Study Abroad

Peru
2020

Program Guide
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Congratulations on being accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire exchange with the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) in Lima. Living and studying in a new culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

- 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 adventure!

Use this program-specific guide with the more general resources in your BlugoldsAbroad account and the Study Abroad Handbook. While this guide contains the information available at the time of publication, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all questions. Your peer advisor will email information throughout the semester, and we encourage you to do your own research, also, using the web resources listed towards the end of this guide, as well as others that you find. Contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff or your peer advisor with your specific questions.

Questions only you can answer include:

1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge yourself in a new environment?

2) How can you best prepare to meet your goals within the context of this program? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in Peruvian culture, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other Americans or international students at PUCP?

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

Additional information on topics such as maintaining program eligibility, registration at UW-Eau Claire, class attendance, course equivalencies, grades, transcripts and service learning is in the Academics section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Pre-departure Planning

Only one student has participated in the PUCP exchange to date, so there are very few course equivalents available. In addition, you will not know what courses are available until after you arrive at PUCP. Therefore, you must be very flexible with your academic planning for this program.

Please see the UWEC-Peru Academics page for details on how to plan for your semester at PUCP.

Credits and Course Load

PUCP credits are equivalent to UWEC credits. You must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits and can take a maximum of 15 credits.

Keep in mind:

- To receive summer financial aid, you must take at least six credits.
- The credits you earn abroad are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits.
- The classes you take abroad will count towards the total credits needed for graduation.
- Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and must be approved in advance by the CIE and PUCP.

Registration at PUCP

You will register upon arrival at PUCP, after attending the mandatory course registration orientation. PUCP does not advise on course choice, just registration assistance. Identify a wide range of class options before you go to orientation.

PUCP degree-seeking students take precedence in registration; you will only be able to register for classes that still have seats available. The class schedule will be published about one month prior to the first day of class.

In emails prior to arrival and at orientation in Lima, you will receive more information on the registration process. Attend all registration meetings during orientation at PUCP. It can be hard to get into classes after orientation.

Registration is done in person and can involve waiting in lines. Be patient with the process, which students used to on-line registration may find frustrating. Everyone will eventually get a full class schedule, but it may not be filled with courses you were hoping to take. Talk with the International Office staff at PUCP if you have any questions with your course registration.

Reporting Your Registration

As soon as you confirm your final registration at PUCV, log in to your UW-Eau Claire online study abroad account and complete the Course Descriptions questionnaire. You will find it at https://studyabroad.apps.uwec.edu/index.cfm?F useAction=Abroad.Home. Choose LOGIN from the top toolbar and login with your UWEC username and password.

If a course you are taking is not already in the UW-Eau Claire Transfer Wizard, you will need to provide the following information:

- course title
- course number
• course description
• number of credits
• name of the department you would like credit in, if it could be granted in multiple departments, such as Latin American Studies or Anthropology (this is just a suggestion; the appropriate department will be determined by the department chairs)

Once equivalencies have been established by all department chairs involved, the courses will be posted to the Transfer Credit Wizard, and you will be able to see them there.

**Equivalency timeline:** The process of determining an equivalency can take four to six weeks. You will not be able to ask to have equivalencies established for 6-8 courses so that you can choose which one you wish to take.

**Syllabi & Academic Work**
Syllabi are different than those used in the U.S. They typically have much less detail and are far less explicit about exact dates things are due, what percentage each assignment counts toward your grade, etc. Some of your professors may have taught or studied in the U.S. system and may use a U.S. style syllabus. Don’t expect that from everyone, part of your experience abroad is learning how to operate in a different academic system.

Keep your syllabi and graded academic work and bring them back to the U.S., in case you want to petition for a course to count differently than how it was evaluated.

**Class Schedule**
Classes generally meet twice/week, Monday-Saturday. Past students have noted that classes often start about 10 minutes late, but students are expected to be there on time, regardless.

**Grades**
Grades are on a scale from 0-20. UW-Eau Claire uses the following conversion scale to convert Peruvian grades to UW-Eau Claire grades:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PUCP Grade</th>
<th>UWEC Equivalent</th>
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<tr>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Grading standards are tough.** C is truly the average grade, and many Peruvian students work very hard to earn one. B’s are rarer, A’s extremely rare. The minimum passing grade is an “11”.

**Note:** UWEC students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail. Grades from PUCP are figured into your UWEC GPA and posted to your UWEC transcript. No exceptions will be made.

**PUCP & UWEC Transcripts**
Please see the Academics section of the Study Abroad Handbook for important information if you are graduating, transferring or applying for a competitive major such as Nursing or Education at the end of your term abroad.

