

# UW Activism through the Arts

## Buenos Aires, Argentina

### Program Handbook

#### Winter 2019-2020

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The UW Activism through the Arts program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the Institute for Study Abroad (IFSA). This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from IFSA as well as the **IAP Study Abroad Handbook** and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of publishing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### On-Site Program Information

#### Program Leader

Your primary contact in Buenos Aires will be the UW Program Leader, Spanish & Portuguese Professor Paola Hernandez.

Professor Paola Hernandez  
Program Leader  
[pshernandez@wisc.edu](mailto:pshernandez@wisc.edu)

## IFSA Buenos Aires Study Center

The program is administered through the IFSA Buenos Aires Study Center. The IFSA Buenos Aires staff will also be there to assist you and help you with any issues you may encounter.

IFSA's Address:

Av. Corrientes 880 8 C

(C1043AAV) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Phone: + 54 11 4394-1666

Resident Director: Mario Cantarini

## Home University Contact Information

### University of Wisconsin-Madison

International Academic Programs (IAP)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

301 Red Gym, 716 Langdon St.

Madison, WI 53706

Tel: 608-265-6329 Fax: 608-262-6998

Web: [www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)

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## Emergency Contact Information

### IAP Emergency Number

In case of an emergency, contact your on-site staff first using the emergency contact information provided on-site. For IAP emergency contact, call the main IAP number **(608) 265-6329** between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff member on call at **(608) 516-9440**. If you call the main IAP number after hours, the message will direct you to call the emergency number, so it's a good place to start if you're not sure about the time difference.

### Emergency Numbers in Argentina

It is important to note that not all international emergency phone numbers are the same. The local equivalent to the "911" emergency line in Buenos Aires is:

- 107 medical emergencies
- 100 fire department

- 101 for police department

## Embassy Registration and Information

Program participants who are U.S. citizens must register with the U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at <https://step.state.gov/step/>. If you are not a U.S. citizen, consult your home country's embassy or consulate to determine if they have similar services.

US Embassy Buenos Aires  
Av. Colombia 4300  
(C1425GMN) Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54-11) 5777-4533

<https://ar.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

## PROGRAM DATES

Program dates are **January 2 – January 18, 2020**. Detailed program dates are provided in your MyStudyAbroad account.

## PREPARATION BEFORE LEAVING

Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information. Be certain to read all of these materials carefully, as they answer many common questions about cultural, academic, and health matters abroad.

## Immigration Documents

### Passport

A passport is needed to travel to Argentina. **Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one.** Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website

(<http://travel.state.gov/passport>). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

#### **\*Tip: Take a lost passport kit**

It happens. So save yourself a major headache. Take with you two U.S.-produced passport photos, a certified copy of your birth certificate (which you can shrink to wallet size), and the face page of your passport. Keep this "lost passport kit" separate from your actual passport. Also leave one copy of the passport face page with your parents or guardian.

## Packing and Baggage

Try to organize and pack at least several days prior to departure so that you can judge if you'll be able to carry your bags (you must be able to do this). Some students have even practiced by carrying their bags around the block! Also, by packing early you'll have time to rest before the long trip.

### ***What are the baggage limits?***

Each airline has individual requirements so you will want to be sure and check with the airline you have booked through to determine what your baggage limits are for your time in Argentina.

## Climate

Buenos Aires can be quite hot and humid in January – often in the high 90s to more than 100 degree Fahrenheit.

## **Clothing**

Plan to dress much as you do in the United States. While most Argentinian students are casual in dress and jeans, shorts and T-shirts are popular, a clean, neat appearance is expected. Ragged jeans and tattered clothes may be offensive. Argentinians can be very fashionable and the style of dress tends to be cosmopolitan.

U.S. students have often said they took too much clothing. Don't forget that nothing ruins traveling abroad more than having too much luggage, especially when you have to carry it yourself. You can save packing space by coordinating your clothing so that shirts and sweaters can be worn with different skirts and pants. Bring comfortable walking shoes.

