

ARGENTINA

National University of Tres de Febrero
Latin American Studies



Summer 2012 Program Guide



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The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University’s student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.



▶ Scan to get this guide on your Smartphone.

YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

Local UCEAP Support

Campus EAP Office

The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientations, and academic advising; and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office

The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

Program Advisors provide academic and operational program information to you and your campus as well as administrative support for all aspects of your participation.

Operations Specialists manage the logistics of the program. They coordinate document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, acceptance and placement by host institutions, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements.

Academic Specialists advise on academic policies, review courses taken abroad for UC credit, and document your registration, grades, petitions and academic records.

Student Finance Accountants assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

Program Advisor

Monica Reynolds

Phone: (805) 893-4268; **E-mail:** mreynolds@eap.ucop.edu

Operations Specialist

Kristen Galbreath

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Academic Specialist

Monica Rocha

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Student Finance Accountant

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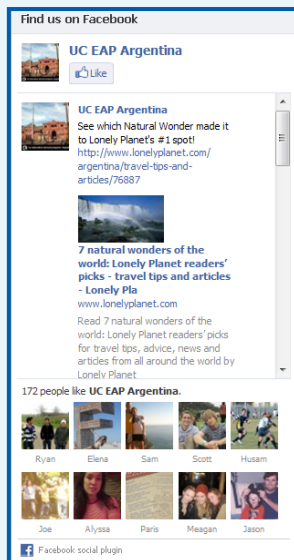
UCEAP Systemwide Office

6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200

Goleta, CA 93117-5823

Phone: (805) 893-4762; **Fax:** (805) 893-2583

► **Join the Conversation!**
Meet fellow UCEAP participants and alumni on Facebook.



UCEAP Online

Bookmark your **Participants** program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the **UCEAP Argentina page**.

Study Center Abroad

UCEAP has partnered with the National University of Tres de Febrero (UNTREF) to provide all logistical and services support to participants in the Latin American Studies program. Classes will be held in the Borges Cultural Center, located in the heart of downtown Buenos Aires.

UNTREF – Sede Centro Cultural Borges
 Viamonte y San Martín. 3
 Buenos Aires C1053ABK

Claudia Schilman, Program Coordinator
Phone from Argentina: 154-415-8800
E-mail: cschilman@untref.edu

Academic oversight of the summer program is provided by UC faculty member Francisco Lomelí from the UC Santa Barbara departments of Spanish and Portuguese and Chicano Studies. Professor Lomelí is resident Study Center Director in Santiago, Chile and will be available by phone or e-mail.

Francisco Lomelí, Study Center Director
Phone (calling from Argentina): 00-56-2-354-5270
E-mail: Lomeli@spanport.ucsb.edu

Questions about UC registration of courses, UC units, and related advising concerns may be directed to the UCEAP Academic Specialist, Monica Rocha, whose contact information is listed on page 1 of this guide.

Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code **011**
(dial this to call from the U.S.)
 Argentina country code **54**
 Buenos Aires city code **11**

Approximate Time Difference

March–October: add 4 hours
October–March: add 5 hours

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Program

Review the [program calendar](#) often. Dates are posted as they become available.

UCEAP's summer program at the National University of Tres de Febrero (UNTREF) provides students the opportunity to take an intensive course on Latin America—in English—in the heart of Buenos Aires. Dynamic and prestigious, UNTREF offers a wide range of disciplines at eight centers in greater metropolitan Buenos Aires. International students take classes in the Centro Cultural Borges, which is ideally situated for a variety of activities. The university has been a leader in English-language instruction to international students, and draws from its regular faculty to teach these courses.

UNTREF hosts other international students during the summer term and you can expect to be in class with other American university students. Previous Spanish language study is not required but is offered as one of the courses you can take during the five-week program. Students who opt to take Spanish as one of their two courses have the advantage of being in the city to practice the language daily and quickly develop an appreciation of Argentine Spanish.

