

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

Study Abroad

Faculty-Led Immersion



ARGENTINA: CULTURE, SOCIETY AND ECONOMICS
SUMMER 2018

Program Guide

General Information	2	Passport	9
The Program	2	Visa	9
The Location	2	Packing Tips	9
The University.....	2	Clothing & Weather.....	9
Tentative Program Calendar.....	3	Baggage.....	9
Academics.....	3	Appliances.....	9
Program Prerequisites.....	3	Other Items to Bring	10
Pre-departure Orientation & Academic Planning	3	Getting to Argentina	10
Credits and Grades	3	Travel Arrangements	10
Money Matters.....	4	Settling In.....	10
Costs Paid to UW-Eau Claire.....	4	Housing in Homestays	10
Estimated Additional Costs.....	4	Food	11
Program Fee: What does it cover?	4	Heating in the home	11
FLIIE Funding.....	4	Financial Arrangements.....	11
Souvenirs & Personal Travel.....	4	"Your" Room	11
Program Refunds from UW-Eau Claire.....	5	Telephone	12
Currency Exchange	5	Water	12
Credit Cards	5	Checking In.....	12
ATMs: Credit/Debit Card Use	5	Keep Lines of Communication Open	12
Financial Aid	5	Cultural Notes	12
Health & Safety.....	6	Greetings and Addresses	12
Immunizations	6	Argentine Time	12
Zika Virus	6	Family.....	13
Prescriptions.....	6	Gender Issues	13
Common Health Problems	7	Other Notes	13
Water.....	7	Communication	13
Other Keys to Staying Healthy.....	7	Time Difference	13
Medical Facilities	8	Telephone Information.....	13
Alcohol & Drugs	8	Calling Apps	13
Sexual Harassment & Assault	8	Computer/E-mail Access.....	13
More info on Health & Safety in Argentina	8	Contact Names & Addresses	14
Emergency Contacts	8		
Required Documents.....	9		

CONGRATULATIONS on being accepted to the UW-Eau Claire (UWEC) Argentina study abroad program in Mendoza during Summer 2018! 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 2018 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 aims to provide students with an introduction 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 pre-departure presentations, videos, and discussions. Then, students will spend three weeks in Argentina over the summer in Mendoza and surrounding areas. Students will have the opportunity 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 process of economic globalization in Argentina.

The Location

The program is located in Mendoza, Argentina, an area that occupies a vast strip at the foot of the Andes mountains that border Chile. “This is a city with a population of about 115,000. However, the inclusion of other departments (Las Heras, Guaymallen, Godoy Cruz, Maipu, and Lujan de Cuyo) means that the population of Greater Mendoza swells to a little over one million” (Lonely Planet, August 2014).

“Mendoza is a “bustling city of wide, leafy avenues, atmospheric plazas and cosmopolitan cafes. Lively during the day, the city really comes into its own at night, when the bars, restaurants and cafes will fill up and overflow onto the sidewalks. All over the country (and in much of the world), the name Mendoza is synonymous with wine because Mendoza produces more than 80 percent of the wines in Argentina. The city’s

wide range of tour operators makes it a great place to organize rafting, skiing, and other adventures in the nearby Andes. (Lonely Planet, August 2014)

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 had an income per capita similar to that of Canada, France and Germany. This strong economic performance continued after WWII and Argentina experienced a rapid transformation in its economy and society. At the same time, Argentine society, which had been rural, 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. In 2010, Argentina had an adult literacy rate of 98% and a life expectancy at birth of 79 years for women and 72 for men. Argentina’s income per capita (adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity) of \$15,150 was the highest in Latin America.

The University

The UWEC Argentina program will be working in collaboration with the Universidad de Congreso. It is one of the youngest universities in Mendoza, founded in 1994. It currently has about 1500 students in various degrees. Within Universidad de Congreso, the UWEC classes and lectures will be through the Puente (Bridge) program which offers academic programming all in English with Argentine professors.

Tentative Program Calendar

The program runs from May 26 - June 18, 2018. This means you will leave the U.S. on May 25 and depart from Mendoza on June 18. NOTE: the end date is still TENTATIVE and will be confirmed by orientation. Do not book flights until after orientation.

