact your ASA Site Director immediately.
It is of utmost importance that you notify your Site Director of any problems, issues, or concerns that you encounter while you're abroad.

011 = International Dialing Code

54 = Argentina Country Code

International Dialing Instructions

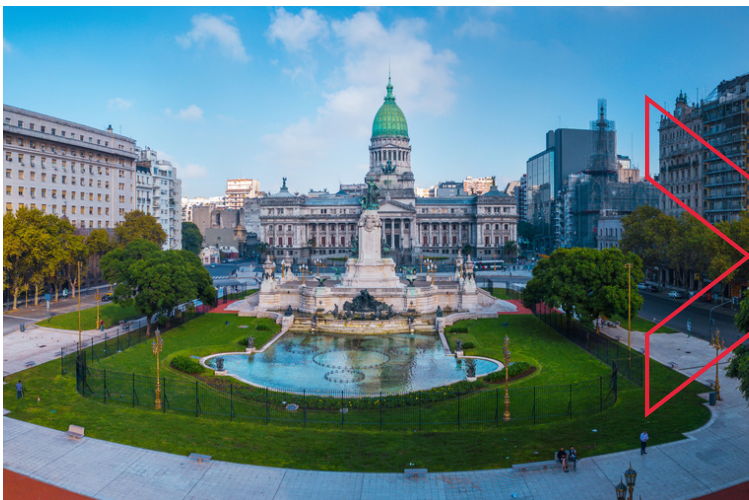


To call a landline from the U.S. to Argentina, dial 011-54 + the city code + the local landline telephone number. The city code for Buenos Aires is 11. (If you are calling a different city, be sure to verify the code for that city.) Local landline telephone numbers in Buenos Aires have 8 digits and are usually listed without the city code. So, if the landline tel. you have been given is 9999-9999, from the U.S., you would dial 011-54-11-9999-9999.

To call a cell phone number in Argentina, it's a little more complicated. 011 is the int'l dialing code from the U.S., 54 is the country code for Argentina, and 11 is the city code for Buenos Aires. To call an Argentine cell phone from the U.S., you also have to use a prefix of 9, between the country code and the city code. To call an Argentine cell phone from the U.S., you would dial 011-54-9-11-plus the local number. If the local number is listed beginning with 15, omit the 15 when calling it internationally, since that is the local dialing prefix not to be used when calling internationally. For example, Pamela's local number is 15 5261 1152. To call her from the U.S., you dial 011-54-9-11-5261 1152. Calling South America can be a bit of a challenge, so be patient, and if you don't get connected the first time, try again.

To call the U.S. from Argentina, dial 001 + area code and number.

To call an Argentine number within Argentina, leave off the int'l code, country code and city code. (Most Argentine cell phone numbers begin with 15. Landline phone numbers in Buenos Aires have 8 digits, so to call a Buenos Aires landline phone while you are physically in Buenos Aires, dial just the 8-digit local number.)



Passport & Visa

All U.S. citizens must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond the day you plan to return to the U.S.

What should I do if I lose my passport?

Contact the local police, the U.S. Embassy, and your Site Director immediately. Having a photocopy of your passport on hand will make it MUCH easier to have it replaced.

MANDATORY: YOU MUST ENROLL IN STEP BEFORE DEPARTURE

STEP registration is MANDATORY to complete before departure. This free service, offered by the US Department of State, enables the DOS to quickly contact US citizens abroad during emergencies, such as natural disaster, civil unrest, or a family emergency. By registering, you also get real time updates about safety, security, health, and weather in country. Click this link to complete your STEP registration before departure:

<https://mytravel.state.gov/s/step>

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A U.S. PASSPORT, PLEASE NOTIFY ASA IMMEDIATELY!

Non-U.S. citizens may have a different visa process than described below, that requires steps to be taken in the U.S. or your home country before you arrive in Argentina.

Fee Information pertaining to all terms

Prior to August 2016, the government of Argentina used to charge U.S. citizens a "reciprocity fee" of USD\$160 in order to enter Argentina. In August 2016, U.S. citizens were granted exemption from paying this fee! So, if you're a U.S. citizen, you DON'T have to pay a \$160 reciprocity fee to enter Argentina.

You can read about the exemption online here: <https://eeuu.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/reciprocity-fee-revoked-us-citizens>

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you may have to pay the \$160 reciprocity fee. Check with ASA about this if you are not a U.S. citizen!