Course Information

Classes are held Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Additional activities and day trips may be scheduled on some weekends. Seven courses are available for summer 2012, but UNTREF does schedule some courses concurrently. Concurrent classes are grouped in the listing below.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

- Human Rights (cross-listed under International Studies and Political Science)
- Eva Perón: Icon and Political Persona (cross-listed under History and Latin American Studies)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

- Cultural History of Latin America and Argentina (cross-listed under History and Latin American Studies)
- Spanish Language & Argentine Culture 1
- Spanish Language & Argentine Culture 2

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

- Neoliberalism in Latin America and Argentina (cross-listed under Latin American Studies and Political Science)
- Tango and Argentine Identity (listed under Latin American Studies)

This schedule is accurate at the time of publication; students will be advised of any adjustments made by UNTREF when the program begins. You should consider a few possible course options in case you encounter scheduling conflicts.

- ▶ Explore the UCEAP website for additional [course information](#) (including important details and restrictions), links to host institution websites, and program search tools.

Registration and Requirements

You will register twice: once at UNTREF and additionally with UCEAP by completing your MyEAP Study List. It is important that you meet all deadlines for submitting your registration. The information as it appears on your MyEAP Study List is what will appear on your UC transcript. UCEAP's Academic Specialist in California will contact you in order to lead you through the UC registration process; the specialist will also be able to respond to any questions you might have.

Required

- All students are required to take two courses.
- Both courses must be taken for a letter grade.
- You must take the maximum number of units for the courses. You may not reduce the number of units for any course. The variable unit option is not available for summer programs.

Grades

UNTREF will forward your transcripts directly to the UCEAP Systemwide Office where your final grades will be reviewed by the faculty director before being forwarded to your home UC campus.

- For more information about grades, see the [Academic Information](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Educate Yourself

Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before you leave California. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as [Lonely Planet](#), are excellent resources.

Keep up with current events by reading articles in newspapers, magazines, and journals. Take a look at one of Argentina's main newspapers, [Clarín](#); or, for a different perspective, check out [Página12](#).

You will need to understand the local culture and history. Get a head start by checking out the following sources before the program.

Recommended Books

Rock, David	<i>Argentina, 1516–1987: From Spanish Colonization to Alfonsín</i> , Berkeley: UC Press, 1987.
Martínez, Tomás Eloy (trans. by Helen Lane)	<i>Santa Evita</i> , New York: Knopf, 1996.
Ruiz, Maximiliano	<i>Graffiti Argentina</i> , New York: Thames & Hudson, 2009.
Lisé, Gloria, trans. Alice Weldon	<i>Departing at Dawn: A Novel of Argentina's Dirty War</i> , New York: Feminist Press at CUNY, 2009.
Larini, Leonardo	<i>Buenos Aires de Noche (Buenos Aires by Night)</i> , Buenos Aires: Editorial El Ateneo, 2003.

Useful Websites

- [Bloggers in Argentina](#)
- [State Tourist Service](#)
- [The Argentina Independent](#)
- [Buenos Aires Herald](#)
- [BuenosAires-Argentina.com](#)
- [BA Insider](#)

ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Once you arrive in Buenos Aires, all logistics for the program will be coordinated by UNTREF staff. In addition to what is mentioned here, official arrival instructions are found in your UCEAP Predeparture Checklist.

The official UCEAP arrival day is June 23, 2012. Plan on arriving in the morning at Ministro Pistarini International Airport (also known as Ezeiza International Airport). Take a taxi directly to your homestay. Information about your homestay will be provided to you before departure, and your host will be expecting you to arrive that afternoon. Orientation will take place on June 24 and 25. Participation in all orientation activities is mandatory for all students. During orientation, the UNTREF staff will review all practical components of the summer program, including program calendar, student services, housing, computer access, health, safety, emergencies, money and banking, communication, and public transportation.

► Additional information about passports, visas, and other required documents is provided in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and in the [UCEAP Predeparture Checklist](#).

► Always keep copies of important documents (like your passport) in a separate location from the originals.

► Make sure your passport is valid through the duration of your stay.

Documents

Entry Requirements

Upon arrival in Argentina, you will automatically be granted a 90-day tourist visa. You will not apply for a student visa.

