

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Study Abroad

Faculty-Led Immersion



CULTURE, SOCIETY, AND ECONOMICS IN

ARGENTINA

SUMMER 2019

Program Guide

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CONGRATULATIONS on being accepted to the UW-Eau Claire Argentina study abroad program in Mendoza during Summer 2019! Living and studying in a foreign culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

Building upon existing foreign language skills
Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field
Increasing understanding of different cultures
Enhancing personal development
Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture
Gaining self-confidence and independence
Learning skills for the future international job market

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your experience!

This program guide is to be used together with the Faculty-Led Study Abroad Handbook. The Handbook has information that is valid for all faculty-led, short-term study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with specific information for the Argentina Summer 2019 program. It is designed to complement the Study Abroad Handbook, study abroad orientation and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Please realize that although this guide was written to help you better prepare for your time abroad, and that all of the information available at the time of printing has been included, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. We strongly encourage you to contact your faculty leaders, the Intercultural Immersions staff, and students on campus with your specific questions. You should also make use of the additional written and web resources listed towards the end of this guide.

Basic questions only you can answer include:

- 1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common objectives of students abroad include advancement in future profession; wish to expand personal and academic horizons; need for a change; wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.
- 2) Given the way the program is set up, how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in the local culture, yet the program is quite short. How can you best meet your goal?

The information in this guide was current at the time of printing, though changes may occur at any time.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Program

This faculty-led study abroad program introduces students to contemporary Argentina and its role in the global economy. During the spring semester prior to travel, students will gain a foundation of knowledge through predeparture presentations, videos, articles, and discussions. Students will then spend three weeks over the summer in and around Mendoza, Argentina.

Your faculty leaders, **Karen O'Day** and **José Valero**, will also be providing plenty of opportunities to explore the culture, history, and economy by interacting with host families and other Argentines through field trips, presentations, and lectures from local Argentine faculty. Students will also gain insights into the many processes of economic globalization in Argentina.

The Location

The program takes place in Mendoza, Argentina, located at the foot of the Andes mountains that border Chile. The city of Mendoza has a population of about 115,000. However, with the inclusion of other local departments (Las Heras, Guaymallen, Godoy Cruz, Maipu, and Lujan de Cuyo) the population of Greater Mendoza swells to over one million people.

According to Lonely Planet (2019), Mendoza is a “bustling city of wide, leafy avenues, atmospheric plazas and cosmopolitan cafes. Mendoza is a trap. Even if you’ve (foolishly) only given it a day or two on your itinerary, you’re likely to be captivated by the laid-back pace. Ostensibly, it’s a desert town, though you wouldn’t know it—acequias (irrigation



ditches) run beside the roads and glorious fountains adorn the plazas. Lively during the day, the city really comes into its own at night, when the bars and restaurants along Avenue Arístides overflow onto the sidewalks. The name Mendoza is synonymous with wine [and] the city’s wide range of tour operators makes it a great place to organize rafting, skiing, and other adventures in the nearby Andes.”

At the turn of the 20th century (1860-1914), Argentina had one of the fastest growing economies in the world after becoming a supplier of meat and grains to a rapidly industrializing Western Europe. During the 1930s, Argentina’s per capita income was similar to that of Canada, France, and Germany. After WWII Argentina experienced a rapid transformation in its economy and society as Argentina’s largely rural population became increasingly urbanized as millions of immigrants, mostly Italian and Spanish, poured in from Europe.

Argentina's socioeconomic indicators are among the highest in Latin America. According to the CIA World Factbook, Argentina has an adult literacy rate of 98% (2015) and a life expectancy of 81 and 74 years for women and men, respectively (2018). Argentina's income per capita (adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity) of \$20,900 (2017) was the highest in Latin America.