Visa for Summer & Short-Term Programs (6 weeks or less)

Students who have a U.S. passport and are attending a summer program or short-term program in Argentina (90 days or less) will simply enter Argentina as a tourist and remain on tourist status for the duration of the program. No special documentation is required when you enter the country; you simply present your passport when you arrive at Buenos Aires airport, and you'll be given a tourist stamp in your passport. It is not necessary for U.S. citizens attending a summer program or short-term program to get a student visa or other type of visa – you will simply have tourist status.

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN, PLEASE NOTIFY ASA BY CALLING 617-327-9388.

Visa for Semester Programs

U.S. passport holders going on a semester program to Argentina (or any program over 90 days long) must obtain a student visa BEFORE departure by applying through their local Consulate or Embassy of Argentina. After being accepted to the program, ASA will advise students who need a student visa about what steps to take.

Budgeting for Study Abroad

The PESO is the official currency of Argentina and is abbreviated with a dollar sign (\$).

The exchange rate fluctuates all the time, so go to [Western Union](#) to review today's rate.

U.S. dollars are accepted in most places in Argentina, but we do NOT recommend that you bring large amounts of American cash to Argentina.

How much money should I bring?

US\$150-250 per week of your stay

Please note that these are general guidelines based on what past students have reported spending. Some students spend less and others more. The above figures do not allow for traveling every weekend, eating out a lot, or shopping every day.

What expenses should I budget for?

Please note: Housing, medical insurance, and all other ASA services are not included during the break between semesters or terms.

1. **Reciprocity Fee** (US \$160) Currently does not apply to U.S. citizens, but may apply if you're not a U.S. citizen. Check with ASA about this if you're not a U.S. citizen.
2. **All or some meals, laundry** Students living with a host family have daily breakfast and dinner provided by the family, and sheets and towels will be laundered by the host family. Students living in apartments have no meals included because each apartment has a fully equipped kitchen; laundering of sheets and towels is not provided. Students living with host families will be responsible for laundering their clothes; students in shared apartments will be responsible for laundering sheets, towels, and clothes. (Laundromats will be available in the general vicinity of your housing.)
3. **Books and materials for your classes** Budget US\$250 per semester
4. **Local transportation** Budget \$320-\$400 per semester. Local transportation includes getting to and from class, getting around town during your free time, getting to and from where your group is meeting to depart for an excursion and getting home after an excursion, etc. This may include paying for bus, subway and taxi fares. Luckily, this is very inexpensive in Buenos Aires!
5. **Cell phone** Budget US\$350-\$400 per semester
6. **Spending money / Personal expenses** Entertainment, shopping, souvenirs, dining out, travel, haircuts, toothpaste, etc. This is accounted for in our weekly money recommendation.
7. **Meals on excursions** (Accounted for in weekly recommendation above)
8. **Transportation back to the airport at the end of the program** Budget US\$35
9. **Have at least \$1,000 in savings for emergencies**

Resources for Saving Money

- **International Student Identity Card (ISIC)**
 - The [ISIC card](#) is the only internationally accepted student identity card which provides student status verification, thousands of discounts worldwide and access to the global student community. Check website for country specific information.
- **Lonely Planet Travel Books**
 - [Discover the world](#) through the eyes of Lonely Planet's network of global travel writers with their curated selection of guidebooks designed to help you plan unforgettable experiences. Go with a plan. Come back with a story.

Please refer to the *Departure Dates* page under *Helpful Info* on our website to be sure you book your flight to arrive within the window for airport pickup.

Arrival

What should I do when I get off the plane at Buenos Aires airport?

01 Passport Control/Immigration

After you de-plane, you will go through Passport Control (also called Immigration). Non-U.S. citizens may need to present proof of having paid the \$160 Reciprocity Fee (see beginning of this guide for details). You will have your photo taken and be asked to complete a digital fingerprint scan at passport control before being allowed to enter.

02 Baggage Claim

After Passport Control and Customs, follow signs to baggage claim. Delayed baggage must be reported to your airline's lost luggage counter before exiting the baggage claim area. After claiming your bags, exit into the airport lobby and look for an ASA sign OR a sign with your name on it. Our Site Director, Pamela, or one of our drivers will be waiting for you in the airport lobby. NOTE: They cannot meet you in baggage claim!

03 Meet ASA Staff

Once you've found an ASA staff member or driver, we'll take you to your program housing.