PUCP only issues electronic transcript copies. If asked, request that your transcript be sent to studyabroad@uwec.edu; the UWEC Registrar’s Office cannot accept transcripts sent directly to the student.

Fall semester transcripts are sent in February; spring are sent in September. Because PUCP grades will arrive later than the end of the UW-
Eau Claire semester, your MyBlugold CampS account will initially indicate “NR” (not reported). This will be changed once the transcript arrives.

**Language Immersion Requirement**

If you are a Spanish or LAS major or minor, this program fulfills the requirement.

**Peruvian Academic System**

The teaching methodology in Peru differs from that in the U.S., with more independent learning and fewer small, graded assignments throughout the semester. There is more emphasis on memorization, and careful note taking is required. Group work is common; it is best to join groups with Peruvian students if possible.

Most courses are lectures, with occasional presentations or group discussions.

Your grades will primarily be based on periodic and/or cumulative exams and papers. It is not uncommon for exams to be given orally.

You may be expected to do a large amount of reading outside of class to keep up with the course content. These readings will not necessarily be specifically assigned. It is up to YOU to make sure that you are following along with the lectures and readings so that you can do well on exams and papers.

Students do not usually buy textbooks. Each department’s building has a mini photocopy shop, where professors leave copies of the necessary texts and you will buy copies of the copies. It is economical; students tend to spend less than $25 per semester on copies.

You may also be required to do more independent research than you typically do in the U.S. Doing research will present its own challenges. Ninety five percent of all library resources will be in Spanish.

**Keep in mind the privilege you enjoy in terms of academic resources in the U.S.**

Peru is a developing country with much less wealth to invest in this area. Library resources are not centralized, as they are in the U.S. In other words, you cannot go to the library, find the book you want listed at another library, and request it through inter-library loan.

As explained in the UW-Eau Claire Study Abroad Handbook, you still have access to the UW-Eau Claire library resources. You will also be relying on other resources found on the Internet.

**MONEY MATTERS**

*UWEC information about making payments, when they are due, withdrawal and refund deadlines, financial aid, general scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in the Money Matters section of your Study Abroad Handbook.*

**Cost Estimate**

You can find the most current Cost Estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the UWEC-Peru web page. Be sure you are looking at the correct term. The cost estimate includes what you pay to UWEC, what you pay to PUCP, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

**Exchange Explanation**

UWEC students go to PUCP as exchange students. On a tuition-only exchange program, each participant pays the costs they would normally pay at their home school – so UWEC students pay UWEC tuition costs, and PUCP students cover tuition costs at PUCP, and they
switch places. Students pay the host institution directly for their housing.

**No money is exchanged between the schools, and there is no direct monetary correlation between what you pay in Eau Claire and what you receive in Lima.**

What is exchanged is not actual payment, but rather benefits. You should receive the same benefits a typical PUCP student receives, and the PUCP student receives the benefits a typical UWEC student receives. This type of arrangement allows students to participate in programs abroad at a cost similar to what they pay to attend their home university.

**Currency Exchange**

The currency of Peru is the Peruvian Nuevo Sol. The currency symbol for the sol is written as S/. There are 1, 5, 10, 20, and 50 céntimos and 1, 2, and 5 nuevo sol for coins. 1 S/. = 100 céntimo. For bills, there are 10, 20, 50, 100, and 200 nuevo sol. It might be hard to use larger bills for small purchases, such as in cafes, in taxis, etc.


**Money on Arrival**

You will need Peruvian cash for a taxi on arrival, as well as other small purchases you may need to make. A general recommendation is to travel with the equivalent of $100-$200 dollars in your host country currency.

**Cost of Living**

For an idea of what everyday costs you may encounter, check out this website: [https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Lima](https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Lima)

**Credit Cards and ATMs**

Most day to day purchases are made in cash, and you will find that many small businesses do not accept credit cards. However, it can be more convenient to use a credit card to make larger purchases like airline tickets, clothes, or hotels. Check with your credit card company about surcharges on purchases you make in Peru if you plan to use your credit card while abroad.

Visa is the most readily accepted credit card, but many times has large fees associated with international purchases. Mastercard in general has fewer international fees but isn’t accepted everywhere. Other cards such as American Express, Discover Card, etc. are not readily accepted.

ATM machines are widely available in Lima. On campus, there is a Banco Continental branch and three ATM machines – two from Banco Continental (one in front of the Central Garden and the other on the extreme western part of campus) and one from Banco de Credito at the main entrance to the university.