The University

This Faculty-led international Immersion Experience (or FLIIE) program works in collaboration with the Universidad de Congreso. It is one of the youngest universities in Mendoza, founded in 1994 with a current enrollment of around 1,500 students in various degrees. Within Universidad de Congreso, the UWEC classes and lectures will be through the Puente (Bridge) program which offers all academic programming in English with Argentine professors.

Tentative Program Calendar

The program runs from June 1 - June 22, 2019. This means you should arrange to leave the U.S. on May 31 and depart from Mendoza on June 22. Please do not purchase your airline ticket until we have had the Orientation meeting in March.

The full itinerary is in the course syllabus, which you will receive later. Here are some highlights:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| May 31 | Depart USA |
| June 1 | Arrive in Mendoza, transport to hostel, group dinner |
| June 2 | Lunch with host families |
| June 3 - June 7 | Orientation at Universidad de Congreso, program activities, lectures, Andes Mountains visit |
| June 8-9 | Weekend with host families |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| June 10-13 | Program activities, lectures, winery tour |
| June 14-15-16 | Free long weekend for independent travel and activities |
| June 17-21 | Program activities, lectures, farewell dinner |
| June 22 | Depart from Mendoza |

ACADEMICS

Program Prerequisites

To participate in this immersion program, you must **be in good academic standing and have the minimum 2.3 GPA required**. Your grades are checked at the end of spring semester prior to departure. If you are on probation, you will need approval from the faculty leaders to participate. If you have been suspended, you will not be allowed to participate in the program.

Pre-departure Orientation & Academic Planning

Attendance at the March 16th orientation plus five 3-hour preparation sessions during spring semester of 2019 is required. Times and days will be arranged by your Faculty Leaders. You will be doing some reading, research, and writing throughout spring semester.

Upon successful completion of the program, you will earn 3 credits of **ECON 390 / LAS 390**.

For students in catalog years through 2015-16, ECON / LAS 390 course fulfills GE-III and 3 credits of Foreign Culture upon successful program completion (*students earning a B.A., B.F.A. or B.M degree in the College of Arts & Sciences cannot use study abroad to fulfill their foreign language/foreign culture requirement. See the university catalog for details*).

For students in catalog years 2016-17 and later, ECON / LAS 390 course fulfills the Responsibility Outcome 2 (R2): Global Perspectives requirement upon completion of all course assignments.

Credits and Grades

Class attendance and participation in spring class meetings and all program lectures and excursions while in Argentina is required of all students and will be considered for your final course grade.

The three-week program in Argentina includes lectures by Argentine faculty, visits to the Andes, Chamber of Commerce, wineries, and cultural site visits. There is no required textbook and all required materials will be on Canvas. We recommend the latest edition of *Lonely Planet Argentina*. You do not need a laptop to complete any assignments while we are in Argentina.

Credits earned abroad on this program are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits, **and your grade in this FLIIE program will be figured into your UW-Eau Claire GPA.** You cannot take this course pass / fail.

The UW-Eau Claire Faculty Leaders will issue grades for the course using the usual UW-Eau Claire A-F grading scale. Grades are typically not available until late summer after you have submitted your final assignment (due mid-July).

MONEY MATTERS

Information about how payments are made, when they are due, withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, and budgeting is in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Costs Paid to UW-Eau Claire

The **estimated** UNDERGRADUATE Wisconsin resident cost paid to UW-Eau Claire for summer 2019 study on the Argentina program is \$4,967.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuition/Fees (WI Res, 3 credits) | \$1,102 |
| Program Fee | \$3,100 |
| Application Fee | \$ 30 |
| Subtotal | \$4,232 |
| FLIIE Funding | -\$1,500 |
| Total Paid to UWEC | \$2,732 |

Minnesota residents add reciprocity; non-residents add non-resident fees.

Estimated Additional Costs

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Flight | \$1,700 |
| Meals | \$ 200 |
| Personal Expenses | \$ 200 |
| Passport/photos | \$ 135 |
| Total Additional Costs | \$2,235 |

Program Fee: What does it cover?