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

May 25	Depart USA
May 26	Arrive in Mendoza, transport to hostel, group dinner
May 27	Brief orientation and meet host families
May 28-June 1	Orientation at Congreso, program activities, lectures, tour of Andes Mountains
June 2-3	Weekend with host families
June 4-7	Program activities, lectures, winery tour
June 8-10	Free weekend for independent travel
June 11-14	Program activities, lectures, farewell dinner
June 15-17	Free weekend for independent travel
June 18	Depart to USA (end of program)

ACADEMICS

Program Prerequisites

To participate in this immersion program, you must **be in good academic standing and have the minimum 2.3 GPA required.** We check grades at the end of the spring semester prior to departure. If you are on probation, we will need to check with the faculty leader to see if you will

be allowed 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 10th orientation plus five 3-hour preparation sessions during spring semester of 2018 is required. Times and days will be announced 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 in program lectures and excursions while in Argentina is required of all students and will be considered for your final course grade.

Since this is a short-term program, the academic structure has been adjusted so that you can get a valuable immersion experience in the host country in about three weeks. The program in

Argentina will include a combination of lectures by Argentine faculty, visits to the Chamber of Commerce and wineries, some adventure activities, and cultural sites. Learning will take place through all these methods. There is no required textbook and all required materials will be on D2L.

Credits earned abroad on this program are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits, **and the grade will be figured into your GPA.** You cannot take any credits 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 2018 study on the Argentina program is \$4,838.

Tuition/Fees (WI Res, 3 credits)	\$1,073
Program Fee	\$3,000
Application Fee	\$30
Subtotal	\$4,103
FLIIE Funding	-\$1,500
Total Paid to UWEC	\$2,603

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

Estimated Additional Costs

Flight	\$1700
Meals	\$200
Personal Expenses	\$200
Passport/photos	\$135
Total Additional Costs	\$2,235

Program Fee: What does it cover?

- Airport shuttle service in Argentina for those arriving at designated time
- Lectures at Universidad de Congreso
- Housing in host families
- 3 meals/day while in 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 when you are travelling on your own, or 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 \$1500/student towards the program fee in 2018.

Souvenirs & Personal Travel

The amount of personal funds to cover souvenirs and personal 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 a full calendar, though you might have time after the official program dates.

Program Refunds from UW-Eau Claire

The \$30 application fee is non-refundable. The \$150 deposit is 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. A student who withdraws after the refund deadline would be responsible for paying the \$3,000 estimated 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 February 2018 was about 19.58 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. The most commonly accepted U.S. cards are Visa and MasterCard. You can also draw cash as soon as you land at the airport. You should compare the international transaction fee charged by your different banks; the fee can range from 1-3%. However, there is a steep local fee for withdrawing pesos and some ATMs may not work. We highly recommend bringing some cash and exchanging it for pesos 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. Argentina students earn three credits on the seminar.

At three credits, you are considered "less than half-time". 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.

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 2018 summer session.**

With at least six credits, you have "half-time or more" status for aid. 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, as well as information on 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 the country, and because such requirements often discourage tourists, governments are reluctant to establish them. CDC recommendations should be taken very seriously. However, 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 do any additional 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, you may want to meet with 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.

In particular, the CDC recommends that pregnant women should not travel to Argentina because Zika infection during pregnancy could 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 United States 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 fluid intake. An excellent source of fluid replacement is ORS or Oraltie, a prepackaged liquid sold in many countries. If unavailable, the following recipe will provide similar value: one liter carbonated water, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda (not baking powder), 4 tbsp. 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 degrees 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, so you should take general precautions such as covering exposed skin, using insect repellent, and sleeping with a bed net if necessary.
- 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 peel yourself. (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 nearby medical facilities should you need them. Our in-country partners at Universidad de Congreso can help recommend quality doctors 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, ordering drinks containing ice cubes, or accepting drinks from strangers.

Drugs: Marijuana and other ‘recreational’ drugs can be available in Argentina, and are **highly illegal**. 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 market places, bus/train stations, and public streets. Women 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 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 that 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. The information is also on the last page of this guide.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Passport

General passport information is found in your *Study Abroad Handbook*, but 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 right away because it might take up to 6 weeks to get a new passport.

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 less.

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, they will be at the end of the fall season and the beginning of winter months. Average weather in Mendoza for that time is lows in the 40s and highs in the 60s Fahrenheit. It 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, some days will include lots 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 socks, a flannel pajama, 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. We recommend one carry-one and one checked bag.

Additionally, you should check with the airline for their policies regarding weight/size limits and baggage costs. If your checked bag exceeds the weight limit, you will be charged for that at check-in. This information can be found on their 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 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.