If my flight is delayed, will you still pick me up at the airport?

If you will not be arriving as scheduled, it is YOUR responsibility to notify the emergency contact person indicated on your Last-Minute Checklist. They will let you know if you will still be picked up at the airport. We will make every effort to pick you up.

HELPFUL TIPS

Please have lost luggage delivered directly to your local address (e.g. your host family's address OR apartment address). ASA will email you your housing assignment (including the address) approximately 2 weeks before your program start date. Write your local address on your Last-Minute Checklist and pack it in your carry-on, and save the address to your phone's Notes.

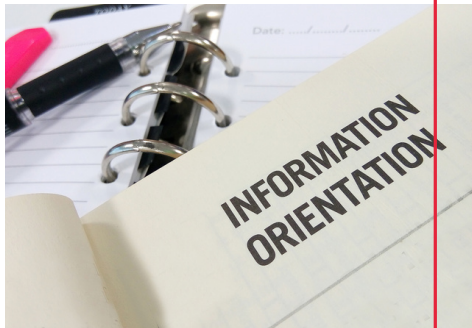
Academics

Universidad de Belgrano
Oficina de Movilidad Internacional
Universidad de Belgrano
Zabala 1837 Piso 17 Oficina 23
C1426DQG Capital Federal
Tel: 54 11 4788 5400 internos 2128 y 2085
Fax: 54 11 4576 3930

HELPFUL TIPS

Website:

[University of Belgrano](http://www.unbelgrano.edu.ar)



Orientation

All Orientations are mandatory, including any hosted by ASA or your host university.

Academic Calendar is subject to change.

Excursion dates and locations will be announced by email shortly prior to departure.



International Students Office

Your Student ID will be available for pick-up at the Oficina Administrativa para Estudiantes Internacionales. You will need this card in order to use the computer labs and most importantly, register your attendance to class electronically. You won't be able to sit for final exams if you do not have at least a 75% attendance record. The International Students Administrative Office will also conduct a mandatory ORIENTATION and a campus tour at the beginning of the semester.



Registering on Campus

For your first visit to campus, bring your passport, a photocopy of your passport and proof of your health insurance. This office will get you enrolled, give you your class schedule and introduce you to your academic advisor.

Grades

You must check with your home institution to ensure you understand:

- The minimum grade you need to earn to receive transfer credit. Typically you need to earn a C or C+, but this can vary by institution. ***Check with your home institution to ensure you understand their requirements!***
- Will your grades impact your GPA? Every institution handles this differently! Some institutions transfer in study abroad grades and it impacts your GPA. Some transfer in the grades and it doesn't impact your GPA. Others transfer in study abroad grades as pass/fail. Be sure you understand how your institution handles this.

You must check with your host institution or ASA Site Director upon arrival to ensure you understand:

- The deadline to change or drop classes. Classes dropped after your host institution's add/drop deadline will appear on your final transcript with a failing grade.
- What is your host institution's attendance policy? Absences from class will affect your grade and can result in a failing grade. Many institutions only allow a couple of absences a semester and only for valid reasons such as medical. Travel or family/friend visit is NOT ever an excused absence.

A+ = 10	B+ = 7	C = 4	F = 1	Aus = Absent (Did not complete final exam)
A = 9	B = 6	F = 3	F = 0	
A- = 8	B- = 5	F = 2	AP = Pass	

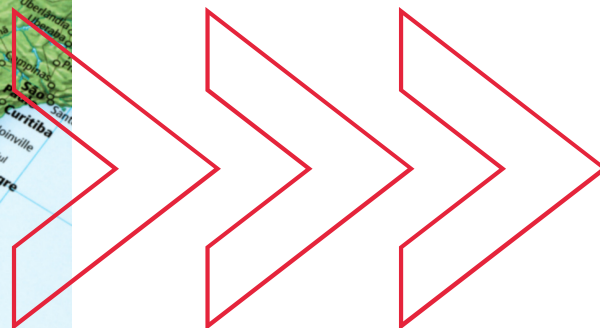
*These are suggested grade equivalencies provided by the host institution and are SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Your home institution may use a different set of equivalencies. Your HOME INSTITUTION will ultimately determine your final grade and credit equivalencies.

Summer Medical Internship

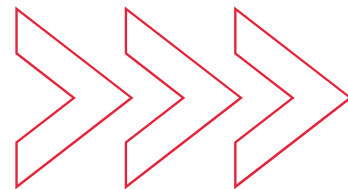
Students need to bring (or purchase in Buenos Aires) a set of medical scrubs for the clinical rotation.