- Airport pickup in Mendoza for those arriving at designated time
- Lectures at Universidad de Congreso
- Housing in host families
- 3 meals per day while with host families
- In-country transportation for program
- All activities, entrance fees, and site visits in the program itinerary
- International travel insurance with CISI

Not included: the cost of a passport, meals and transport when you are travelling on your own, personal expenses, and independent travel.

FLIIE Funding

This program is supported by Blugold Commitment FLIIE Funding for undergraduate UWEC students. While students are encouraged to participate in multiple high-impact immersion programs, each student is eligible to receive

BCDT funding for only one FLIIE experience. Graduate and non-UWEC students are not eligible to receive this funding. Blugold Commitment funding is not able to cover the costs of tuition, but will include \$1,500 per student towards the program fee in 2019.

Souvenirs & Personal Travel

The amount of personal funds to cover souvenirs and independent travel will vary based on your shopping habits, off-program entertainment, personal spending habits, etc. We do not expect you will spend a lot on personal travel as you have limited opportunities to travel during the program due to full weekly and daily schedules. The main opportunity for travel is the 3-day weekend. You might choose to travel on your own after the official program ends.

Program Refunds from UW-Eau Claire

The \$30 application fee is non-refundable. The \$150 deposit is also non-refundable except in the case of a documented medical or family emergency.

The withdrawal deadline for the program is March 1. No refunds are available after March 1, and if you withdraw after March 1, you will be required to pay all program costs and any funds already committed on your behalf, up to the full program cost. All withdrawals must be in writing.

Undergraduate students who withdraw will lose their FLIIE funding. As such, they will be expected to pay ALL non-refundable program costs paid to UW-Eau Claire. Any student who withdraws after the refund deadline would be responsible for paying the \$3,100 estimated program cost, which is the true cost of the program without the FLIIE subsidy. FLIIE program support is based on student enrollment

and can only benefit students participating in program.

Currency Exchange

The currency of Argentina is the Argentine Peso, the exchange rate as of January 2019 was about 37.7 pesos per U.S. dollar.

Credit Cards

In addition to the information on credit cards in your *Study Abroad Handbook*, you should be aware that **credit cards are not as widely accepted in Argentina as they are in the U.S.** Only major stores, tourist hotels, and travel agencies are likely to take them. Students have mentioned in the past that they carry more cash in Argentina than we do in the U.S., so be prepared to have more cash on you than you may be used to.

ATMs: Credit/Debit Card Use

24-hour ATMs are plentiful in the large cities you will be traveling to—as well as inside the Mendoza airport. The most commonly accepted U.S. credit card is Visa. You should compare the international transaction fee charged by your bank as international transaction fees can range from 1-3%. However, there is a steep local fee for withdrawing cash (as high as \$8.00 USD per transaction!) and some ATMs may not work or will only offer limited amounts of cash per transaction. We highly recommend bringing some U.S. dollars and exchanging them for Argentine pesos while in Argentina.

Financial Aid

To receive summer financial aid, **you must be enrolled for at least six credits** during the 11-week interim / summer period. All students on this program will earn three credits should they successfully complete the course.

Unfortunately, you are considered as "less than half-time" with this three-credit course. Consequently, room and board expenses cannot be considered in your financial aid budget. Less than half-time students are also not eligible for a Direct Ford Loan, but they may be considered for a Perkins Loan.

However, with at least six credits, you will acquire "half-time or more" status for financial aid. If financial aid eligibility is an important factor in your study abroad budget, **you may wish to enroll for an additional three or more credits on campus or online during the 2019 summer session.** Room and board can then be considered in your budget, and you may be eligible for a Direct Ford Loan. Consult the Financial Aid Office if you have questions about summer financial aid for study abroad.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Additional information on these issues and CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Immunizations

The CDC recommends that travelers to Argentina discuss several vaccinations with a doctor at least four-six weeks prior to travel. Per the CDC, all routine vaccinations should be up to date prior to travel to any location. The CDC recommends that most travelers to Argentina receive the following vaccines due to risk associated with contaminated water and food:

- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid

For a full list of immunizations suggested, please visit the [CDC page for Argentina](#).

