



Travel Newsletter

Institute
for Study
Abroad
BUTLER UNIVERSITY

ARGENTINA

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Important Reminders

Documents

Before you get on a plane, make sure you have:

- Your **passport**

Remember, you will not be allowed to board your flight and/or clear immigration in Buenos Aires without your passport.

Also, be sure to have enough cash, a credit card or traveler's checks to pay the US\$140 reciprocity fee, which is charged to U.S. citizens, when you arrive in Buenos Aires.

Payments

Make sure you have paid your **program fee** and/or taken care of your financial aid. We can't place you in housing if your program fee isn't paid.

Travel notification form

Send us your **travel notification form** if you haven't already done so. We need to know when to expect you in case you don't arrive on time.

Check In and Boarding Passes

Allow plenty of time

Whether you take a group flight or travel independently, you should plan to arrive at the airport three hours before your international flight. This will allow you enough time to check in, get a boarding pass, clear security and make it to your gate.

Check in!

You must check in for your flight. Otherwise, the airline can assign your seat to someone else.

Checking your baggage

At your domestic airport, find out if your domestic airline has an agreement with your international carrier to check baggage. If so, your domestic airline may be able to check your bags all the way through to Buenos Aires, and you will also receive your international flight boarding pass at your domestic airport.

If your bags can't be checked through to your final destination, you'll have to do the following once you arrive at your international departure airport: Claim your luggage, check in and re-check your luggage with your international airline, and go through security again to re-enter the gate area.

Get to the gate in plenty of time so you don't miss your flight!



Travel Problems?

If you are delayed and might miss a flight, you'll need to make arrangements to get on the next available flight:

Students on the group flight

Contact Advantage Travel at **800-788-1980** and let them know about your flight delay or missed connection. Advantage can help get you on a new flight if necessary. Leave a message if no one picks up; Advantage checks messages regularly and will return your call.

Students traveling independently

Contact your airline (not travel agent!) to make alternate flight plans.

All students

Call IFSA-Butler at **800-858-0229** to let us know about your new travel plans. We will then inform our Mendoza office of any delays on your behalf. We monitor messages on flight days, including evenings and weekends, so leave a detailed message if you do not speak with someone directly.

Leave your name, airline, new flight numbers, departure and arrival times, and the name, phone number and room number of your hotel if necessary.

Be sure to call IFSA-Butler on our general line at 800-858-0229 to ensure that the correct person gets the message. Please do not leave a message about travel problems on your program advisor's voicemail or email.

Baggage Allowances

Check with your domestic and international airlines for baggage allowances. If you try to check luggage that exceeds their limits, you may have to repack or pay an excess baggage fee. Do not overpack!

We do not recommend bringing items such as skis and bikes. If you feel you must bring your own, call both your international and domestic carrier for information about packing and excess baggage fees.

Do not lock your luggage. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has asked travelers to keep suitcases unlocked so they can be easily searched. Putting locks on your luggage can result in damaged, lost or delayed bags.

Security Check

You will have to undergo numerous security checks. Do not joke about having weapons or explosives. Be patient and cooperative with all airport personnel.

You may be required to turn on electronic equipment or remove batteries from electronics. Be sure your electronics are fully charged, and include the power cord or battery in your carry-on.

Your Carry-On Bag

Be sure to pack:

- Passport (and at least one copy of it)*
- Enrollment verification form and UNC letter*
- Plane tickets or e-ticket confirmations*
- Cash, ATM card, credit cards*
- This newsletter
- **Academic year students only:** Authenticated police report for each city/country in which you had permanent residence during the last five years
- Insurance coverage details*
- List of contact names, phone and fax numbers, and email for:
 - Parents and relatives
 - Study abroad advisor at your home college
- Camera
- Medications and prescriptions*
- Spare glasses/contacts
- Toiletries (liquids, gels and/or aerosols must be 3.3 ounces or less and fit comfortably in one clear, resealable quart-sized plastic bag)
- Something to read/listen to
- Water (purchased after clearing security) and snacks
- Change of clothes in case your luggage is lost

** Keep these items and other valuables secure and with you at all times.*

Host Family Packing

You may want to pack a small gift for your host family. Don't go overboard, but past students have found that something from their home state—maple syrup, chocolates, professional sports paraphernalia and scenic calendars—makes a good gift.