National Holidays

January 1- New Year's Day
Floating – Maundy Thursday
Floating – Good Friday
Floating – Easter
March 24 – Memorial Day
April 2 – Malvinas Day
May 1 – Labor Day
May 25 – Revolución de Mayo
June 15 – Día de la bandera
July 9 – Día de la independencia
August 17 – Día del Libertador José de San Martín
October 11- 12 – Respect for Cultural Diversity
December 8 – Día de la Inmaculada Concepción
December 24 – Christmas Eve
December 25 – Christmas Day
December 31 – New Year's Eve



Everyday Life



Living with an Argentine Host Family

ASA will email you your housing assignment approximately 2 weeks before your program start date.

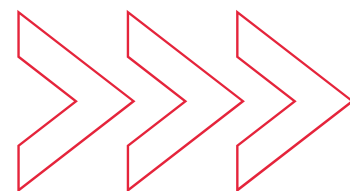
All host families are carefully screened by our Site Director. The majority of host families are located within 25-minute distance of the university. Most of them have been hosting foreign students for several years, so they are accustomed to the needs of students. Bedding and towels are provided by the host family.

Please be aware that living arrangements and composition of each family varies. Most families live in a flat, as actual houses are uncommon in urban areas in Argentina. The term “family” should not be interpreted too narrowly. Some host families are traditional families with a father, mother, and children, while others may consist of a widow whose children still live at home, or no longer live at home. Increasingly, about 50% of the host families are childless couples or divorced women with or without children who enjoy having a student living with them. Host families come from a cross-section of society; they belong to no particular professional or social milieu. Past ASA students have found that speaking Spanish at home is the single greatest factor in increasing their facility with the language!

Argentine homes do not have the same amount of space that Americans are accustomed to. You will not find large bedrooms or walk-in closets. Argentines enjoy socializing with their friends, but do so outside of the home, in the local cafés. For this reason, you will not find many big screen televisions, hi-tech stereos, or expensive home entertainment centers. Visitors in the home are rare, so you must ask permission before you invite someone over. You will be given your own key, but if it is lost or stolen, you will have to pay to replace the family’s locks. You will not have a curfew, but please be considerate of your family and let them know of your whereabouts and when you expect to return.

As a college student, the transition to living with a family again may be challenging at the beginning. Try to integrate into the family as much as possible. This is the best way to learn more about the culture, language, customs and norms of a country. For the sake of courtesy, try to keep your room neat and advise your family when you will be staying out very late or staying at a friend’s house. It is typical for college students to go out on the weekends until late, so just keep your family advised of your plans. Your family will worry about you...so keep them informed!

Everyday Life



Rules for Living with an Argentine Host Family

- All students must abide by the ASA Code of Conduct that they signed prior to departure. Violating the Code of Conduct may lead to expulsion from your housing and/or from the ASA program. Any student removed from ASA housing will be responsible for finding his/her own housing and will not receive a refund.
- As part of ASA's COVID-19 health and safety protocols, you are NOT allowed to have friends/guests over to your ASA housing. Only people who live in your housing are allowed inside.
- Drug use and alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited and may lead to you being removed from your housing and/or the program. Being drunk is considered abuse of alcohol.
- Always let your host family know that you appreciate everything they do for you! An occasional gift (flowers, dessert, etc.) is always appreciated.
- Ask before using the house phone. Outgoing calls are probably not allowed, but incoming calls may be.
- Let your family know if you're going to miss a meal so they won't go to the trouble of making one for you!
- Let your family know if you'll be staying out late or spending the night elsewhere, so they won't worry about you. If you're traveling, let your host family know if you're leaving and when you plan to return,
- Be quiet and courteous when returning home late at night.
- Do not take food from the kitchen or refrigerator without permission.
- You will receive ONE set of keys. It is forbidden to make copies of these keys. Be careful not to lose them! If you lose your keys, you will be required to change the locks and issue brand new keys for everyone, at YOUR expense. If the locks to your apartment must be changed due to your actions for any reason, you will be responsible for the cost.
- Out of respect for your host's home, please keep your room tidy and remember it is a home, not a hotel.