There are very few required vaccinations for travelers anywhere in the world. Requirements can only be placed by the government of each country and, because such requirements often discourage tourists, governments are reluctant to establish them. CDC recommendations should be taken very seriously. Argentina is generally a considered a low-risk country for many diseases. Since many of the recommendations depend on the type of travel you anticipate doing, or the length of time you are staying, you need to meet with a doctor to determine what's best for your individual situation.

Malaria is not a risk in Argentina. Yellow fever is not a risk in Mendoza or other cities in Argentina, but is a concern in some rural areas of Argentina. If you plan to travel outside of the program destinations, discuss your travel plans with the doctor.

UW-Eau Claire's Student Health Services offers some routine immunizations (IG, tetanus, Hepatitis B, etc.) and health education on international travel for a small fee. Tel. (715) 836-5360.

Often, your health insurance will cover the cost of immunizations. **If your immunizations are not covered by your health insurance and you receive financial aid, call the Office of Financial Aid to inquire if these can be added to your total financial aid budget.**

Zika Virus

The Zika Virus is a risk in Argentina, and is spread mostly by the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no current vaccine or medicine for Zika, and therefore ALL travelers should follow steps to prevent mosquito bites during *and* after their travel. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, headache, joint

pain, red eyes, and muscle pains. These symptoms can last for several days to a week. However, many infected people won't have symptoms at all, or have only mild symptoms.

Related, the CDC recommends pregnant women avoid traveling to Argentina as Zika infection during pregnancy may cause serious birth defects. Partners of pregnant women and couples planning pregnancy should know possible risks to pregnancy and take preventive steps.

Prescriptions

Not all medications that are legal in the U.S. are legal in Argentina. It is important to check with TEAM Assist, a feature of your CISI Insurance to determine if your medication is legal and how to go about taking your medications abroad. Some medications for Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are illegal in Argentina.

Common Health Problems

The most common health problems for U.S. Americans in South America are intestinal upsets. They usually occur because of the change in diet, the different meal schedule, and organisms unfamiliar to your system.

A very common ailment is traveler's diarrhea. It can largely be avoided by being careful about where and what you eat, and avoiding dairy products if they are not pasteurized. If you do come down with it, the following suggestions will help speed recovery and guide your decision to seek formal care:

1. It will usually run its course in three to five days. The worst symptoms usually occur the first day. Bed rest may help relieve cramps.
2. The main risk of the illness is dehydration. Be sure to maintain a high

fluid intake. An excellent source of fluid replacement is ORS or Oralalyte, a prepackaged liquid sold in many countries. If unavailable, the following recipe will provide similar value: one liter of carbonated water, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda (not baking powder), 4 tablespoons of sugar.

3. An over-the-counter medicine like Pepto-Bismol may help relieve nausea and vomiting.
4. See your physician prior to departing for Argentina regarding the possibility of bringing along anti-diarrheal medication such as Levaquin or Cipro.

If nausea and vomiting persist for more than 24 hours, if you develop a fever over 101°F, or if you develop severe abdominal pain, a physician should be contacted immediately.

Water

Although Argentina is in the process of updating its water purification systems, **tap water is generally considered unsafe**. You should drink bottled or boiled water always. Brush your teeth with bottled or boiled water also.

Carbonated bottled water, soft drinks, beer, wine, hot tea, and coffee are usually safe. Be sure to wipe off the top of a bottle before drinking out of it, or ask for a straw. By making sure that you are drinking uncontaminated water, you can reduce your exposure to many diseases such as infectious hepatitis, cholera, diarrhea and dysentery. Where water is contaminated, ice is also contaminated—you may wish to learn to order drinks without ice.