Travel Tips

Below are some tips for staying comfortable during your long flight and once you land:

- Wear loose, layered, comfortable clothes.
- Try to sleep as much as possible on the plane.
- Drink as much water as possible on the plane.
- Avoid drinking alcohol, which will dehydrate you.
- Don't nap when you arrive in Buenos Aires! Your body needs to get used to the different time zone. Go out in the sunshine and get as much fresh air as possible.

Customs Forms

As your plane descends into Argentina, your flight attendants will hand out a few forms with customs and agricultural declarations (*declaraciones*). They limit the amount of alcohol and cigarettes that you can bring into the country. Remove the price tags and wrappings from any purchases; you don't want to pay customs charges on new items.

If you have a question about declaring goods, declare them. It's not a problem to declare something you don't have to. However, if you neglect to declare something customs considers dangerous to agriculture or against the law, they may fine, deport or imprison you.

Clearing Immigration

When you go through customs, the officials will ask the purpose of your visit. Tell them you are a student and present your passport and *declaraciones* (distributed on the airplane).

If you are bringing any prescription medicines with you, don't forget a prescription script and a letter from your doctor explaining your need for the medication. Have both ready to show to the customs officers.

Customs is usually a quick procedure, and IFSA-Butler students have never had serious trouble getting through. We recommend you dress casually but conservatively, and be as respectful and cooperative as possible.

If the official asks for your address, give them the address of our Mendoza office:

Your name
c/o José Mostafá
IFSA-Butler
Rivadavia 122
5500-Mendoza

Lost Luggage

If your luggage doesn't come out of the carousel, see an airline official to file a lost luggage claim **before leaving the customs area**. You can give the official the address of the orientation hotel, listed below in the "Arrival Information" section, and the resident director's cell phone number (0261-156020101).

If you lose your luggage, let our Mendoza staff know and follow any instructions given to you by airport officials. Be sure to save your baggage claim tickets; you may be required to show them in order to claim your luggage.

Arrival Information

If you arrive on February 23, our Mendoza staff will meet you at the Buenos Aires airport. Be sure you have sent us your travel notification form. Look for IFSA-Butler Mendoza staff members holding yellow signs that read, "IFSA-Butler." Our staff will provide you transportation to the orientation hotel.

If you arrive before February 23, you must meet the group by **1 p.m. on February 23** at the Hotel de las Américas for the start of orientation. Hotel check in does not officially begin until later in the day, but you should be able to access your room at 12 p.m. You are responsible for your own transportation to the hotel:

Hotel de las Américas
Libertad 1020
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Phone: 4129-0700
www.grupoamericas.com.ar

If you get separated from the group after you land in Argentina or need travel assistance, contact our Mendoza resident director, José Mostafá, at 0261-156020101.



If You Arrive Early

If you arrive before February 23, you'll need to make your own hotel or hostel arrangements. Neither our Mendoza office nor your host family can house students who arrive before the program start date. We recommend you check *Lonely Planet* or *Rough Guide* travel books for information about hotels and hostels in Buenos Aires and the surrounding areas.

We also recommend avoiding hotels near the Constitución, Retiro and Once rail stations in Buenos Aires, as well as the stations themselves and the areas near them. While the hotels there are inexpensive (about US\$15), they are not safe. Consult guidebooks for hotels in a safer area, and expect to pay about US\$40 per night.

You can take a shuttle to your hotel or hostel if you arrive early, but be sure to take Manuel Tienda Leon shuttles. It is the safest shuttle service available. **Don't take a taxi from the airport unless you can find a Manuel Tienda Leon taxi.** Otherwise, call a radio-taxi at 4956-1200 or 4796-3222.

While you are in the city, never hail taxis on the street. Instead use the much safer method of calling a radio-taxi.

IFSA-Butler does not have luggage storage facilities and neither our Buenos Aires nor Mendoza staff can store luggage for independent travelers who arrive before the program start date. If you plan to arrive in Argentina before February 23, you are responsible for finding your own accommodation and luggage storage.

