

ACADEMIC STUDIES ABROAD Student Visa Information for Semester in Argentina

All U.S. citizens attending a <u>semester study abroad program</u> in Argentina must apply for a Student Visa in person at the Argentine Consulate in the U.S. that represents their state's jurisdiction. This type of visa is called the:

"TRANSITORY STUDENT VISA 365 – UP TO 6 MONTHS"

There are 7 Argentine Consulates in the U.S. – Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Washington DC. Each Consulate has specific states assigned to it. A personal appearance/interview by the student is required as part of the visa process.

ASA cannot obtain the visa for you. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the visa.

Your Passport

- DO NOT plan any international travel during the 2 months leading up to your ASA program (this includes Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean). It may interfere with your visa process. If you already have an international trip planned during that time, please call us as soon as possible (617-327-9388). The timing of your trip will be the most important factor in determining whether it will interfere with your visa process.
- CHECK YOUR PASSPORT'S EXPIRATION DATE to make sure it's valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date from abroad. If it expires anytime between now and 6 months after your planned return date from abroad, you cannot use that passport for your program and must have it renewed immediately.
- MAKE SURE THERE ARE 2 BLANK PAGES THAT FACE EACH OTHER. This is so there is room for the Consulate to affix your visa. If it doesn't have 2 blank pages facing each other, you can't use that passport for this program and must have it renewed immediately.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A VALID PASSPORT, WE CANNOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH – APPLY FOR ONE IMMEDIATELY. EXPEDITED PROCESSING IS RECOMMENDED.

If you are renewing it or applying for a new passport, you MUST have your new passport in hand <u>before</u> April 1 if you are going abroad in Fall semester, or October 1 if you are going abroad in Spring semester.

Where do I apply for a Student Visa?

There are 7 Argentine Consulates in the U.S. – Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Washington DC. Each Consulate has specific states assigned to it. To apply at a Consulate, you must reside (or study full-time*) in its jurisdiction. A list of the Consular jurisdictions is at the end of this document.

*If you intend to apply at the Consulate belonging to your state of STUDY, and you reside within a <u>different</u> Consulate's jurisdiction, you must email the Consulate first to check that this is allowed. You can always apply at the Consulate belonging to your state of residence, but it is up to each individual Consulate to decide if they will accept visa applications from full-time students within their jurisdiction, who reside outside their jurisdiction.

Do I need to go the Consulate in person?

Yes, you will have to appear for a personal interview, by appointment. Your parent/guardian(s) cannot go in your place, but they can go with you.

When should I apply for a Student Visa?

You must carefully follow the timeline below to ensure your visa is ready in time for your departure. Rush or expedited visa processing is NOT available!

When is the visa valid? When does it expire?

The Transitory Student Visa 365 will allow you to enter Argentina ONLY until the first day of class as shown on your acceptance letter from Universidad de Belgrano. Therefore, YOU <u>MUST</u> ARRIVE IN ARGENTINA AT LEAST 1 OR 2 DAYS BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS AS SHOWN ON YOUR ACCEPTANCE LETTER FROM UNIVERSIDAD DE BELGRANO. If not, you will be denied entry to Argentina and forced to go straight back to the U.S.

Before booking your flight, wait for an email from ASA with the official arrival & departure dates.

Note you must arrive in Argentina by airplane so that you can pass through the airport Immigration checkpoint and have your visa activated. If you were to take a train or bus into Argentina, your visa would not be activated properly and your stay in Argentina would not be legalized.

The visa will allow you to legally stay in Argentina <u>through the official end date of your ASA</u> <u>program</u>. During the official program dates your visa allows you to exit and re-enter Argentina multiple times. If you were hoping to travel in Argentina after your program is over, you must discuss this with the Consulate directly. We cannot guarantee your visa will allow you to stay or travel in Argentina after the program is over.

Timeline

The following is based on you departing the U.S. according to the official ASA program start date. <u>If you plan to depart early</u>, you will need to apply for your visa EARLIER than indicated below.

BY APRIL 1 (FOR FALL SEMESTER) / OCTOBER 1 (FOR SPRING SEMESTER)

Submit your ASA program application by these dates, at the latest. Note that your home institution may have a DIFFERENT application deadline, which may be earlier than ours.

APRIL 15 (FOR FALL SEMESTER) / OCTOBER 30 (FOR SPRING SEMESTER)

Pay your ASA Billing Statement or provide verification of financial aid. See your Billing Statement for full details.

3 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Universidad de Belgrano registers you with the immigration bureau in Buenos Aires, called the Dirección Nacional de Migraciones (DNM). The DNM issues an official document called the "Solicitud de Autorización de Ingreso al País -Precarga de Datos Electrónica or Constancia de Inscripción." YOU CANNOT APPLY FOR YOUR VISA UNTIL WE RECEIVE THIS DOCUMENT (MAILED TO US FROM ARGENTINA).