Some things to keep in mind when using ATMs in Peru:

- There is typically a limit of $200 on any withdrawal
- Your card must be part of an international association such as Plus, Cirrus or Nyce to be able to use it in Peru. Check the back of your card and also the machine you’re going to use
- Be extremely careful – try to pick an ATM inside a bank or near a police officer. Always cover the keypad when typing your code
- Some ATM machines don’t give you back your card before your money – the card comes out after you get your money. It is extremely easy to forget
your card in a machine. If you forget your card, there is no way to recover it and you’ll have to call your US bank to cancel it and issue a new card

Traveler’s Checks
Traveler’s checks are not accepted anywhere in Peru, and banks will charge you a percentage of the total to cash them for you.

HEALTH
General information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health & Insurance and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Centers for Disease Control
The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has vaccination suggestions, how to stay healthy when abroad, and health information specific to Peru. Review the CDC site for Peru.

Due to an increasing measles and mumps cases worldwide, we strongly encourage all students to check their vaccine history to see if they have had the MMR vaccine, and if not, to get it before traveling.

CDC Recommended Vaccines
The Centers for Disease Control also recommends Hepatitis A and typhoid vaccines for most travelers to Peru and additional vaccines depending on the type of travel you plan to do. See complete information here: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/peru?sid=nczid-dqm-travel-single-001#vaccines-and-medicines and discuss these recommendations with your medical professional.

Yellow fever is one of the vaccines that may be recommended depending on the type of travel you plan to do. As of fall 2019, the CDC announced a shortage of yellow fever vaccine in the U.S. Only a few clinics have the vaccine, and you may need to travel to obtain it. See this website for details https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/search-for-stamaril-clinics and meet early with your medical professional!

Intestinal Upset
The most common health problem for U.S. Americans in Peru is intestinal upset. The change in diet, the different meal schedule, and organisms unfamiliar to your system are possible causes.

A very common ailment is traveler’s diarrhea. Prevention includes being careful about where and what you eat and avoiding dairy products if they are not pasteurized. If you do get it, the following suggestions can 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 is dehydration. Maintain fluid intake. An excellent source of fluid replacement is ORS or Oraltye, a prepackaged liquid sold in many countries. If unavailable, the following recipe provides similar value: one liter carbonated water, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda (not baking powder), 4 tbsps. sugar.
3. An over-the-counter medicine like Pepto Bismol may help relieve nausea and vomiting.

If nausea and vomiting persist for more than 24 hours, if you develop a fever over 101 degrees F, or if you develop severe abdominal pain, contact a physician immediately.
**Water**

Tap water in Peru is unsafe to drink. The CDC recommendation for water is to **drink bottled or boiled water at all times**. 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. Additional considerations:

- **Brush your teeth with bottled or boiled water.**
- Carbonated bottled water, soft drinks, beer, wine, hot tea, and coffee are usually safe.
- Wipe off the top of a bottle before drinking out of it or ask for a straw ("popote" in Spanish).
- Where water is contaminated, ice is also contaminated—you may wish to order drinks "sin hielo" (without ice).
- Avoid fruits that cannot be peeled, fruit juices diluted with water, raw vegetables, and salads that have not been washed with disinfected water. If buying food from street vendors, stick to breads or fruits that you peel yourself.
- When you are not in control of your water supply or cannot purchase bottled water, consider bringing a portable water purifier, available at most outdoor stores, 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).

Please see the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommendations on [eating and drinking safely in Peru](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/caribbean/peru.html).

**Insect Bites**

Insect borne diseases, particularly mosquito, such as Zika, malaria and dengue fever, are present in parts of Peru. **Discuss malaria prevention with your physician.**

There is no vaccine for zika virus or dengue fever, so prevention of insect bites is the best prevention. See the CDC recommendations on [avoiding bug bites](https://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/caribbean/peru.html) for detailed information.

**Altitude Sickness**

Altitude sickness can occur at 8,000 ft (2,500 m) above sea level. Not everyone will experience altitude sickness at this level, but the risk increases as you go higher.

If your course requires field trips to high altitude locations, or if you plan personal travel to high altitude locations, it is recommended you discuss these plans with your personal physician prior to departing the U.S. For more information on altitude sickness, please read the [US State Department Peru Consular Information Sheet](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/travel-advice/travel-preparedness/health/altitude-sickness.html).

**Healthcare**

**Medical care:** If you have an accident or become ill while studying at PUCP, you can use PUCP student medical services, or you may go to any medical center or hospital. You are encouraged to contact the PUCP International Relations Office before seeking medical assistance; they can recommend the best facility for what you need and assist with interpreting if necessary. You will need to pay the price corresponding to the service up front. You must then file a claim through CISI, the insurance provided through the UW System for partial or full reimbursement in accordance with plan coverages.

**Counseling Resources:** If you would like to see a therapist while abroad, we can work with CISI to identify English speaking therapists in Peru. Start this process before you go, or afterwards, by contacting your UWEC study abroad coordinator.