When you are not in control of your water supply, consider bringing a portable water purifier, available at most outdoor stores, and boil water

vigorously for at least 10 minutes, or use water purification tablets (one tablet per quart of clear water, or two tablets if water is cloudy).

Other Keys to Staying Healthy

- Other than malaria, bugs (mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas) can cause many diseases. Take general precautions such as covering exposed skin and using insect repellent.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap.
- Keep away from animals such as stray dogs, as they may carry rabies.
- If you are buying food from street vendors, stick to breads or fruits that you can peel yourself as the knives used might be dirty. Fruits that cannot be peeled, fruit juices diluted with water, raw vegetables and salads that have not been washed with disinfected water should be avoided.
- In addition to bringing anti-diarrheal medication, some students experience the opposite effect. It is a good idea to bring along fiber snacks or constipation medication.

Medical Facilities

Mendoza has many medical facilities should you need them. Our in-country partners at Universidad de Congreso can help recommend quality doctors, clinics, or hospitals.

Alcohol & Drugs

Alcohol: The legal drinking age for alcohol consumption is 18 years old in Argentina. However, if you are of age to drink, it is recommended that you take precautions to be safe while drinking – such as never leaving your drink unattended, order drinks without ice cubes, and not accepting drinks from strangers.

Drugs: Marijuana and other ‘recreational’ drugs can be available in Argentina, and are **highly**

illegal. Argentine Courts treat possession of cannabis as severely as possession of heroin. Be aware that the police target foreign drug users in bribe scams. Remember, you will be subject to local laws, not U.S. laws while in Argentina.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Harassment: Sexual harassment is commonplace in Argentina. Female travelers have reported everything from staring, lewd and suggestive comments to catcalls, and groping. Often these incidents occur in crowded areas such as marketplaces, bus / train stations, and public streets. Female travelers in Argentina are advised to respect local dress codes and customs to minimize harassment. When in doubt, dress more conservatively than you ordinarily would while in Eau Claire.

Assault: Crimes against women including rape are reported in Argentina, thus women should maintain stringent security precautions. Suggestions include:

- Avoid public transport after dark without the company of known and trusted companions.
- Avoid isolated areas any time of day.
- Keep your hotel room number confidential.
- Lock your hotel room and use deadlocks / door chains while in your room.
- Hire only reliable cars and familiar drivers. Avoid traveling alone in cabs at night.
- Keep conversations with unknown men short—getting involved in conversations can be interpreted as a sign of sexual interest.
- Have someone else join you on excursions.

More info on Health & Safety in Argentina

Detailed information on crime, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in Argentina is included in the [State Department Consular](#)

[Information Sheet](#). It is highly recommended that you read through this information carefully before travelling to Argentina. Safety in-and-around Mendoza will be discussed during orientation.

Emergency Contacts

General emergency procedures are described in the *Study Abroad Handbook*, and the UW-Eau Claire faculty and local staff are available if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card prior to departure; be sure to keep it with you at all times. This information is also located on the last page of this guide.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Passport

General passport information is found in your *Study Abroad Handbook*. You will need a valid passport with an expiration date more than six months after the end of the program. **If you don't have a passport, apply for one NOW because getting a new passport may take up to 6 weeks.**

Visa

A visa is official permission to visit a country and is granted by the government of that country. U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Argentina, if staying for 90 days or fewer.

PACKING TIPS

In addition to the general packing information in your Study Abroad Handbook, you should know the following about Argentina.

Clothing & Weather

Argentina is in the southern hemisphere and therefore has opposite seasons to the United

States. During May and June, Argentines will be experiencing the end of the fall season and the beginning of winter months. The average weather conditions in Mendoza in May and June bring lows in the 40s and highs in the 60s Fahrenheit. Mendoza is also located in a mountainous region, so it has a dry and cool climate, especially in the evenings.