Other Items to Bring

- *At least one towel and washcloth*
- *Mosquito repellent with DEET*
- *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 or the U.S. that you can give to 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 the options below:

Have ready:

- Name exactly as it appears on your passport
- Passport number and expiration date
- Credit card number to charge

You should schedule your flight to arrive by 4pm on May 26 into Mendoza airport. 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 listed above.** Should you not arrive at the designated time, you will be responsible for finding your own way to the hostel. It is always a good idea to have some foreign currency when you arrive in-country. You will spend the first night in a hostel and then meet your host family.

SETTLING IN

Housing in Homestays

To encourage the maximum use of newly acquired Spanish language skills, all students live with Spanish-speaking families. Some students might be within walking distance, but all will have access to public transportation to get to program activities.

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 write 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 (barbeque) is a national dish. Other foods might include empanadas, pasta, potatoes, and vegetables, etc. You should expect a lot of Italian-type meals, such as milanesa. 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 only polite to try whatever you are offered. Do not expect your family to prepare special meals for you--remember that you should expect to be treated as 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.

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 (maybe, because the heating cost is high). They probably keep their houses in the 50's or 60s Fahrenheit. So, you will feel cold when you are in your home. Our best advice is to bring wool socks, a flannel pajama, 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 stay after the program ends and want to remain at your host family's house, you **must pay** your family for 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**, you should 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. 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.

Telephone

Telephone rates are very high in Argentina, and every call, local or long distance, is charged by the minute. The program will provide cell phones to all students, to communicate with Faculty Leaders, other students, and your Argentine family and friends.

Never make a long-distance call from your host family's home unless you make it COLLECT or if you're using an international calling card. 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.

At first it will be easier for you to call home than for your parents to call you. However, once you get situated, it is cheaper for your parents and friends to call you. You may want to set a specific time and day so that you are by the phone. In Argentina, you can call the U.S. using the internet cafes. They allow you to talk in real-time (with a pause of a fraction of a second) and are very inexpensive.

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 respect your host family's wishes. 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.

CULTURAL NOTES

Greetings and Addresses

Observe proper greeting and leave-taking 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 the "Usted" form is considered polite.

Argentine Time

In Argentina, punctuality is expected, especially in academic situations and formal business settings.

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.

COMMUNICATION

Time Difference

Mendoza is 3 hours ahead of Eau Claire. For example, when it is 1:00 PM on a Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 4:00 PM in Mendoza.

Telephone Information

From the U.S. to Argentina: To call someone in Argentina, you must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you dial 54 (the country code for Argentina), then 261 (the area code for Mendoza) and the rest of the number.

You will receive a UWEC phone during your time in Argentina, as well as some minutes on the phone. This is to be used for emergency purposes, to contact your faculty leaders or others in the group while in your homestay. You are responsible for returning the phone in good condition after the program ends, otherwise you will be charged for it.

You will not have phones in your rooms at Mendoza and will be responsible for any international calls made from your host family home.

Calling Apps

We suggest considering calling cards or online calling programs such as Skype (free download to your computer) to speak to friends and family at home. It's recommended to bring a headset so you'll have audio when using Skype without disturbing others. You can use internet-based phone programs such as Skype (www.skype.com) that allow you to call U.S. phones for about 2 cents/minute from your tablet/iPhone with Wi-Fi.

Another option is WhatsApp, an app that allows you to communicate at no cost with anyone else, as long as you have a Wi-Fi connection. This is particularly helpful when communication with others in the group from hostels, airports en route, restaurants, cafes or museums.

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.

CONTACT NAMES & ADDRESSES

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

UWEC ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Shanti Freitas

Intercultural Immersion Coordinator

freitasb@uwec.edu

Schofield Hall 17 (ORSP)

Phone: (715) 836-6037

Fax: (715) 836-4948

UWEC College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Rose-Marie Avin

Faculty Leader for 2018

Economics

Schneider 473

Tel: (715) 836-4513

Email: avinr@uwec.edu

Dr. Karen O'Day

Faculty Leader for 2018

Art & Design

Haas FA 300

Tel: (715) 836-4751

Email: odaykm@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

Karen Noval

Colón 90- (5500) Ciudad, Mendoza, Argentina

Tel +54 261 423 0630 ext. 159

Cel + 54 9 261 504 9238

Email: arqknoval@gmail.com

Betiana Antonietti

Puente Program

Colón 90 – (5500) Ciudad, Mendoza, Argentina

Tel + 54 261 423 0630 int.136

Cel + 54 9 261 5688 905

Email: uc.bantonietti@gmail.com

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

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

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

Email: BuenosAires-ACS@state.gov

We suggest that you copy this page and leave it with your emergency contact and/or parents.