**CISI Insurance in Peru**

If you have an accident or become ill while studying in Peru, you **must pay the price of the medical service up front**. You will then file a claim through CISI, the insurance provided through the UW System for partial or full
reimbursement in accordance with plan coverages.

Accessibility
Accessibility in Peru is generally poor. To find more information on this topic, please see the Local Laws & Special Circumstances section of the U.S. State Department Country Information page.

SAFETY
Information on crime, specific safety issues, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in Peru is included in the U.S. State Department’s Peru Country Information website. Some information is excerpted below but read the entire site for complete information. Specific safety in and around Lima will be discussed during orientation in Eau Claire and in Lima.

Taxis
PUCP strongly recommends students NOT use street taxis or ride-share services to get around the city. Street taxis are not well regulated and unregistered taxis/ride-shares are often used as a front to rob unsuspecting travelers. There is additional information on taxis in the “Settling In” section.

Pick-Pocketing
Pick-pocketing is common on public transportation and at popular tourist sites throughout Peru. To reduce the risk, do not have your phone or other valuables out in public spaces. An iPhone is a target for pickpocketers. If you carry a purse, make sure it is across the body and has zippers. Keep your wallet in a front pocket, not a back pocket. Only carry small amounts of cash on you to minimize loss. Using a money belt under your clothing is another way to prevent valuables from being stolen.

Male/Female Interaction
Lima/Peru is a conservative culture full of machismos, and many female students have expressed frustration dealing with this. It is common to feel that you are being stared at while walking down the street, especially if you are walking alone. Some Peruvian men will also seem aggressive, especially in night clubs or bars.

It is essential that you are direct and blunt in your communication to Peruvian men. Do not feel that you are being rude, but instead be confident in the message you are sending both verbally and non-verbally. Although at times flattering, a Peruvian man expressing interest in you may not have friendship in mind; stereotypes of loose foreign women are common. Be cautious about engaging in this type of relationship. Not all Peruvian men will act in this aggressive nature, but you want to be cautious when meeting people for the first time.

Sexual Assault
Sexual assault occurs, including in tourist areas. Incapacitating drugs have been used in conjunction with sexual assault and robbery.

Remote Tourist Destinations
Many popular tourist destinations are remote and have extremely limited medical or rescue capabilities.

Hallucinogens
Traditional hallucinogens, referred to as ayahuasca, are often marketed to tourists as “spiritual cleansing” and typically contain dimethyltryptamine (DMT), a strong
hallucinogen that is illegal in the United States and many other countries.

Health risks associated with ayahuasca are not well understood, and, on occasion, people suffer serious illness or death after taking these drugs.

**Earthquakes and Tsunamis**
The west coast of South America is vulnerable to earthquakes, and therefore potential tsunamis. The Peru-Chile Trench delineates the meeting of two large tectonic plates, which sometimes rupture and release large amounts of energy. This release of energy results in earthquakes and sometimes tsunamis.

Lima is a coastal city, and therefore may be vulnerable not only to earthquakes, but also tsunamis. While living in Lima, you may experience “temblores” which are very mild quakes that rarely cause damage or injury. Should you feel such a tremor or if you are in a university building during an earthquake, follow the recommendations below:

**During an earthquake:**
- Stay calm
- Do not use an elevator or try to evacuate the building
- Distance yourself from glass, bookcases, and partitions that could fall
- If you are next to a door, open it
- If it is not possible to access a secure area, try to find a corner or a firm counter under which to take shelter and cover your head
- Do not attempt to rescue any objects
- Remain alert to gas leaks, pipe breaks, and short circuits
- Do not leave the premises immediately; wait until the earthquake stops

**After an earthquake:**
- Note that after an earthquake, there will be aftershocks
- Identify evacuation routes; follow evacuation signs placed visibly in each area
- Proceed without running down hallways, stairs, and patios and head to the outside of the building
- Never use the elevator
- Do not light matches, candles, or other objects that create the risk of fire or explosion
- Pay attention to obstacles
- When leaving the building, use caution as there could be falling objects
- After evacuation, do not re-enter the building until receiving express permission from university authorities
- If you are trapped, do not move or kick up dust; tap on a pipe or wall or use a whistle if you have one so rescuers can locate you; if you have a cell phone with you, use it to call or text for help.

For more information on earthquake preparedness, visit the FEMA website at: [http://www.ready.gov/earthquakes](http://www.ready.gov/earthquakes).