## **Toilet Articles**

Bring with you anything you frequently use that may be specific and available only in the US like vitamins, products from special brands or medicines that require a prescription. Most toiletries will be available in Argentina for approximately the same cost if you forget something, however we recommend bringing toothpaste, shampoos, soaps and conditioners so you don't have to buy them when you arrive.

## **Electrical Appliances**

Most of Argentina, including Buenos Aires, uses 220-240- volt current. If you bring anything electric, be sure to check the voltage before plugging it in. You could have customs problems with electronics (which are usually highly taxed as imports), but if you can assure them that what you are bringing are personal items, you should have no difficulty. If you bring anything new, make sure you take it out of the packaging. You might be required to have these items written in your passport by the customs officials, and you will be required to take them back out of the country with you when you leave.

# **TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION**

All participants on the program are asked to arrive in Buenos Aires at the Ezeiza International Airport on the arrival day. For those students who arrive within the time frame provided by IFSA, the IFSA staff will arrange a transfer using a radio taxi from the airport to your host family. If you want to have this transfer arranged, which is recommended, make sure you have the arrival details before you purchase your airfare. If you have a delayed flight, please call the Program Leader or the IFSA staff as soon as you are able to let them know your new itinerary.

# **THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

## **Course Information**

This program will focus on literature, theatrical/site-specific/museum studies, political manifestations, film, and performance installations in order to appreciate the intellectual vivacity of Buenos Aires. The group will attend a variety of plays (available during December and January), visit memory parks and museums, and explore historical sites of gaucho literature, tango lyrics, film library, among others. When possible, theatre and film directors, actors, producers and scholars will be invited to give talks about their own work. The main objective of this course is to immerse students in the rich history and culture of Buenos Aires through the study of canonical and non-canonical literature, drama, performance and museums. Both activism and politics will be an ongoing thread to our studies and approach to past and current events that feed into today's theatre, museums practices, novels, and film.

## **Registration**

IAP will register you for a special "Study Abroad Course" for the classes you will be taking abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be replaced with the final grade and credit you earn after completion of the program.

## **Course Equivalent Requests (CERs) and My Study Abroad**

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request (CER) through your My Study Abroad account. Information on the UW course equivalent process is also available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook. To avoid a delay in your study abroad courses posting to your UW Madison transcript, it is important to submit your equivalent information prior to the end of your term abroad.

## **Credits**

This course is a 3 credit class.

## **Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit**

Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies. A Pass/Fail option will be available in the Course Equivalency Request. The due date for Pass/Fail submission can be found in the Academics tab of your My Study Abroad account.

## **Grades and Grade Conversions**

Professor Hernandez’s course will use the UW-Madison scale, and therefore, no conversion is needed.

# **LIVING ABROAD**

Educate yourself about your host country. Read the Preparing to Live in Another Culture section of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook. Remember- it won't be possible to prepare yourself completely. There will be situations you will not have anticipated and your flexibility will determine in great part the kind of experience you will have while abroad.

## **Accommodations**

You will be accommodated by a local host family for the duration of your time in Buenos Aires. IFSA Butler will ask you to submit a housing sheet that details more about yourself and any specific needs or facts that you wish to share related to your housing. They will then match you with a host family. One student will be placed with each family. You will have your own room that includes a bed, access to a bathroom, a desk, and a place to store clothing (closet or wardrobe). You will share the bathroom with other family members. Internet access will be provided and host families will launder bed linens and towels once per week. However, you will need to wash your own personal items at a nearby laundromat if you need to do laundry while abroad. You should not expect to have access to the laundry facilities at your host family.

Your host family will provide two meals per day Sunday – Friday and one meal on Saturdays. All other meals are your responsibility. It is important to communicate ahead of time with your family if you are going to miss a meal.

Please note that no guests or other program participants can stay overnight at your host family.