U.S. citizens should be prepared to pay a \$140 reciprocity fee upon entering Argentina. This fee is set by the government of Argentina and is subject to change at any time. Non-U.S. citizens should contact the Consulate of Argentina before traveling abroad to see if there are additional entry requirements.

Packing

When traveling, always carry your passport, ticket, prescription medications, and money. Never put valuables in checked luggage.

Do not ask others to carry any items abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.) and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines may not allow you to take them or customs abroad may charge you a high duty tax. This is particularly a concern with electronic goods.

What to Bring

Pack any important medications and documents, such as:

- Passport
- Passport copy
- Vaccination record
- Additional picture identification (e.g., CA driver's license)
- UCEAP Insurance card
- ATM card(s), credit cards, and other financial documents

It is not necessary to bring towels, sheets, or other linens; they will be provided for you.

A laptop computer is not required for the program; you will have free computer access on the UNTREF campus. You may choose to bring a computer; it really depends on your individual preference. Not all accommodations have WiFi or Internet access. However, free WiFi is available at many cafés and restaurants throughout the city.

- ▶ Arrive at the airport three hours before departure.
- ▶ Confirm your flight at least one week before the end of the program to learn of possible flight changes.

Weather

The seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere. While packing, keep in mind that the weather will be the opposite of what you are used to in the Northern Hemisphere. There are a few weeks in the winter where you will need a winter coat and perhaps a scarf, hat, and gloves. The Argentine winter, which lasts from June to August, usually has a temperature range of 35-60° F.

Electrical Appliances

Voltage in Argentina is 220V, as opposed to the 110V used in the U.S. Check the voltage of anything electrical from the U.S. before plugging it into an outlet. You can buy converters for electrical appliances in Argentina or in the U.S. Most laptops now have their own converters, so you may only need a plug adapter. For smaller, inexpensive appliances (e.g., hair dryers or electric shavers), it is probably easiest to buy the appliance abroad rather than purchase a converter.

Customs officials may try to charge an import tax for any electrical items brought into Argentina; however, if you indicate that they are personal items, the charge may be waived. Customs officials may list the items in your passport, which will obligate you to take the same items out of the country when you leave.

Luggage

Luggage restrictions vary by airline and most carriers have weight restrictions. Check with your airline.

Identify luggage inside and outside with your name, home address, and destination. If luggage is lost or damaged, or if items are missing after handling by the airline, immediately file a claim with the airline. Airlines differ regarding coverage, but they generally provide some sort of compensation. If luggage is stolen or tampered with (but it has nothing to do with the airline), file a police report immediately. To avoid theft, never leave your luggage unattended.

Travel to Buenos Aires

You are responsible for reserving and purchasing your own plane ticket to Buenos Aires (even if you are on full financial aid). The Financial Aid Office does not purchase tickets. Standby tickets are not appropriate for UCEAP. If you decide to travel to Argentina prior to the official program start date, you are responsible for your own travel arrangements and accommodations.

You must participate in the required orientation, even if you arrive early. Failure to participate in the orientation may result in dismissal from the program.

Financial Aid Students

Your financial aid package is based partly on the student budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare amount in the budget is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Argentina. If your travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the program budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither UCEAP nor the campus Financial Aid Office can guarantee the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Subte (subway): Buenos Aires' subway system is by far the fastest way to get downtown and around the city. You can purchase rides (*viajes*) in increments of one, two, five, or ten at a cost of approximately \$1.10 per ride. You can also purchase a rechargeable card called a *monedero*. *Subte* tellers accept coins and bills of any amount. The *subte* runs from 6 a.m. to approximately 10:20 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 10:20 p.m. on Sunday. Helpful hint: the last 20 minutes the *subte* is open, all rides are free!

Colectivos or **bondis** (buses): Buses cost about \$1.25 per ride and they will only accept coins. Most bus lines run all night, although some service is restricted or runs less frequently at night. Most students travel by bus from their homestays to school and back. The average commute takes about twenty minutes.