One day includes an excursion to the Andes, so **you will need clothing for mountains with snow**. Additionally, most days will include a lot of walking, so good walking shoes are a must!

Please bring sufficient warm clothes for this climate. Take clothing that is machine washable and does not wrinkle easily. Choose a color scheme and bring mix-and-match clothing. Dark colors show dirt less quickly when you travel.

We also suggest that you bring wool stocks, flannel pajamas, and a sweater to wear when you are in your room.

Baggage

Keep in mind that you are responsible for your own luggage and transporting it at all times. Traveling light is **HIGHLY** recommended: one carry-on suitcase and one daypack (backpack).

Additionally, you should check with the airline for their policies regarding weight / size limits and baggage costs. If you have a checked bag that exceeds the weight limit, you will likely be charged \$50-\$100 at check-in. This information can be found on any airline's website. Keep in mind that policies vary not only between carriers, but also for domestic versus international flights. For example, an international flight from Minneapolis / St. Paul (MSP) to Buenos Aires (with one connection) might include 1-2 free

checked bags, but the internal flight from Buenos Aires to Mendoza might not.

Appliances

The standard electric current in Argentina is 220-240 volts. U.S. appliances such as hair dryers and razors run on 110 volts. If you plan to bring these appliances, you will need a converter (110 to 220 volts) and a plug adapter. **As the voltage in Argentina is nearly twice as powerful as the voltage in U.S. outlets (220 volts in Argentina compared to 110 volts in the U.S.), plugging in your appliances without a converter will likely cause your appliance to catch fire.**

Other Items to Bring

- *At least one towel and washcloth*
- *Mosquito repellent with DEET if traveling to regions with mosquitos*
- *Personal products like shampoo, body wash / bath bar, deodorant, other personal health, beauty and hygiene products that you may need (travel size is recommended).*
- *Medications – both prescription and over the counter. Past students recommend bringing your own pain relievers, lotions, and cold/flu medicine.*
- *Travel size tissues and toilet paper (Bring several packs and always have one on you because often times, public restrooms don't provide toilet paper.)*
- *Wet wipes / hand sanitizer (travel size)*
- *A small purse or bag to carry tissues / toilet paper, and sanitizer*
- *Phrase Book of English to Spanish and / or Spanish dictionary*
- *Small gifts from Eau Claire, your hometown, or the U.S. that you can share with your host family*

GETTING TO ARGENTINA

Travel Arrangements

All students on faculty-led immersion programs sponsored through UWEC are required to purchase their international flights through Fox World Travel. Please contact a Fox World Travel agent (open 7:00am-5:30pm on weekdays) through one of these options:

- Toll free 866-230-8787
- UWAgents@gofox.com

Have ready:

- Name exactly as it appears on your passport
- Group Code: **09UW3449**
- Passport number and expiration date
- Credit card number to charge

The faculty will meet you at an agreed upon meeting place and time at the Mendoza airport where you will go to the hostel together. Pick up service will be arranged to meet students arriving at the designated time TBA. Should you not arrive at the designated time, you will be responsible for finding your way to the hostel in a taxi at your own cost. It is a good idea to have some foreign currency when you arrive in-country.

SETTLING IN

Housing in Homestays

All students live with Spanish-speaking families with varying degrees of English. Speak with your faculty leaders ahead of time about arranging a Spanish-only homestay if you want to improve your Spanish. Students will have access to public buses to get to/from Universidad de Congreso and their host family's home.

Our partners in Argentina arrange accommodations with carefully selected host families. In general, only two students are placed per family but you may ask to be placed by yourself. The cost of room and three meals a day (except when traveling) is included in the cost of your program.

Information about your Argentine family (name, address, telephone, emails, ages of family members) will be given to you during spring semester. You may **want to email or call your family** after you receive the information, to introduce yourself.