## **Money and Banking**

Arrive in Argentina with several ways to obtain money so that in the event one method fails or is inconvenient, a back-up option is available. The best way to get money is with a bankcard affiliated with Visa or Mastercard. Most major banks in Argentina will allow you to withdraw using your American card. Only certain ATMs inside these banks accept international cards. Visa/Mastercard stickers usually indicate that the ATM accepts international cards.

The national currency is the Argentine peso (ARS). You can monitor the current exchange rate online here:

[www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com)

## Credit Cards

While major credit cards are accepted at restaurants and stores, past participants highly recommend using cash on a daily basis. Make sure credit cards will not expire during your stay as they could be used as a backup.

## ATM/Bank Cards

ATM/MAC machines with access to PLUS or CIRRUS banking systems are available in Argentina. You can withdraw local currency from the machine without commission charges. Although the conversion rate is best via ATM most USA banks charge a fee between \$5 and \$10 for international withdrawals. Be sure that you have addressed the following questions if you plan to use a bankcard:

- Verify that your bankcard is valid for an international banking system.
- Call your bank before leaving to advise them of your travel. As a security measure, banks will usually put a freeze on cards when charges from foreign countries appear.
- Verify if you can access a savings account with your bankcard abroad. Many past participants have not been able to access their savings account while abroad, regardless if it is within the PLUS or CIRRUS network. Depending on the answer, you should consider transferring your savings funds into a checking account.
- Make sure your PIN is in numbers **not** letters (most ATM/MAC machines in Latin America have only numbers on their keypads).
- From your bank, obtain a list of international banking system ATM machines in Argentina and other locations where you plan to travel in Latin America. The following websites also have international ATM locations: [www.visa.com](http://www.visa.com); [www.mastercard.com/atm](http://www.mastercard.com/atm)
- Check with your bank regarding international transaction and access charges associated with using ATM machines.

While some banks do not impose additional charges for using a bankcard abroad, others can charge up to \$10 per transaction. If your bank charges a high fee, you should consider switching to a bank that charges less, or you can plan to make less frequent ATM transactions in larger amounts.

If you decide to use your ATM/Bank card as your primary way to access money, and the fees charged by your bank are high (per a transaction) then consider purchasing a small lock box (or you may not need it if your suitcase/luggage has a lock). That way, once you locate an ATM closer to the hotel you can take out larger sums of currency at a time and then go immediately to the hotel to put them away.

If this is the way that you choose to access currency, you should also bring an “emergency stash” of traveler’s checks or a credit card.

### \* Trap: PIN numbers

For both credit cards and bankcards, inquire with the issuer to verify that the card is valid for an international banking system. And memorize your PIN in numbers not letters; foreign phone pads are often configured differently.

## Health

All travelers should consult with their personal doctors before traveling abroad. The CDC currently recommends that all travelers are up to date on their routine vaccinations and should consider additional vaccinations such as Hepatitis A and Typhoid. You are encouraged to read through the Traveler’s Health Information sheet from the CDC for Argentina prior to departure and to make an appointment with either the [University Health Services \(UHS\) Travel Clinic](#) or your personal provider to discuss your upcoming travel. Make sure to schedule this appointment as soon after acceptance as possible to ensure that you have enough time to secure all recommended inoculations.

## Safety information for Buenos Aires

Personal vigilance is key to remaining safe in Buenos Aires. Like any big city throughout the world, Buenos Aires has its share of crime. Argentina continues to experience a volatile economy which leads to incidence of crime, particularly pickpocketing, robbery and car theft. Although Buenos Aires is relatively safe, you must be careful about what you do and where you go. You will hear about safety in your pre-departure orientation as well as in your onsite orientation conducted by IFSA. Read the following information carefully and also read the “Safety” section of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook to prepare yourself to take appropriate precautions for your personal safety while in Buenos Aires. If you are the victim of any crime while abroad, alert your Program Leader immediately.

