



ACADEMIC
STUDIES ABROAD

Site-Specific Guide – Buenos Aires

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PRE-DEPARTURE

Important Phone Numbers

**** PROGRAM THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS INTO YOUR CELL PHONE****

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>ASA Office in USA</u> Academic Studies Abroad 16 Cohasset St. Roslindale, MA 02131-3013 Tel: 617-327-9388 Lee Frankel Emergency Cell: 413-221-4559 Fax: 617-327-9390 E-mail: info@academicstudies.com</p> <p>Lee Frankel, Director lee@academicstudies.com Chelsea Kaloupek, Assistant Director chelsea@academicstudies.com</p> | <p><u>ASA Site Director in Buenos Aires – Gabriela Gamper</u></p> <p>► Cell Phone (Save THIS number in your Phone Contacts): +54 9 11 6684 1975</p> <p>If you save Gabriela’s number exactly as above and have the app Whatsapp, you can text/call her for free if your phone is connected to WiFi or data.</p> <p>If direct dialing: 011 54 9 11 6684 1975 (from the U.S.) / 15 6684 1975 (in Argentina)</p> <p>Email: gabrielag@studyabroad-argentina.com</p> |
| <p><u>U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires</u> Website: https://ar.usembassy.gov/ Address: Avenida Colombia 4300 C1425GMN Buenos Aires</p> <p>For emergencies involving U.S. citizens, call: +54 11 5777 4354*</p> <p>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.</p> | <p><u>Universidad de Belgrano</u> 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*</p> <p>* See international dialing instructions on next page.</p> <p><u>Emergency</u> (Local numbers, as dialed in Argentina) 107 or 911</p> |

In an emergency, please contact your ASA Site Director or the ASA office 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.

International Dialing Instructions

011 = INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE 54 = COUNTRY CODE (ARGENTINA)

--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, Gabriela's local number is 15 6684 1975. To call her from the U.S., you dial 011-54-9-11-6684 1975. 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 and Visa

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

VISA INFORMATION PERTAINING TO ALL TERMS (Short-Term and Semester)

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, when you arrive at Buenos Aires airport, all you need to present is your passport, and you'll be given a tourist stamp.** You can read about the exemption online here: <http://www.embassyofargentina.us/en/consular-section/reciprocity-fee-for-us-citizens.html>

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, who are attending a summer program or short-term program in Argentina (6 weeks 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 DON'T HAVE A U.S. PASSPORT, PLEASE NOTIFY ASA IMMEDIATELY BY CALLING 617-327-9388.**

VISA FOR SEMESTER PROGRAMS

Students going on a semester program to Argentina who have a U.S. passport do not need to obtain a visa prior to departure in order to enter Argentina. Instead, students who have a U.S. passport will enter as a tourist and then apply for a visa within 30 days of arriving in Argentina. The visa costs approx. US\$120 (2700 Argentine pesos) for U.S. citizens who are staying in Argentina for 6 months or less. This visa is called “Special Transitory Residence.” *NOTE: Cost of the visa is subject to change without notice depending on Argentine immigration regulations. Cost of the visa will also vary based on the exchange rate.* For the current exchange rate, go to www.xe.com.

ASA's Site Director in Buenos Aires will assist students in applying for a visa after arrival. This will require your participation. You will need to collect some paperwork, make an appointment with the Immigration office in Buenos Aires, and then go to that appointment. While our Site Director will assist you with these steps, it is ultimately up to YOU, the student, to make sure you obtain your visa. This is very important because the Universidad de Belgrano will not let you take your final exams unless you provide them with a photocopy of your visa, and if you don't take final exams, you fail your classes – so you must adhere to all visa requirements and go to all required visa appointments or meetings.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A U.S. PASSPORT, PLEASE NOTIFY ASA IMMEDIATELY!

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

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.

-U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires: <https://ar.usembassy.gov/>

Budgeting for Your Trip

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 <http://www.XE.com> for the current 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?