► It is important that you carefully read all of the information available in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and discuss it with the person who will assist you with your finances while you are abroad.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after your program is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to UCEAP
- UCEAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while abroad (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid?)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your UC campus financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. You can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). The fees that you owe UCEAP will be applied to your account after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP. For the amount due to UCEAP prior to fees being posted on your account, refer to the UCEAP Student Budget Payment Vouchers. Program fees are subject to change.

UCEAP Student Budget

Carefully review your [UCEAP Student Budget](#).

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. Review your UCEAP Student Budget frequently. The Payment Vouchers are on the second page of the UCEAP Student Budget.

Instructions

- **Download** and **print** your UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your UCEAP bills. Sign this person up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you will be receiving financial aid, see also the [UCEAP Financial Assistance](#) web page.

► The official currency unit in Argentina is the peso (abbreviated ARG or ARS).

Handling Money Abroad

Get acquainted with how to handle your finances abroad before you go; the more you know now, the easier life will be when you get to Buenos Aires.

- It is not possible to cash checks from U.S. banks in Argentina.
- You are strongly encouraged to do your banking online while abroad.
- Take a small amount of extra money with you to Argentina (equivalent to U.S. \$50 to \$100 in Argentine pesos). This provides an opportunity to become familiar with the currency, and the funds will be needed upon arrival for snacks, transportation, tips, and unexpected purchases. You can arrange with a U.S. bank to purchase Argentine pesos; the process may take a week or more.
- You can exchange money at the airport once abroad; however, exchange rates may be unfavorable and an exchange office may not be open at the time of arrival.

ATMs & Credit Cards

The easiest way to withdraw money in Buenos Aires is by using the ATMs (*cajeros automáticos*) found all over the city. Most banks charge a fee of approximately ARG \$15 per withdrawal. Most ATMs dispense ARG \$100 bills and change can be difficult to come by, so make sure to withdraw an amount of cash that will force the ATM to dispense smaller bills (for example, ARG \$290 instead of ARG \$300). There is often a limit on the amount of cash you are able to withdraw per day; check with your bank prior to departure.

Before you leave the U.S., make sure to obtain a personal identification number (PIN) for your ATM card. Your PIN should be a four-digit number that does not begin with a zero. Notify your bank that you will be spending time abroad. As a protective measure, many banks will freeze your account if they detect transactions outside of your normal geographic region. To avoid this, advise your bank of your plans before you go abroad.

Most banks accept travelers checks as long as you have a valid passport, but they can be difficult to cash (banks close at 3 p.m.). You can also exchange money at any Casa de Cambio, but the exchange rates may be higher. Exchanging money inside the airport is not recommended.

Credit cards, particularly those that allow users to withdraw cash, are very useful. Visa and MasterCard are most widely accepted in Buenos Aires.

As a general rule, always have at least two (or more) ways to access money while abroad. Never leave home without access to funds.

► Do not plan on having your laptop or any other electrical appliance mailed to you from the U.S. These items receive close scrutiny at customs and are subject to high fees.

COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

Mail

Since the summer program is only five weeks long, UCEAP discourages family members from sending items or care packages in the mail. If someone does mail you items, they should pack them in a mailer envelope instead of a box. Generally, boxes will be sent straight to customs at the National Post Office, located outside the city, making it difficult and frustrating to retrieve your mail. If family members send you new shoes/clothing, make sure they remove the tags before they mail the items. Again, think twice before having these kinds of items shipped to you while abroad; the fees involved may exceed the worth of the items.

Phone

► Approximate time difference between California and Argentina: four hours

Due to the program's short duration, many students will opt to continue using their own cell phones. Check your cell phone plan and determine if your network is available and covered in Argentina. If you decide to purchase and use a local cell phone, you can put credit on the phone by purchasing a calling card (*tarjeta de recarga*) from any *kiosco* (magazine/news stand) or from a service provider's office (e.g., Cti, Personal, and Movistar). You can purchase *tarjetas de recarga* in various amounts (ARG \$15, \$20, \$30, and \$50) and refill the cards as needed. See if promotions are available before deciding which card amount to purchase. For example, in some cases you may be able to purchase an ARG \$50 card and receive an additional ARG \$30 for free.