**During a tsunami warning:**
A tsunami warning is issued to alert the public that dangerous coastal flooding accompanied by powerful currents is possible and may continue for several hours.
- Follow the evacuation order issued by authorities and evacuate immediately
- Move to high ground or inland and away from water immediately
- Stay away from the beach – if there is a noticeable recession in water from the shoreline you should move away immediately
- Return home only after local officials tell you it is safe
Marijuana and Illegal Drugs
While the possession of small amounts of marijuana has technically been decriminalized in Peru, it is still illegal, and how police choose to apply the law can vary. In practice, even carrying small amounts on your person can be considered drug trafficking. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Peru are severe, pre-trial detentions are longer, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences under harsh conditions. U.S. citizenship offers no protection if you break a Peruvian law. There is NOTHING the CIE, your host organization, or the U.S. government can do if you are found in violation of Peruvian laws.

In addition to legal penalties, you are putting yourself at risk of robbery or assault, or you may get a much more dangerous combination of drugs than you thought you were buying.

Emergency Contacts
General emergency procedures are described in the Safety Abroad section of the Study Abroad Handbook, and PUCP has a Study Abroad Adviser who is available for consultation if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at Orientation 2; be sure to keep it in your wallet. The information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

911 Equivalent in Peru
If you are in an emergency situation in Peru, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line in Peru is 011 or 5114. We suggest you save these numbers in your cell phone in case you need to use them quickly.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
Passport information is included in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact the CIE for more information about the following topics.

Visa/Immigration Documents
A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. It is your responsibility to keep up-to-date on requirements for Peru and to apply for and receive the appropriate visa for study or to collect and carry with you the necessary documents for immigration prior to arrival.

At the time of this writing, students who are US citizens will initially enter Peru on a tourist visa, which is issued at immigration at the airport upon arrival in Lima. You will not need to prepare anything in advance to obtain the tourist visa.

Please see the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook for an overview of the airport immigration process.

Immigration Process after Arrival
Once you are in Lima, you will need to change your status from tourist visa to student visa at the Migrations Office. You will need to provide proof of sources of financial support (letter of support from parent, family member or sponsor; bank statement or letter of scholarship award) to apply for your student visa. Gather these documents before you go and bring them with you to Peru. All documents must be translated into Spanish.
The PUCP International Relations Office will provide additional official documents from PUCP, as well as instructions for completing the process. Attend any meetings they hold regarding student visas and promptly follow their instructions.

If you do not change your visa status before your tourist visa expires, you will have to pay a fine (currently $1 for each extra day) when you leave the country. It is not common that this happens, but if it does it is your responsibility to pay the fine, not the office at PUCP.

**Visas for Travel to Other Countries**

If you plan to travel outside your host country while abroad, you should verify visa requirements for each country you will visit by contacting the nearest consulate for that country, or your travel agency.

**Packing Tips**

There is general packing information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook, and you will get a suggested packing list for Peru at Orientation 2. In addition, you should know the following:

**Weather**

Since Peru is in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are opposite those in the United States. The coast is generally sunny and hardly ever receives any rain, but from April to November there is a heavy sea mist. The highlands have a wet season (October to April) and a dry season (May to September), when the days are clear and sunny but very cold at night especially at altitude.

**Clothing**

During the Peruvian winter (June, July and August), you will need clothes which would be suitable for the colder, rainier fall weather in the Midwest. During the remaining months you will need lighter clothes like those you would wear in the late spring or summer at home.

Bring clothes that you can layer. Good shoes are important as you will do a lot of walking in Lima. Sturdy hiking clothes are advisable for travel outside of Lima, especially if you travel off the beaten track. A down jacket, heavy jeans, and hiking boots will all be useful.

**Converters & Adapters**

The electric current in Peru is 220 Volt with 60 cycles. If you plan to bring a hair dryer, razor or other appliance from the US, you will need to buy both a voltage converter and a plug adapter. Another option is to buy the appliances after you arrive; prices are comparable to those in the U.S.

If you plan to bring your laptop abroad, check the power cord to see acceptable voltage inputs and outputs. If it includes 220 volts, you will only need to use a plug adapter, not a voltage converter.

If you have several US appliances you plan to use abroad, consider bringing a power strip, also. You will still need to have a voltage converter in order to plug it into the wall.

**Do Not Bring**

Do not bring expensive cell phones, jewelry, or other luxury items that can be lost or stolen. If you do decide to bring items that are expensive to replace, you may want to consider personal property insurance for your time in Peru.
**GETTING TO/FROM PERU**

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

**Travel Arrangements**

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to Lima, to the Jorge Chavez International Airport, and then make your own travel arrangements to your accommodations.

**Clearing Immigrations & Customs**

Upon arrival, you will receive a card and an entry stamp from Peruvian Immigration stating the length of approved stay (usually 90 days).

**Getting to your Housing**

There are three taxi services (Taxi 365, Taxi Directo and Taxi Green) that operate officially within the airport. It is strongly recommended that you use one of these services to get to your housing. They have service desks in the baggage claim area, and you can pay for your ride there. Cost is usually 50-60 soles, depending on where you are going in the city.