Living in a Shared Apartment

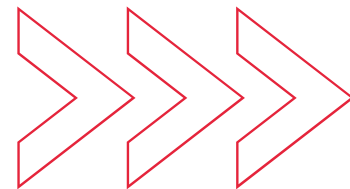
ASA will email you your housing assignment approximately 2 weeks before your program start date.

ASA offers fully furnished shared apartments with anywhere from 2 to 5 occupants. Bedrooms are double occupancy. You are responsible for your own meals and laundry. The apartments are usually a 20-40 minute commute from the university on foot, subway, bus or combination. All apartments are NON-SMOKING. Bedding is provided with your apartment, but towels are not.

We cannot guarantee one standard of housing. Every apartment is different in size, structure, number of rooms, size of rooms, room composition, etc. Bedrooms may be shared OR individual.

All students must abide by the ASA Code of Conduct that they signed prior to departure. Violating the Code of Conduct may lead to expulsion from your housing and/or from the ASA program. Any student removed from ASA housing will be responsible for finding his/her own housing and will not receive a refund.

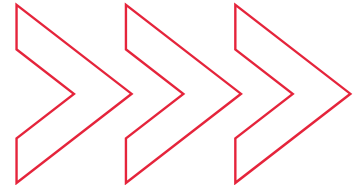
Everyday Life



Rules for Living in a Shared Apartment

- Drug use and alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited and may lead to you being removed from your housing and/or the program. Being drunk is considered abuse of alcohol.
- Living in Argentina means that you are subject to its laws and standards of living!
- In addition, it is important to appreciate that your apartment building houses local families who permanently live and work in Buenos Aires. You will be living as GUESTS among these families. Students must remember that they are living in an apartment and not a dormitory on a U.S. campus. You must conduct yourself as a responsible adult.
- Flexibility and maximum consideration for your housemates and neighbors are essential to a successful and rewarding experience.
- As part of ASA's COVID-19 health and safety protocols, you are NOT allowed to have friends/guests over to your ASA housing. Only people who live in your housing are allowed inside.
- You MUST be gentle with the plumbing! The toilet and drains are not a garbage disposal – do NOT flush things like food, hair, sanitary items, cotton balls, dental floss, or the like. Only liquids should go down drains. You will be charged for plumbing fees due to misuse!
- Students are responsible for daily maintenance, including cleaning the apartment, taking out the garbage OFTEN, washing sheets, reporting maintenance issues to your Site Director, changing light bulbs, and other such tasks. You will be charged for any damages when you leave your apartment.
- You must keep your living area clean and organized at all times. Do not leave objects or garbage lying around the apartment or in the stairwells, as this could interfere with maintenance.
- You must be a good and considerate neighbor. At 10pm, the city's "Reasonable Noise Law" is in effect. Respect this law, or you will be visited by the police! If you make excessive noise and the police are summoned, heavy fines will be levied.
- Parties are NOT permitted. Your neighbors will not hesitate to call the police at the slightest disturbance after hours!
- You will receive ONE set of keys. It is forbidden to make copies of these keys. Be careful not to lose them! If you lose your keys, you will be required to change the locks and issue brand new keys for everyone, at YOUR expense.
- When you vacate your apartment at the end of the semester, all personal items, including trash, toiletries, food, etc. must be removed from the apartment. Everything that was present in the apartment at check-in must be present and in good condition. You must leave the apartment clean, remove all food and personal items, return all furniture to its original position, wash your dishes, take out the garbage, turn off the gas and all appliances and lights, close all windows and wash all linens.

Everyday Life



Local Transportation

Buenos Aires is a metropolis with convenient and inexpensive means of transport that take you anywhere within the city (Capital Federal), suburbs (Gran Buenos Aires) or virtually anywhere in the country.

ASA will provide you with a transportation card called “SUBE” which is a magnetic plastic card that can be reloaded with money and used to pay for buses, metro and train tickets. The “SUBE” card will be distributed after arrival and will have enough money for one month of traveling to and from the UB. After you run out of money on your SUBE card, you can reload it at any Metro stop and many stores around the city, including the bookstore located in the basement of the UB.

Subway (Metro)

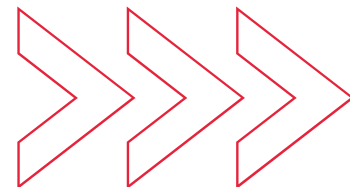
Buenos Aires has a modern, inexpensive subway system offering SUPER reasonably priced fares.