Food

Argentine cuisine can be described as a cultural blending of indigenous, Mediterranean, Italian and Spanish influences. Red meat like beef is common, and Argentine asado (barbecue) is a national dish. Other foods include empanadas, pasta, potatoes, and vegetables, etc. You should expect a lot of Italian-type meals, such as milanesa (like chicken fried steak with potatoes and a salad). All three meals will be provided in your host family and the main meal is eaten around 1pm.

Unless you have an actual food allergy, it is polite and **strongly** encouraged that you try to eat the food you are offered. Do not expect your family to prepare special meals for you, remember that you are now part of the family, not a special guest. However, do ask your family to peel all your fruits and to cook all your vegetables.

Meals are considered family time, unless the work / study schedule makes it necessary to bring your lunch. Some U.S. students are in the habit of taking their meals to their rooms at home; this is not acceptable behavior in Argentina. In

general, the expectation is that you will join the family's daily routine and schedule.

Heating in the home

One thing to remember is that you are going to be in Argentina at the end of the fall and beginning of the winter season. So, it will be cold outside. However, Argentines do not keep their houses very warm (perhaps heating costs are higher there). They probably keep their houses in the 50s or 60s Fahrenheit. So, you will feel cold when you are in your home. Our best advice is to bring wool socks, flannel pajamas, and a sweater to wear when you are in your room.

Financial Arrangements

While our partners in Argentina screen families carefully to try to ensure that they have cultural interests for participating, **most** households participating do so at least partially for economic reasons. This is only logical, given the general economic situation and the disruption that hosting a student causes to family life.

Even for families with cultural reasons for participating, it is not easy to welcome a stranger into your home for several weeks. The entire family needs to adjust its schedules and habits to accommodate this new person. In addition, there are very real costs associated with having another person in the home. Receiving some monetary compensation for this is only fair, and most families would not consider hosting otherwise.

If you want to remain at your host family's house after the program ends, you must first ask them if it is okay. This should be done well in advance of the end of the program. You will pay your family for the room and board. In some cases, the family truly needs that income, in others the family may be in a position to charge you less than they normally do. In all cases, do not expect your host

family to do so for free. The families need your contribution to take care of you.

Keep in mind, that any relationship is a two-way street. It is as much your responsibility to fit into the family as it is their responsibility to include you in their daily life. Here are a few pointers that may help you to fit in more easily:

"Your" Room

Even if you have your own room in your homestay, the concept of a private room is different in Argentina than in the U.S. A messy room reflects poorly on you and your upbringing. In addition, it will reflect poorly on your host family, as the messy room is part of their house. Keep your room neat, make your bed every day before leaving home, and you will avoid tensions that could otherwise arise. Just closing the door is not acceptable. In addition, be aware that **it is never proper to entertain guests, regardless of their gender, in your bedroom.**

You should only invite visitors to your house if you have first cleared this with your host family. Visitors should never be invited for meals or to stay overnight without prior family permission.

Water

Water is a precious resource. Most Argentines take a shower every morning, and you can, too--but it should be short, both to conserve water and to keep the bathroom free as possible. Hot water is not to be expected.

Checking In

Argentine parents are generally more protective, even of university-age students, than are their U.S. counterparts. This may feel intrusive to you, particularly if you have been living on your own for a while. Remember that this is a cultural

adjustment and respecting your host family's wishes is paramount. Let them know if you are going out, particularly in the evening, where you are going, with whom, and what time you will be back. Be aware that they will most likely not go to sleep until you have returned. If they ask that you be back by a particular time, be sure that you are. If you will be gone overnight, be sure to inform your family well in advance.

Keep Lines of Communication Open

If you have questions about what your family expects of you, or you feel they do not understand your behavior, talk with them! Open lines of communication are important in building trust in any relationship. Likewise, bring your concerns to the co-instructors right away.

COMMUNICATION

Time Difference

Mendoza is 3 hours ahead of Eau Claire. For example, when it is 1:00pm in Eau Claire, it is 4:00pm in Mendoza.