On a local Argentine cell phone, it costs approximately 15 cents to send a text message and approximately ARG \$1 per minute to call. If you are making a phone call while outside Buenos Aires (even to another Buenos Aires number), you will be charged a roaming rate and you must dial the city code because you are out of your service area. Most locals communicate through cell phone text messages, and rarely make long phone calls since it is expensive. Using your cell phone to make or receive international calls is very expensive and will quickly eat up all your credit. For international calls, use [Skype](#) or purchase a calling card.

You can purchase an international calling card (*tarjeta telefónica prepaga*) at any *kiosco*. The best cards for international calls are Llamada Directa Internacional or Hablemás.

Almost all cell phones in Argentina operate with a CPP (calling party pays) system, meaning that, generally, whoever initiates the call pays for it. Keep in mind an important exception to this rule: When you receive a call that is made from a payphone, a *locutorio*, or a private number from the U.S., your cell phone will be billed for part of the airtime (you can identify most calls as cell phone numbers if they begin with "15").

Using a cell phone, pre-paid calling card, or making calls from a *locutorio* are preferable to using the phone at your homestay. Always discuss phone usage with your host before using the home phone. Different hosts may have different rules about phone usage, since service is quite expensive in Argentina. Note that most landlines are blocked from making phone calls to cell phones, but a cell phone is able to call a landline phone.

Locutorios

Locutorios (cafés offering phone and Internet services) are located all around the city. To use the service, request a *cabina* (phone booth) and pay at the front desk when you have finished your call. To minimize charges, use your *tarjeta telefonica prepaga*. That way, the *locutorio* will only charge you the cost of a local call.

Computer & Internet Access

Most students use Internet cafés, or *locutorios*, for their computer needs. WiFi is available at UNTREF and in many locations throughout Buenos Aires, but may not be available at your accommodation.

Internet access costs between ARG \$2–3 per hour at a *locutorio*. To ask for a computer, request *una maquina*.

Helpful hint: to get the “@” sign, hold down the “Alt Gr “ key while pressing the “2” key or hold down the “Alt” key while pressing the number “64.”

You will receive additional information about Internet cafés and computer use once you arrive in Argentina.

HOUSING & MEALS

Where Will I Live?

You will already have completed a housing questionnaire and indicated your housing preference. Your experience of living with an Argentine host will not only help you with your language skills, but will also help you familiarize yourself with the pace and culture of Buenos Aires.

UNTREF recognizes that housing placement is one of the most important elements in your experience abroad and maintains a well-established network of comfortable accommodations in the popular neighborhoods of Buenos Aires. Most students are placed in the neighborhoods of Recoleta and Barrio Norte. As much as possible, your placement will be based on information you provided in your housing questionnaire.

The cost of your housing has already been included in your UCEAP Student Budget. UCEAP and UNTREF handle rent payments to your host, so you don't need to worry about paying for housing during the program. If you would like to extend your housing arrangements following the end of the program, you may make separate arrangements directly with your host. Such arrangements cannot be guaranteed.

The primary purpose of being with a host is to interact socially and culturally, and to improve language proficiency in Spanish. It is expected that everyone, including other guests in the home, will speak Spanish at all times. If a host requests that you speak English, it may be beneficial to work out a reciprocal arrangement where you occasionally speak in English while remaining committed to improving your Spanish.

You will be living in an expansive urban setting where commuting is part of daily life. It is likely that you will have to take some form of public transportation, in most cases a bus. Expect an average commute to take about twenty minutes each way. This is very different from walking or biking to campus as you may be accustomed to doing in the U.S. Recognize that public transportation is part of your experience. You will receive more information about transportation when you arrive.

Meals

If you are vegetarian (or if you have any other special dietary restrictions), you must clearly note this on the housing questionnaire. Your host can accommodate your needs as long as he/she knows your preferences before arrival.

Supermarket food is comparable to that of the U.S., and there is plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables at reasonable prices in the markets.