Once you leave the customs area at the airport, it can be overwhelming. Several people will be asking you if you want a taxi, need a place to stay, etc. Do NOT take a taxi that is located outside the airport.

**Buying a Changeable Ticket**

Because you cannot register until after arrival and exam schedules may vary, we strongly recommend that you buy a roundtrip ticket with a low change fee, in case you are done very early in the exam period. Note that trip insurance does not cover flight changes if you buy a non-changeable, non-refundable ticket.

**Leaving Peru**

It is your responsibility to get to your airport of departure at the end of the program, and to pay for the cost of whatever type of transportation you use.

**SETTLING IN**

**Orientation**

You will have a welcome and orientation session upon arrival. Orientation will include a tour of campus and different topics such as course enrollment, PUCP services, security, etc.

**On-Site Support**

Ms. Narda Anton in the PUCP international office will be your main contact. Her contact information is on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

**Local Transportation**

Lima has frequent public transportation but using it will take practice.

**Bus/Micro/Combi**

There are three types of busses:

- the combi (looks like a conversion van)
- the micro (a small bus)
- the bus (school bus-size).

There is no database or list of routes; the only way to know where one is going is to ask someone you know, to ask the cobrador (the bus fare collector), or to already know yourself.

Different routes have different colors of busses and are assigned numbers that you can see in a yellow box located on the front of the bus above the windshield (inside and outside) saying something like 83, 62 or 62a (all different routes). Differently sized buses have
different routes! The bus 35 is different than the micro 35.

There are some corners with signs saying Paradero, but you can flag a micro from anywhere along its route. If you do not know which one you want, it is easiest to go to a busy intersection where traffic will be backed up at a red light.

There are two employees on the micro – the cobrador and the driver. The cobrador normally hangs out the door of the bus or walks around calling out street names or locations. You can ask him if he is going to XYZ place and he will tell you if he is going there. Make sure the bus is going to the right part of the street you want and not just crossing it at some random point.

Most cobradores will ask you for your pasaje or jingle coins in his hand pretty soon once you get on, and he'll want to know where you're going. If you don't know what your destination looks like, you can ask him to tell you when you get there.

The fare is usually 1-2 soles depending on how far you are going. You may get a discount if you show your PUCP ID card. Don't let the cobrador cheat you – if he wants more, ask the other people what they paid. The cobrador will probably back down. Most of the time you will get a little ticket when you pay.

Once on the bus, get a seat if you can. If not, hold on tight to the overhead railings. Sitting in the front seat is best; just remember to put on your seatbelt up there (it's a rule and the driver will tell you to if you do not).

There are seats right by the door that are considered reserved for old people or parents with young children. If they get on after you and you are sitting there, it's polite to move so they can sit down.

To get off the bus, you have to yell out something like, "Izquina/semaforo/avenida baja!" to the cobrador, or just "Baja!"

Be careful! Micros are great places for pick pockets and cell phone thefts. Don't bring anything with you that you can't live without including iPods, jewelry, cameras, etc. or at the very least be extremely careful when traveling with expensive items.

Also beware that micros can sometimes change routes even though you were told it went to your destination. If this occurs, remain calm, get off the micro and ask somebody for directions. Because this is a possibility it is best to know your route ahead of time or you could end up in someplace completely different.

Taxis: As stated previously, PUCP discourages the use of street taxis at all times, and particularly at night. They will provide a list of taxi companies you can call, and they will send a taxi to pick you up. Some examples include Taxi Seguro (415-2525) or Taxi Real (215-1414)

Tips when traveling in taxis:

- Agree upon the fare before entering the taxi.
- Always sit in the back seat of the taxi behind the driver, not in the front beside the driver, and sit close to the door, in case a hasty exit is necessary.
- Always take four-door taxis and ones that are clearly company-owned.
- Make sure the taxi's license plate number is painted on the side of the cab. If not, it is not a registered taxi.
- Never get into a taxi that has another person other than the driver, and do not let strangers get into the car under any circumstance.
- Lock all the car doors as soon as you get in the taxi.
- Do not get out of the taxi before receiving your change.
The program coordinators at PUCP will discuss taxis and other public transportation at orientation.

**Volunteer**
Non-credit volunteer opportunities are available; ask about this at orientation at PUCP. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved in the local community, make meaningful relationships, and improve your Spanish-language skills.

Volunteer projects will be available based on current need in the community. Hosting a volunteer requires time on the part of the organization to plan projects for and supervise that volunteer, so please take your commitment seriously. Otherwise, community partners may not be willing to host volunteers in the future. Also, volunteering requires you to take initiative. The more you are willing to invest in the experience the more rewarding it will be!