Telephone

Telephone rates are very high in Argentina, and every call is charged by the minute—even local calls! Therefore, you should never make a long-distance call from your host family's home unless you are calling COLLECT or if you're using an international calling card. Ask someone in your host family to help you do this. Long distance calls are not billed until two months later, and the bills may not be itemized. It is therefore not practical or polite to offer to pay for a long-distance call.

Calling Apps

We suggest considering calling cards or calling apps such as WhatsApp. WhatsApp allows you

to communicate at no cost with anyone else who has downloaded WhatsApp from anywhere in the world through a Wi-Fi connection. WhatsApp is particularly helpful when communicating with your fellow travelers from hostels, restaurants, cafes, or museums. WhatsApp is generally more effective than Facebook Messenger as WhatsApp requires less band width and operates straight from your phone just like you would normally call, text, video call, or send images from your phone. WhatsApp is widely used in Argentina.

The Skype app also allows you to speak for free to friends and family at home if they, too, have downloaded Skype. Be sure to bring a headset so you can use Skype without disturbing others. Skype calls to the U.S. to people without Skype cost about 2 cents per minute.

To directly call someone in Argentina from the U.S., the caller must:

- dial 011 (the international dialing code),
- dial 54 (country code for Argentina),
- dial 261 (the area code for Mendoza),
- and then dial the rest of the number.

You will not have phones in your rooms, but you will be responsible for any international calls made from your host family home.

Computer/E-mail Access

Your family may not have Wi-Fi. We will give you this information before you leave for Argentina. However, there are many cafes with Wi-Fi. There is no need to bring a laptop. You can write all your assignments by hand.

CULTURAL NOTES

Greetings and Addresses

Observe proper greeting and parting etiquette. Always shake hands when you meet an

acquaintance. It is also acceptable for women to kiss friends (men and women) on the cheek; men shake hands. Using titles and addressing people with “Usted” (in Spanish) is considered polite.

Argentine Time

In Argentina, punctuality is expected, especially in academic situations and formal business settings. Argentines have siesta in their daily schedule and they tend to eat dinner later in the evening. Expect to need some time getting used to this daily routine. It is a crucial part of the experience.

Family

The family plays an important role in Argentine culture. The extended family is often a very large, close circle of relatives and friends. It is not unusual for children to live with parents until they marry--or to continue to live with parents if they never marry. Your host family may include several generations in one house.

Gender Issues

For women, be aware that the cultural norms in Argentina are different from the cultural norms in the United States. Avoid certain social behaviors that may not be acceptable in Argentine society. During the Orientation in Argentina, our Argentine partners will discuss what socially acceptable behavior is. **When people see you respecting their cultural norms, they are more likely to open up to you more, and to invite you into their homes**

Other Notes

All taxis have meters. When taking a taxi, make sure that the meter is on and watch the meter to make sure that the price is correct.

CONTACT NAMES & ADDRESSES

GENERAL UW-EAU CLAIRE & CISI CONTACT
INFORMATION IS IN YOUR STUDY ABROAD HANDBOOK.

**Please copy this page and leave it with
your emergency contact and / or parents.**

UWEC IMMERSIONS OFFICE

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Email: valeroja@uwec.edu

UW-Eau Claire After Hours Numbers

(715) 839-4972 or (715) 577-9045

In an after-hours emergency, please call University Police at (715) 577-9045. Calls can be made to this number 24 hours a day. You may get an answering machine; however, an officer is alerted as soon as you have left your message. Be sure to give the officer the phone number you can be reached at, as well as what type of assistance you require.

UNIVERSIDAD DE CONGRESO

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OTHER RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of State offers useful travel information on the “Travel” section of their Web site- <https://www.state.gov/travel/>.

U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires

American Citizen Services

Av. Colombia 4300

1425 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Emergencies: +(54)(11) 5777-4354

After-Hours Emergencies: +(54)(11) 5777-4873

Email: BuenosAires-ACS@state.gov