Water is safe to drink in Argentina. At restaurants, servers will ask if you would like water *sin gas* (regular) or *con gas* (carbonated). Water is not included with the meal as it is in the U.S. You will be charged an additional cost.

Housing Tips

- Discuss all house rules on the first day—this is a good icebreaker and a good way to eliminate any problems that might occur in the future.
- Regardless of your housing choice, you will be living in someone else's home. Do not expect to have free rein in the house. The difference in customs may make you feel like a guest in the home at first.
- Overnight guests are not allowed.
- Displaying good manners is important. Occasionally bring your host a small gift and offer compliments when appropriate.
- Remember that many Argentines smoke in their homes.
- Alcohol or drug abuse will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the program.
- Discuss phone usage with your host. Hosts do not usually allow long-distance calls to the U.S., and some may even prohibit calls to local Argentine cell phones. You may need to purchase a calling card in order to use the phone at your homestay. Set up a time with your parents when you will be home so they can call you, or make other arrangements via Skype or at a *locutorio*.
- Remember that your hosts may work, study, and/or have a full calendar of activities. Don't expect their lives to revolve around your schedule.
- If you have any problems with your housing situation, report these directly to UNTREF staff immediately.

- Most stores are closed Sundays, including food stores. Bars and some restaurants and bakeries are open on Sundays.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Get Involved

There are numerous activities to be explored in the vibrant city of Buenos Aires. People from all corners of the world are drawn to Buenos Aires for the urban experience, rich cultural and musical scene, excellent culinary offerings, and active nightlife. Whether it is perusing the popular antique fair, exploring old bookstores, or sampling tango clubs, you are sure to find something about the city that excites you. Just a few ideas include:

- Soccer games
- Day trips to nearby locations, museums, and other neighborhoods
- Cultural city tours
- Local concerts
- Tango shows and classes
- Wine tasting classes
- Artisan fairs
- Asados (Argentine barbecue)

Travel

- The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel abroad.

You are welcome to do your own traveling on weekends as well as before and after the program, as long as these activities do not interfere with class attendance. Argentina, like most of Latin America, has a range of bus companies that provide the most affordable and comfortable way to get around the country. UCEAP recommends you wait until arrival in Argentina before making travel plans. If you plan on leaving Buenos Aires for longer than 24 hours, you are required to sign the Travel Sign-out form in your MyEAP account.

- ▶ In addition to the following sections, read the [Health](#) and [Safety](#) chapters of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* and review the [Emergency Information](#) on the UCEAP website.
- ▶ Access the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Travelers Health web page](#) for additional travel health information.
- ▶ If possible, have a credit card on hand with sufficient available credit; credit cards can be essential during a medical emergency.

HEALTH

Physical Health

Acceptable medical and dental care is available in Buenos Aires but varies in other areas, especially in rural zones.

Many doctors and hospitals will expect payment in cash, regardless of whether you have UCEAP insurance. If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, contact UNTREF staff immediately. UNTREF staff members are your first point of contact in Buenos Aires, and can provide you with references to doctors, dentists, and clinics, as necessary.

Asthma, sinus, and bronchial problems can be aggravated by the polluted atmosphere in the major cities.

UCEAP Insurance

Review the [UCEAP Insurance Plan](#) brochure and pay close attention to the Schedule of Benefits. You will need to understand what is covered by the insurance plan and what is not.

Generally, medical providers will ask you to pay upfront; you will then submit a claim to the UCEAP insurance for reimbursement. Ask providers for an itemized invoice to submit a claim to the UCEAP insurance carrier. This process takes two to four weeks.

If you face a medical emergency, or a substantial medical charge, the UCEAP emergency assistance provider may be able to pay a medical provider directly. Contact Europ Assistance by calling them collect at 1-202-828-5896 or by e-mail at ops@europassistance-usa.com. For more information read the [Insurance](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

Prescription Medications

If you are on prescription medication, Europ Assistance, the UCEAP assistance provider, can confirm the availability of your prescription medications in Argentina and make sure that they are not considered illegal narcotics. Call 1+ (866) 451-7606 (within the U.S.) for assistance. If you are taking medication abroad, be sure to review the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#).