Currency

Ideally, you should exchange currency after checking in at the Hotel de las Américas. Do not change money until after you have met with our Mendoza staff, unless you arrive before February 23.

If you arrive late at night or on a weekend (and not as part of the group flight), you should exchange your currency at the airport. Banks give a better rate of exchange, but they are not open on weekends or holidays. See *Preparing to Study Abroad Argentina* for more information.

Updated Calendar

We've included an updated Argentina program calendar in this mailing. Please check to see if any dates have changed. Remember all exam dates are provisional; you should verify exam dates after arriving at your host university before confirming your plane ticket home.



Questions? Call us at 800-858-0229 or visit us online at www.ifsa-butler.org.



Program Calendar

Argentina Semester 1 2012



IFSA-Butler arranges optional group flights for most programs. Group flights depend on the availability of commercial flights and the number of students attending each university program.

	Mendoza Universities Program		Argentine Universities Program
Group Flight Departs	February 22	Group Flight Departs	February 19
Arrival in Buenos Aires**	February 23	Arrival in Buenos Aires*	February 20
Program Starts	February 23	Program Starts	February 20
IFSA-Butler Orientation	February 23-March 9	Move into Housing	February 20
Flight from Buenos Aires to Mendoza	February 25	Orientation in Buenos Aires	February 21-March 16
Move into Housing	February 25	Classes Start at UTDT	March 5
UNCuyo Orientation	March 1	Classes Start at UCA	March 12 (March 5, Dept. of Economics)
UCongreso Orientation	March 2	Classes Start at UBA	March 12 (Ciencias Sociales)
Spanish Class Begins	March 7		March 19 (Filosofía y Letras)
Classes Start at UCongreso***	March 12	Classes Start at USAL	March 12
Classes Start at UNCuyo***	March 19	Final Exams at UTDT****	July 2-20
Final Exams at UNCuyo	June 20-July 6	Final Exams at UCA****	July 2-20
Final Exams at UCongreso	July 2-6	Final Exams at USAL	End July 6
Last Day of Paid Housing	July 8	Final Exams at UBA	TBA
Program Ends	July 8	Last Day of Paid Housing	July 7
		Program Ends	July 7
	Buenos Aires Intermediate		
Arrive in Buenos Aires	February 13		
Program Begins	February 13		
IFSA-Butler Orientation	February 14		
Move in with Host Families	February 14		
Intermediate Spanish Class Begins	February 15		
University Orientation	March 7-13		
Classes Begin	March 14		
Last Day of Classes	July 7		
Final Exams	July 7		
Last Day of Paid Housing	July 7		
Program End Date	July 7		

* Independent travelers on the AUP program must plan to arrive in Buenos Aires in time to meet the group no later than 3 p.m. on February 20.

** Mendoza Universities Program students begin orientation in Buenos Aires. Independent travelers should make flight arrangements to Buenos Aires, not Mendoza. IFSA-Butler arranges and pays for all students' travel to Mendoza, regardless of travel plans.

*** The first two weeks of class at Universidad Nacional de Cuyo and Universidad de Congreso allow students to "try out" different courses before committing to a schedule.

****Some students may be required to take final exams after July 7, if they do not achieve a minimum grade of 7 in the course or if an exam is the only form of final assessment. Students must carefully review course syllabi after arrival in Buenos Aires. Full services, including housing, will be provided for any student who has to stay past July 7 to complete a final exam. Students are responsible for any flight-related change fees.

These dates are correct as of October 26, 2011, but must be regarded as provisional, given the mutability of Argentine university calendars.

Upon arrival at your host university, you must check the program ending dates for changes before confirming return travel plans. Ending dates vary from department to department, and you must complete all course obligations prior to departure. In addition, you should not make plans to travel on the final day of exams since there may be exams **on** that day.

Program housing is available only until the day shown on the calendar as "Last Day of Paid Housing." If you have academic obligations after this date let the IFSA-Butler staff know so they can arrange an extended stay with your host family.

Exams must be taken where and when scheduled. Under no circumstances may students request that an exam time be changed. Argentine exams are taken under formal examination conditions, and changes cannot be made for individuals.