Locals call their subway system as “SUBTE” because is the short word for “subterraneo”. Your Site Director will familiarize you with the Metro system during orientation. You will definitely take advantage of this cheap and efficient mode of transportation while you’re in Buenos Aires. Since traffic can be heavy in the city, the Metro can be a lot faster to get around. In the meantime, you can go to [Metro lines & map](#) to learn more about it.

Buses

The bus (also called micro or colectivo in Argentina), is another option. The fare depends on the distance traveled and is paid with the “SUBE” card provided by ASA staff upon arrival. This is a rechargeable magnetic card used to pay for buses, metro and train throughout Argentina.

Everyday Life



Taxi

Within the city of Buenos Aires, there are 32,000 taxis. They are black with a yellow roof. The fare consists of an initial flat rate, plus an additional charge calculated according to time and distance traveled. The meter will show your fare. There are many “Radio Taxis” that may be safer to use, depending on the hour and the place. For getting around on a regular basis, you’ll want to take advantage of your host city’s public transportation, since taking taxis can add up.

When taking a taxi in a foreign country, it is very important to follow these guidelines:

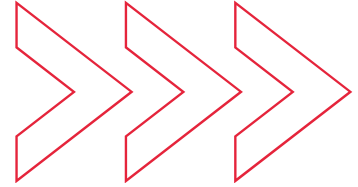
When you arrive at the airport, if you are going to take a cab, it is very important to go straight to the taxi stand. There may be more than one. Beware of “independent” drivers who may offer you a ride; never accept a ride from a taxi driver who approaches you inside the terminal. Even if they have a meter in their car and/or an official business card, it is safer to go to the taxi stand, or to the transportation desk inside the terminal. When in doubt, look for the taxi stand outside of the airport exit. At certain times of the day, there will be a long line of people with their luggage waiting for a taxi. Taxis will always charge a surcharge for leaving the airport or train station, and for taking luggage. Make sure that the taxi has a meter inside that is working. Ask your Site Director or host family what you should be charged to go to certain places. Be alert!

UBER and other ride sharing apps

The main ride-sharing service in Argentina is “Uber”, often cheaper than taxis except during rush hours or holidays, which cause prices going up.

The other commonly used app in Buenos Aires is “Cabify”. Check both apps to compare prices, as many times there is a big price difference between both apps for the same destination!

Everyday Life



Weather

The weather in Buenos Aires is favorable practically year round.

The average annual temperature is approx. 64°F.

Since Argentina is in the southern hemisphere, the seasons are opposite of North America:

Spring: September 21 – December 21

Summer: December 21 – March 21

Autumn: March 21 – July 21

Winter: July 21 – September 21

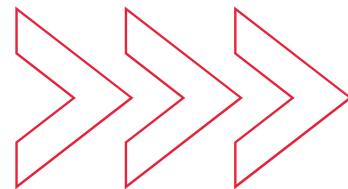
The coldest month in Buenos Aires is July, with an average temperature between 37°F and 46°F. If you'll be in Buenos Aires for their Winter season, bring warm clothes including an overcoat, scarf and gloves.

The hottest month in Buenos Aires is January, with an average temperature of 95°F. The Summer (Dec. 21 – March 20) is hot and humid, so light clothes are essential. In the summer, temperatures remain mild even at night. Rain is most frequent in the Spring and Autumn.

HELPFUL TIPS

Argentine homes aren't heated as well as American homes, so pack accordingly, including warm pajamas and socks, and things you can layer. Students have reported that although the winter weather was not very cold, it felt colder because the heating didn't work as well. Layering your clothes will help.

Staying In Touch



Cell Phones

For information about cell phones abroad, please see the
ASA PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE FOR ALL PROGRAMS

Time Difference

The following are the number of hours BEHIND Argentina that each region is during Daylight Savings Time (March-November):**

Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
4 hours	3 hours	2 hours	1 hours

**(Add one hour after Daylight Savings Time ends – November through March.)

So, during Daylight Savings Time, if it is 6pm in Argentina, then it is 5pm Eastern, 4pm Central, and 2pm Pacific.

For date and time around the world, to help schedule meetings, sunrise and sunset, use the [Time and Date](#) website.

Computers & Internet

Should I bring a laptop? YES. You will have free wireless Internet access at the university and in your program housing. The Universidad de Belgrano also has a computer lab you can use for free.

HELPFUL TIPS

For information about using a plug adapter with your laptop,
see PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE FOR ALL PROGRAMS