- Prescription medications should not be mailed from the U.S. They will be opened at customs and will not be delivered to you. Customs always opens packages. If your prescription is not available in Argentina, plan on bringing enough medication for the length of your stay abroad.
- Carry a prescription from your doctor in case you need refills. It is also recommended to travel with a letter from your doctor that lists the active ingredients of the medication and your diagnosis.
- When traveling internationally, always transport your medications in their original labeled containers and in your carry-on luggage.

SAFETY

Minimizing Risk

The University of California Education Abroad Program has established policies and procedures to help you minimize your risk exposure and enhance your safety. However, your conduct is the central factor in promoting your safety and well-being. Staying safe and secure while abroad is a partnership between you and UCEAP and it requires you to take personal responsibility for observing culturally appropriate behavior, exercising sound judgment, and abiding by UCEAP policies and procedures. You need to recognize that you are responsible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for exercising good judgment to protect your health, safety, and well-being. Be aware of your surroundings, understand how your conduct and actions may be perceived, and be sensitive to the impact that your behavior could have on your personal safety.

UCEAP cannot:

- Guarantee the safety of participants or ensure that risk will not at times be significantly greater than on a UC campus.
- Monitor the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of individual participants any more than is the case on a UC campus.

Pay careful attention to the following information regarding safety in Buenos Aires. Flexibility and an informed perspective will be critical to helping you adapt to your new environment. An understanding of the social reality and close attention to your surroundings may help you avoid potential problems.

Be Responsible for Your Personal Security: Avoid Becoming a Victim

Urban crime in Argentina includes pick-pocketing, purse snatching, scams, mugging, express kidnapping, residential burglary, home invasion, thefts from vehicles (including “smash-and-grab”), sexual assaults/rape, car theft, and carjacking. Petty crime is common in downtown (*el microcentro*) Buenos Aires, especially in crowded areas. Criminal activity is concentrated in urban areas, especially greater Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Rosario, and Mendoza. The wealthier parts of metro Buenos Aires experience high rates of property crime, with high-income neighborhoods often registering twice as many complaints as some of the less affluent parts of town. This may be a result of better or more frequent reporting by the citizens living in these areas.

Keep cameras and other expensive property concealed. Thieves specifically target expensive jewelry and watches, especially high-value items with name brands such as Rolex. They regularly steal unattended purses, backpacks, laptops, and luggage and will often distract visitors for a few seconds to steal valuables. Crimes reported to the U.S. Embassy by American citizens reveal they are most often victims of theft or non-violent robbery, principally in the tourist areas.

Criminals have also targeted individuals withdrawing cash from bank ATMs. Criminals may overtly challenge an individual directly and/or alter basic ATM functions, causing the scam victim to believe the machine failed to dispense the cash and may be out-of-order. Armed assaults are also common in the capital, particularly at night.

Safety Tips

- Most criminal violence occurs at night in isolated areas such as side streets and alleys in urban areas, vacant lots, empty buildings, and empty parks.
- Foreign visitors tend to be easier targets for criminals. Take all necessary safety precautions when in public.
- Con-men have been known to rob tourists while an accomplice pretends to help remove ketchup or mustard that has been “accidentally” sprayed on them. Another common occurrence is the slitting of handbags in crowded places. Be particularly attentive in popular tourist areas, such as San Telmo.
- Maintain situational awareness. Do not walk around listening to music through earphones or talking on a cell phone. Remain alert and on guard in public or crowded places.
- Petty theft and crime are prevalent, especially in crowded places like the *subte*, bus stations, and the airport. Beware of thieves and pickpockets. Guard your belongings.
- Wear clothing with inside pockets, especially if carrying important documents. Secure purses and wallets, especially in discos and marketplaces.
- Walk in groups whenever possible. Never walk alone at night.
- Do not place money, documents, or other valuables in backpacks. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Keep copies of all important documents (passport, credit cards, etc.) in a separate, safe place.
- If confronted by a criminal, do not resist.