**HOUSING**

**Living Situation**
PUCP provides a housing questionnaire with their application materials. Based on your responses (host family or student residence), PUCP will send you an email 1-2 months before the beginning of the term, listing possible options. **From there, you are responsible for finding your own accommodations in Lima.** Neither the CIE nor PUCP assists further in this process.

PUCP does not vet or approve the accommodations listed. It is your responsibility to contact potential landlords and/or host families, and to negotiate and sign a lease.

Just as when you sign a lease in the U.S, be clear on costs, what is included, and how/when payment is due. Possible amenities include bedding, meals, laundry, utilities, etc. **Be prepared to discuss all of this in Spanish.**

"**Your** Room"
You will pay for a room, but the concept of a private room is different in Peru than in the U.S. A messy room reflects poorly on you and your upbringing. In addition, it could reflect poorly on your landlord or host family, and they may retain the right to do room inspections or simply to enter and clean the room as they see fit.

**Toilets**
In Peru, as in many parts of Latin America, you can’t flush toilet paper down the toilet. Plumbing pipes are typically only one inch in diameter, rather than the two inches standard in the U.S. There will be a garbage can next to the toilet to be used for toilet paper. **Make sure to throw toilet paper in the garbage can, not in the toilet!** This takes some getting used to, but after a few weeks, it will become habit.

**Guests**
You should only invite visitors to your house if you have first cleared this with your landlord or host family. Some landlords do not allow guests on the property, period. Others restrict the hours they can be there. Visitors should never be invited for meals or to stay overnight without prior permission.

If you are expecting friends or family members from the U.S., make lodging arrangements for them at a local hostel, apartment or hotel prior to their arrival in Lima.

Please be aware that it is not culturally appropriate for you to have your boyfriend or girlfriend spend the night in your room.

**Interacting with your Landlord or Host Family**
Peruvians are accustomed to more outward courtesy and formality than the average North American. Therefore, the lack of a thank you or
other polite expression is much more likely to be taken as ingratitude. In conversation, "mucho gusto" or "encantado" is the most usual response for a first-time face-to-face encounter. Similarly, during meals, saying "qué rico" or some other phrase of delight with what is served is a common courtesy.

It is a good idea to use the usted form with the older generations unless, or until otherwise advised. With contemporaries, tú is always used. Observe the way things are done in the household and try to conform as much as possible. When in doubt, ask about a particular thing that puzzles you. Take the initiative in these instances because Peruvians may be hesitant to correct you for fear of hurting your feelings.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and on computer app-based phone services (SKYPE, What’s App, Facetime, etc) is in the Contacts & Communication section of your Study Abroad Handbook.**

**Email/Internet Access**
The campus offers free WIFI access for students and has a number of large computer labs for student use.

You will also find Internet cafés with printing and photocopying services you can use at a very affordable price. Internet cafés in Peru are not the same as in the states. You mostly have to use the café’s computers, and they are typically not a sit-down-and-drink-coffee café where you can use your laptop with wireless.

Don’t ‘over-use’ the Internet! You are in Peru, and it is important to experience what is in front of you!!

**Landline Phone Information**
Landline phone calls are expensive. The telephone, if available, is primarily used briefly to set up times/places for meeting with friends. If you live with a host family and find that you must use a phone at home, and your family approves, **limit yourself to ONE 3-minute call per day.**

Never make a long-distance call from your host family’s home unless you make it COLLECT. Ask someone in the family to help you do this. Long distance calls are often 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.

Past participants note that it is easy to Skype from Internet cafes, and, apart from the Internet charge, it is free.

**Cell Phone Information**
Some students find it is cheaper and more convenient to purchase a cell phone in Peru. If you decide to explore this option, please study the contracts carefully to make sure that you can meet the requirements (length of contract, monthly minimum, etc) before purchasing the phone. Most students have gotten their cell phones from Claro or Movistar for about $30 plus credits (credits are about 20 soles per month, depending on use).

**Calling from the U.S.**
**From the U.S. to Peru.** It may be easier for you to call home than for your parents to call you at first. However, once you get situated, it could be cheaper for your parents and friends to call you. To call from the U.S. to Peru, you must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you must dial 51 to get Peru, and then the rest of the number to reach a specific city and location. Note that if there is a "0" listed
before the main number, drop it when dialing internationally.

**Snail Mail**
International airmail can take 10 days or more in either direction. Packages usually take at least two weeks and sending from Peru can take longer than receiving in Peru.

**Communicating in Spanish**
You have been studying Spanish for years, and now you are going to apply your language skills in day-to-day life. Here are some things to keep in mind.

**Before You Go:** Start listening to Spanish music, movies, TV in Spanish. Get your ear accustomed to it before you get there!