BEGIN 3 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE & COMPLETE NO LATER THAN 2 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

EMAIL YOUR CONSULATE. State that you need to apply for a Transitory Student Visa 365 for up to 6 months. State your date of departure for Argentina. Ask for a list of the required documents to be emailed to you and the procedure explained to you. If you intend to apply at the Consulate belonging to your state of STUDY, and you reside within a different Consulate's jurisdiction, you must tell them you're a full-time university student within their jurisdiction and ask if you can apply there, instead of your Consulate of residence. Some Consulates will only take your application if you reside in their state.

Some Consulates have you mail everything in first so they can make sure your paperwork is complete before giving you an appointment. Others may let you make an appointment before mailing everything in. <u>The exact procedure and documents can vary by Consulate</u>. IT IS <u>YOUR RESPONSIBILITY</u> TO FIND OUT THE PROCEDURE AND DOCUMENTS DIRECTLY FROM YOUR CONSULATE, BEFORE YOU BEGIN APPLYING FOR YOUR VISA.

- Once you have confirmed the documents and procedure with your Consulate, COMPILE THE DOCUMENTS & APPLY FOR YOUR VISA. <u>It may take you several weeks to</u> <u>compile all the documents, so please don't procrastinate</u>!
- To have your visa in time for departure, <u>you must submit the complete documents</u> to the Consulate <u>no later than 2 months before your departure date</u>.
- The Consulate usually needs 2-3 weeks to process your documents before an appointment can take place. Appointment availability may be limited; you may need to work around the Consulate's schedule, and not the other way around. Missing, incorrect, or late documents will delay your appointment, which could cause your visa not to be granted before your departure date. Please follow your Consulate's procedures and instructions exactly!
- Below is a list of documents that are *typically* required for this type of visa. The list below will help you prepare for what may be required of you. Once again, you MUST find out the procedure and paperwork from YOUR Consulate BEFORE you begin applying for your visa.
 - 1. <u>FSV Visa Application Form</u>, filled out completely, <u>using the Answer Key found</u> <u>here</u>. Print clearly IN BLOCK CAPITALS. They can't process your visa if they can't read your handwriting!
 - 2. Clear, legible scan/photocopy of your passport's picture page and signature page. Ensure no edges are cut off and everything is easily legible.
 - 3. 2 recent passport-sized photographs measuring 2x2 inches, showing the top of your head to the bottom of your chin, without any hats or sunglasses. Photographs must be recent, color photos and have a white background. Must be <u>official</u> passport

photos taken at a photo shop, Walgreens, CVS, etc. They WILL NOT accept snapshots or passport photos printed from your computer!

- 4. Copy of Student ID card
- 5. Copy of your Driver's License
- 6. Proof of sufficient funds to cover your expenses while in Argentina, totaling at least US\$6,000.00. Note: The Consulate will usually not tell you a specific amount of money to show, but instead just say that you need to show you have enough money to support yourself for 6 months. ASA's recommendation is that you show that you have at least \$1,000 for each of 6 months (total \$6,000). If you can show you have more money than that, we recommend doing so. With visa applications, the more money you can show you have, the better.

Acceptable forms of documentation are:

- Recent, <u>previous 3 months</u> of bank statements or credit card statements IN YOUR NAME, showing at least US\$6,000.00 total. If using credit card statements, available credit must be at least \$6,000.00.
- If using bank statements or credit card statements of a parent/guardian, you must ALSO provide proof that they are your parent/guardian, as follows:
 - Copy of your birth certificate with parent's name matching that on bank/credit card statement. (Don't send your original birth certificate.)
 - Original notarized letter from your parent stating that they will financially support you during your semester abroad in Argentina and be financially responsible for any emergency that may arise.
- 7. Copy of your round trip flight itinerary to/from Argentina must show your first and last name. A print-out of your itinerary and receipt from email/online are fine.
- 8. Original acceptance letter from Universidad de Belgrano (ASA WILL PROVIDE)
- 9. Original letter from ASA describing the program and stating your housing and tuition are provided (ASA WILL PROVIDE)
- 10. Original "Precarga de Datos Electrónica" issued by the DNM (ASA WILL PROVIDE)
- 11. Original letter from your home institution's Study Abroad Office or International Education Office, stating you are a full-time student, that you will be attending Universidad de Belgrano as a full-time student, and that the credits will transfer back to your home institution (YOU MUST OBTAIN THIS FROM YOUR HOME INSTITUTION)
- 12. Medical Insurance Card showing your coverage while in Argentina. (ASA WILL PROVIDE)
- 13. U.S. Postal Service MONEY ORDER for \$150. (*Note!* \$150 is the visa fee as of December 2019. This is subject to change. Please check with your Consulate to confirm the visa fee and ask who to make the money order payable to.) Cash, checks, or other payment are not accepted.

- 14. If you are not a U.S. citizen, proof of your immigration status in the U.S.: Provide a copy of your Alien Registration Card, Advance Parole Document, Employment Authorization Card, or valid U.S. visa. If you have a U.S. visa, you must provide the appropriate, valid forms such as copies of your IAP66, I-94, or I-20. I-20 must be signed by the designated school official and signature must be from the current academic year.
- 15. The Consulate has the right to request additional documentation from you as deemed necessary. The visa process, steps, and requirements can vary depending on which Consulate you are applying at. Be sure to communicate with YOUR Consulate by emailing or calling them to ask for the list of required documents and procedure BEFORE beginning to apply for your visa.