Civil Unrest

In recent years, civil unrest has been a growing problem. There are frequent demonstrations in Greater Buenos Aires and other major cities. Most protests are related to domestic economic and political issues including labor disputes. Protesters often block streets, particularly near the Plaza de Mayo in downtown Buenos Aires. Do not participate in demonstrations. If caught in a potentially violent situation, immediately seek shelter in upscale hotels or large public buildings, such as libraries, theaters, hospitals, or museums.

Fire Safety

Bring a portable, battery-operated smoke alarm for use in your lodging. Read the [Fire Safety](#) section in the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

U.S. Embassy Resources

UCEAP strongly encourages you to register online with the U.S. Department of State. This can be done through their [Safe Traveler Enrollment Program](#) before your departure from the U.S.

It is also wise to visit the U.S. embassy to Argentina’s [U.S. Citizen Services](#) website.

Traffic & Road Safety

Argentina has the highest road fatality rate in Latin America. Drivers in Argentina tend to be aggressive, especially in Buenos Aires, and often ignore traffic regulations. During weekdays, some areas of the central part of the city (*el microcentro*) are closed to automobile traffic.

When Using Public Taxis:

- Taxis usually provide a more secure means of transport than other types of public transportation. Use radio-dispatched taxis, especially at night. Illegitimate taxi drivers have robbed passengers; travelers leaving banks or ATMs are especially at risk.
- In one common scheme, the taxi driver picks up an accomplice after picking up a passenger. The driver and the accomplice then rob the passenger. A driver may also take the passenger to a secluded location where he is met by the accomplice. Passengers may also be taken to ATMs where they are forced to withdraw money. Do not use taxis displaying the word “*Mandataria*” as they are often rented by criminals posing as taxi drivers.
- If you hail a taxi from the street, choose an empty taxi that has just dropped off a passenger. Lock the doors and roll up the windows. Make note of the taxi number and driver’s name. Pay for taxi service in small bills and confirm the price before giving the driver money.

Driver Behaviors

- Risk-taking behavior, the lack of traffic safety policies, and the lack of road signs, lane markings, traffic lights, guardrails and other safety features, are common factors in road crashes.
- Drivers often drive recklessly or aggressively, pass illegally, tailgate, or ignore speed limits, road signs, and traffic signals.
- Drivers are more likely to ignore red lights at night and during siesta (afternoon rest period).
- Many drivers start through an intersection when the light is yellow, instead of waiting for the light to turn green.
- Driving while under the influence of alcohol is a factor in 37% of road fatalities.
- Drivers show little concern for pedestrians or cyclists.

Pedestrian Travel

- The pedestrian fatality rate is very high. Cross streets with care.
- Drivers do not respect pedestrian right of way, even when pedestrians are in zebra crossings.
- Pedestrians often cross the street anywhere and fail to wait for traffic lights to change.
- Common factors in pedestrian fatalities include jaywalking, failing to wait for traffic lights to change, waiting on streets instead of sidewalks, and walking along streets or roads with inadequate shoulders.

Emergency Contacts

What Is an Emergency?

An emergency is a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. The following are considered emergencies:

- Any life/death situation
- A traumatic event requiring immediate assistance
- An arrest
- Civil unrest or natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency

Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.

- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact your Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad

Buenos Aires Emergency Phone Numbers

The local equivalent to the U.S. **911** in Argentina is:

Ambulance (Medical Emergency Service, SAME) **107**

Firefighters **100**

Police (Argentine Federal Police). **101**

Tourist Police. (011) 4346-5748 / 0800-999-5000

U.S. Embassy emergency numbers

(from within Argentina). (011) 5777-4354 / (011) 5777-4873

If you have a health, travel, or safety emergency and do not have access to local or UCEAP representative emergency information, contact the UCEAP travel assistance provider, Europ Assistance, available 24/7:

- **Call international collect:** 1+202-828-5896
- **Call within the U.S.:** 1+866-451-7606
- **E-mail:** ops@europassistance-usa.com