### General Suggestions about safety:

- Tourists are common targets of pickpockets. Be aware of your backpacks and cameras, especially on crowded buses and tourist locations. It is not unusual for criminals to carry weapons during robbery attempts.
- Keep valuables in the hotel safe. Do not carry large sums of money, wear expensive jewelry, or obviously display valuable items (cameras, iPods, laptops, etc.) when you walk on the street. Only carry the amount of money you need with you; leave credit cards, debit cards, and additional cash, etc. locked in the hotel.
- Do not carry your passport with you on a daily basis. A photocopy of the front page should be adequate.
- If you are robbed, give the robber your possessions; do not resist.
- Use common sense just as you would in any other big city. Do not walk alone at night, go with other students, and use public transportation recommended by the IFSA onsite staff to get back to your housing.
- Go into a shop or ask security personnel for directions. Do not stop strangers in the street.
- Avoid exploring unfamiliar areas of town on your own.
- You should avoid political demonstrations and other activities that might be deemed political by the Argentinian authorities. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Demonstrators in Argentina may cause public transportation to close. You are urged to avoid areas of demonstrations, and to exercise caution if in the vicinity of any protests.
- If you use a card (ATM, debit, credit), be sure to monitor your account closely for fraudulent charges. When using an ATM, it should be accessed only during the business day at large protected facilities (preferably inside commercial establishments, rather than at glass-enclosed, highly visible ATMs on streets).
- Report to the Program Leader, any incident, harassment or threatening situation that you may experience. They can assist you with filing a police report if necessary although it is highly unlikely that stolen items will be found.
- Know where you can reach someone in case of an emergency. Carry your IAP emergency card on you at all times.

You are encouraged to read the State Department’s Country Specific information on Argentina that can be found here: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/argentina.html>.

## ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION/WEBSITES OF INTEREST

### Get a Good Guidebook

Past participants recommend that you purchase a good guidebook and read a lot of it before you go! *The Lonely Planet* series is useful. Other guidebooks include the *Let’s Go*, and *Real/Rough Guide* series. *Insight* guides provide good background and cultural information. Pay particular attention to sections on obtaining maps and other information from tourist offices, customs of the host country, currency exchange, telephoning home, safety, transportation, and general travel advice.

### Tap Other Resources

Other good ways to learn about your new home:

- Check your college or university study abroad office for useful services and information.
- Seek out Argentinians through cultural organizations, international student organizations, and Spanish or South America area studies departments or centers at your college or university.
- Surf the web. Many websites, such as [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com), offer travel information, slide shows, and tips from other travelers.
- Check libraries for detailed information and keep yourself informed of current events through the news media.

U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:

<http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/>

UW-Madison International Academic Programs

<http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu>

U.S. State Department:

<http://travel.state.gov>

Center for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Current exchange rates

<http://www.oanda.com>

Cost of Living Calculator

<http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/>

Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

## Suggested Packing List

- ☐ Passport/laminated photocopy of passport (keep separate from passport)
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ UW Student ID
- ☐ Credit card/debit cards
- ☐ Jacket
- ☐ Flip flops or sandals
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Pants (lightweight)
- ☐ Shirts
- ☐ Shoes (comfortable, sturdy walking shoes)
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Skirts or dresses
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Sweatshirt
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Backpack/small overnight bag for traveling



- ☐ Birth control/condoms
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Flashdrive
- ☐ Contact lens solution and cases
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Glasses/contact lens
- ☐ Guidebook
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Medicine kit (anti-diarrhea medicine/aspirin/Band-Aids/cold medicine)
- ☐ Money belt
- ☐ Raincoat
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Bug spray
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Sunhat or cap
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Travel alarm clock
- ☐ Umbrella
- ☐ Laptop
- ☐ Reusable water bottle
- ☐ Day bag
- ☐ Pens, pencils, paper, folders for classes
- ☐ Favorite snacks / granola bars