Also, start reading it, beyond what is required for class. Consider changing your phone language to Spanish, reading websites from Peru, finding online newspapers.

**Fluency:** In the words of a past language student, "I am going to warn you right now: you WILL NOT be fluent after only three-five months in another country. I definitely improved in my reading, writing, listening and speaking, but I did not sound like a native. Don't expect to come home fluent, or you will spend your whole time abroad frustrated with yourself. Take things one day at a time and you will be so impressed with yourself."

**Speaking:** Speak as much as possible. You have SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES to speak Spanish (since you're living in Peru). And there are so many people willing to help you get better. Native Peruvians KNOW that you are not a native speaker even before you open your mouth. In most cases, if you are making an effort to communicate with them, they will be very kind and patient with you. In addition to this, get to know local students. Many of them are studying English and would LOVE to get together and talk. One thing to remember: you need to make the effort to get to know them.

**CULTURAL NOTES**

**Greetings and Introductions**
When introduced to a Peruvian in a formal situation, it is customary to shake hands and say *mucho gusto*. In informal situations, Peruvians greet each other with more intimate contact. For example, females kiss each other and their male friends on the cheek. This is done by putting cheek to cheek, generally the right, and kissing the air. Male friends generally shake hands and pat each other warmly on the back.

It is proper etiquette to say *Buenos días* or *Buenos tardes* when entering a store and *hasta luego* when exiting. In a store or restaurant, call the salesperson or water/waitress *señor*, *señorita*, or *señora*. To call the attention of someone in this type of setting, say *disculpe señora* or *señor*, etc.

You may notice a frequent use of the informal tú in Peru. However, be sure to always use *usted* with elderly people, shop attendants, professors, people you do not know, and anyone providing you with a service (taxi driver, waiters, etc.)

**La Hour Peruana**
Peruvians are well known for their more relaxed notion of time. Showing up 20 to 30 minutes late to meet a friend is not unusual. Also, Peruvians can spend hours in a café just chatting with a classmate, because relationships are more important than the clock, whereas U.S. Americans might consider this "wasting" time.

In more formal situations, however, time has about the same value as in the U.S. You are expected to show up to appointments on time.
This includes doctor’s appointments, interviews, volunteer jobs, certain dinner invitations, final exams, etc. It is considered somewhat rude to keep someone waiting other than a good friend or family member for more than just a couple of minutes.

**Smoking**
Smoking is restricted in public places such as restaurants, offices, universities, etc. However, people smoke regularly on the street, at home, in the homes of their friends, at bars, and it is not strongly enforced in restricted areas. Please be aware that you might offend someone if you ask them not to smoke in your presence or in your home.

**TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD**
See additional information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

**Air & Bus Travel**
*Interprovincial Buses:* If you are traveling within Peru, buses are the most inexpensive method of transportation. Always ask the PUCP International Relations Office for a recommendation of a reliable bus company.

Another thing to consider before traveling a long distance by bus in Peru is if there are any scheduled strikes on your route. It is common for members of a union on strike to block the highway and you could be caught a whole day on a stationary bus.

*Airlines:* Airline tickets can be inexpensive for travel within Peru. Here are two websites for the main airlines in Peru:
http://www.starperu.com/es/
https://www.latam.com/en_us/
**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<tr>
<th>Pontificia Universidad Católica de Peru (PUCP)</th>
<th>Peruvian Consulate in the U.S</th>
<th>UW-Eau Claire Center for International Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>Narda Anton</td>
<td>180 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 401 Chicago, IL 60601 Tel: 312-782-1599 Email: <a href="mailto:sipan@ameritch.net">sipan@ameritch.net</a> <a href="http://www.consulado.pe/es/chicago/Paginas/Inicio.aspx">http://www.consulado.pe/es/chicago/Paginas/Inicio.aspx</a></td>
<td>Cheryl Lochner-Wright Senior Study Abroad Coordinator <a href="mailto:lochnecb@uwec.edu">lochnecb@uwec.edu</a></td>
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<td>International Student Support Officer</td>
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<td>International Student Exchange Program</td>
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<td>Avenida Universitaria 1801 San Miguel. Lima 32 Peru</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: (511) 626-2000 Email: <a href="mailto:exchange@pucp.edu.pe">exchange@pucp.edu.pe</a></td>
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<td><strong>U.S. Embassy in Peru</strong></td>
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<td>Avenida La Encalada cdra. 17 s/n Surco, Lima 33, Peru</td>
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<td>Calling from the US: (011) +51 1 618-2000 Calling from Peru: (01) 618-2000</td>
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<td><strong>After Hours Emergency</strong></td>
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<td>If you have an after-hours emergency that can be helped on the U.S. side, please call University Police at the number above. 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.</td>
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