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

** = Accounted for in weekly money recommendation above.*

1. Damage Deposit (US\$250, paid to ASA 1 month prior to departure)
Students who have not paid their damage deposit will not be allowed to move into their program housing.
2. 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.
3. Visa (approx. US\$120)
Our Site Director, Gabriela will help you apply for your visa after you arrive.
4. 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.)
5. Books and materials for your classes
Budget **US\$250 per semester.**
6. 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!

7. Phone calls and text messages*
Budget **US\$350-\$400 per semester**. *You can save money on phone calls by using Skype (www.skype.com).*
8. Spending money / Personal expenses*
Entertainment, shopping, souvenirs, dining out, travel, haircuts, toothpaste, etc. This is accounted for in our weekly money recommendation (see previous page).
9. Meals on excursions*
10. Transportation back to the airport at the end of the program
Budget **US\$35**

ARRIVAL

Airport Pick-up

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

1. After you de-plane, you will go through Passport Control (also called Immigration), where you'll get your passport stamped. U.S. citizens will enter Argentina as a tourist and get a tourist stamp. Non-U.S. citizens may need to present proof of having paid the \$160 Reciprocity Fee (see beginning of this guide for details). **You must get your passport stamped in order to document your first entry into Argentina.** Not getting your passport stamped could cause problems with your visa! *If you do not get a stamp, ASK.*
2. 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, Gabriela, or one of our drivers will be waiting for you in the airport lobby.
NOTE: **They cannot meet you in baggage claim!**
3. Once you've found an ASA staff member or driver, we'll take you to your program housing.

► Address for delivery of delayed luggage:

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.

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.

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

Registering on Campus

Your main office of contact at the Universidad de Belgrano will be the *Oficina Administrativa para Estudiantes Internacionales* (International Students Administrative Office). 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.

Shortly thereafter, your Student ID card will be available for pick-up at the International Students Administrative Office. **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.

Websites:

<http://www.ub.edu.ar/studies.php>
<http://www.ub.edu.ar/>

Academic Calendar

Please note: Calendar is subject to change. Excursion dates and locations will be announced by **email** shortly prior to departure.

**** All Orientation meetings and Student Visa appointments are mandatory, (visa appointment dates TBA after arrival). If you miss any of these meetings, you will be**

responsible for applying for your visa on your own. You need your visa in order to legally stay in Argentina for the semester AND to be able to take the final exams for your classes!

At the following link, you can see the general Academic Calendar for your program:

<https://www.academicstudies.com/buenos-aires-argentina-program-calendars/>

EVERYDAY LIFE

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

Living with an Argentine Host Family

All host families are carefully screened by our Site Director. The majority of host families are located within walking 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!

Rules for Living with a 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.
- **Overnight guests are NOT allowed under any circumstance.** Do not bring over guests of any kind without permission. Your host family will be upset if they find out you have brought guests over while they're not home.
- **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 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.

Drug/Alcohol Policy

- 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.

Conduct

- Living in Argentina means that you are subject to its laws and standards of living! These laws are quite different from what you are accustomed to in the U.S.
- 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.

Guests

- **OVERNIGHT GUESTS ARE NOT ALLOWED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.** If you have guests over during the day, please remember that YOU are responsible for your guests' behavior. **NEVER** bring casual acquaintances or new friends who you have just met to your apartment!

Maintenance

- 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.

Noise

- 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!

Keys

- 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.

Move-Out

- **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.

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. 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 <http://www.metrovias.com.ar/> 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 by introducing coins in an automatic machine. It is best to have exact change.

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!

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. **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.**

The hottest month in Buenos Aires is January, with an average temperature of 82°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.

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 12 – Columbus Day
December 8 – Día de la Inmaculada Concepción
December 24 – Christmas Eve
December 25 – Christmas Day
December 31 – New Year's Eve

STAYING IN TOUCH

- 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 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.

Computers and 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.

► For information about using a plug adapter with your laptop,
SEE [PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE FOR ALL PROGRAMS](#)