KEEP SCANS/COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR RECORDS, BEFORE GIVING THEM TO THE CONSULATE.

- IF YOU ARE ASKED TO MAIL IN YOUR PAPERWORK, ask the Consulate what their preferred service is GET A TRACKING NUMBER. If you haven't heard from the Consulate within a week of mailing your paperwork, email them to ask if they received everything. Be persistent (but polite) until you receive a response! Include in all emails your name, passport number, and visa type (Transitory Student Visa 365 for up to 6 months). You can also try calling them, but some will only communicate about visa matters by email.
- If you are applying in Washington DC, you will be applying through the Consular Section of the Embassy of Argentina. Note that the Consular Section has a different address than the Embassy. (Address of Consular Section can be found on the last page of this document)
- BEFORE VISITING THE CONSULATE IN PERSON, check their hours of operation and holiday closures. They may only be open for certain hours of the day, and they close for both U.S. and Argentine holidays.
- > CHECK YOUR JUNK & SPAM FOLDERS FOR EMAILS FROM THE CONSULATE!

FINAL STEP: GO TO YOUR INTERVIEW/APPOINTMENT AT THE CONSULATE

- This usually takes 1.5 hours (some of this will be waiting time). If your paperwork is complete, the visa will be affixed to the inside of your passport while you wait. Bring to the interview:
 - 1. Yourself (your parents can go with you, but not *for* you)
 - 2. Your actual passport
 - 3. Photocopies of any documents you previously submitted
 - 4. U.S. Postal Service Money Order for visa fee. No other payment is accepted except USPS Money Order. If you're not sure who to make it payable to, that's ok, they will tell you at your appointment. As of December 2019, the fee was \$150, but visa fees can change anytime without notice. Send an email to the Consulate at least a week before your appointment to confirm the amount of the visa fee! Address: visas@embassyofargentina.us Include in all emails your name, passport number, and visa type (Transitory Student Visa 365 for up to 6 months).
 - 5. Anything else the Consulate told you to bring, if not listed here
- If your paperwork is not complete, you will have to come back for another appointment. This can cause you your visa to not be ready by your departure date.

LIST OF ARGENTINE CONSULATES & CONTACT INFO

Consulate General of Argentina in ATLANTA

Marquis I Tower 245 Peachtree Center Avenue NE Suite #2450 (24th Floor) Atlanta, GA 30303 Website: <u>https://catla.cancilleria.gob.ar/</u> Tel: 404-880-0805 Email: <u>catla@mrecic.gov.ar</u> Jurisdiction: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee

Consulate General of Argentina in CHICAGO

205 N. Michigan Ave Suite 4208/09 Chicago, IL 606001 Website: <u>https://cchic.cancilleria.gob.ar/</u> Tel: 312-819-2610 Email: <u>cchic@mrecic.gov.ar</u> Jurisdiction: Illinois, Indiana Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Consulate General of Argentina in HOUSTON

2200 West Loop South Suite 1025 Houston, TX 77027 Website: <u>https://chous.cancilleria.gob.ar/</u> Tel: 713-871-8935 Email: <u>visas@consuladoargentino.net</u> Jurisdiction: Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana

Consulate General of Argentina in LOS ANGELES

5055 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 210 Los Angeles, CA 90036 Website: <u>https://clang.cancilleria.gob.ar/</u> Tel: 323-954-9155 Email: <u>visas_clang@mrecic.gov.ar</u> Jurisdiction: Alaska, Hawaii, California, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Washington State, U.S. Pacific Islands

Consulate General of Argentina in MIAMI

1101 Brickell Ave.
North Tower
Suite 900
Miami, FL, 33131
Website: <u>https://cmiam.cancilleria.gob.ar/</u>
Tel: 305-373-1889
Email: <u>visas_cmiam@mrecic.gov.ar</u>
Jurisdiction: Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas

Consulate General of Argentina in NEW YORK

12 West 56th Street New York, NY 10019 Website: <u>https://cnyor.cancilleria.gob.ar/</u> Tel: 212-603-0400 Email: <u>cnyor-visas@mrecic.gov.ar</u> Jurisdiction: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

Consular Section of Embassy of Argentina in WASHINGTON DC

Visas are issued by the "<u>Consular Section</u>" of the Argentine Embassy in Washington DC. <u>The Consular Section has a different address than the Embassy</u> (if you Google it, you can end up with the wrong address). Address and contact info of the <u>Consular Section</u> are given here:

Consular Section, Embassy of Argentina 1811 Q Street, NW Washington DC 20009 Website: <u>eeeuu.mrecic.gov.ar</u> Tel: 202-238-6460 Email: <u>visas@embassyofargentina.us</u> or <u>consular@embassyofargentina.us</u> Jurisdiction: Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, Pennsylvania

REMINDER: Before going to the Consulate, check the hours of operation on their website – they may only be open for certain hours of the day. Consulates/Embassies close for both U.S. and Argentine holidays – oftentimes a list of closing days is available on their website.