



## Directed Research Concentration Argentine Universities Program

The directed research concentration provides IFSA-Butler students with the opportunity to study in great detail current events and issues of importance to individual countries, Latin America as a whole and the global society, alongside faculty and associated researchers at the Fundación Simón Rodríguez in Buenos Aires.

Each semester, a small number of highly qualified IFSA-Butler students conduct in-depth research on a contemporary issue of their choosing. Some students participate in part-time field work experiences while others conduct interviews and collect data during visits to research sites. The directed research concentration is designed individually for each participant on the basis of past academic work, research skills and area of personal research interest.

### **Academic Structure:**

The concentration is structured around the following components for a total of 15-16 U.S. semester credit hours:

1. Advanced Spanish Language and Argentine Culture program class, with an emphasis on the social sciences
2. Directed research project (fieldwork experience or data collection/interview process)
3. Individual meetings with the research director to evaluate the progress of the research
4. Research methodology seminar (at the beginning of the semester only) with other concentration students
5. One to two direct enroll university courses at UCA, UBA, UTDT or USAL (credits vary by university)
6. Specialized tutorial system

The seminar and individual meetings are considered part of the research investigation process. The final research project is worth 6 U.S. semester credit hours. The mandatory Advanced Spanish class is worth 3 U.S. semester credits hours.

### **Examples of Past Directed Research Projects:**

Following are a few examples of research projects conducted by IFSA-Butler students while participating on the directed research concentration:

- "The Figure of the Woman in the Lyrics of Tango"
- "Religious Diversity in the Belgrano Neighborhood"
- "Modern Poverty: The Social Movement of the Cartoneros"
- "Manipulation and Protest. Rock during the military regime in Argentina: 1976-1983"
- "Clandestine Textile Workshops in Modern Argentina. Study of an NGO Dedicated to Combating Slave Labor: La Alameda"

Former students have built on the research conducted in Buenos Aires for further investigation at the undergraduate (honors thesis) and graduate levels. Others have used their research for graduate school and Fulbright scholarship applications.

### **Additional Requirements:**

Below is the research proposal questionnaire. If you wish to undertake a directed research project while studying abroad, return this form to IFSA-Butler. The research proposal form questionnaire provides a basis from which you can methodically outline the type of research in which you are interested and inform us of the research and skills that you bring to the research project.

Please submit the following to IFSA-Butler to be considered for the research concentration. All documents should be typed and in Spanish:

- Answer in detail the nine questions listed on the research questionnaire.
- Submit a copy of your résumé.
- Submit any other supporting documentation you feel will be helpful in setting up your project. For instance, some students are interested in continuing research that they have already begun. In this case, we recommend that you photocopy and send research notes, papers and directives from professors with whom you have been working.
- Cover letter with your proposal explaining your interest in the research area that you have outlined, your goals and how you hope to integrate your research into your current studies.

### **Recommendations:**

As you prepare to depart for Argentina, you might want to keep in mind a few items that past research students have recommended. These items include:

- **A laptop computer.** While we do not recommend that you buy a laptop if you do not already have one, you should strongly consider taking a laptop if currently own one. Computers are available in our program office in Buenos Aires as well.
- **A mini tape recorder.** Some students have found the small voice-activated type useful for taping interviews. Purchase one in the United States, as electronics tend to cost much more in Argentina.
- **Dress clothes.** You should come prepared with several professional outfits that are appropriate for meeting business people and governmental functionaries. A suit jacket is required for men; you cannot get by with a simple dress shirt and tie. Women will need appropriate clothing as well, preferably suits.

### **Questions and Additional Information:**

Your program advisor is available to answer your questions regarding credit issues, university registration and the overall logistics of the program. The academic advisors in Buenos Aires will be the ones who ultimately work with you in defining the parameters of your project. We will forward each student's complete research proposal form to the appropriate academic advisor, who will e-mail you before your arrival in Argentina. Be sure to include your e-mail address on your résumé.

If we do not receive a completed form from you prior to your departure, we will assume that you do not intend to conduct directed research. Please direct all questions or concerns to your program advisor.

## Directed Research Proposal Questionnaire

To allow the academic advisors in Buenos Aires to prepare for your arrival, please answer the questions below and submit them along with the requirements listed above. Provide as much detail as possible. The quality and explicitness of your documents will have a direct bearing on the ability of our Argentine advisors to find a suitable project for you.

Please respond to these questions in Spanish. In order to provide enough detail (at least paragraph-length answers), use a separate sheet of paper. Your answers should be typed.

The information that you provide here is key to the success of your research during your semester abroad. Please be as thorough as possible.

1. Explica brevemente el tipo de investigación que te gustaría llevar a cabo. Cita como mínimo dos áreas de interés.
2. ¿Por cuál motivo deseas realizar una investigación en Argentina?
3. ¿Cuál es el objetivo de tu propuesta de investigación?
4. ¿Es requisito de tu universidad que tu proyecto de investigación sea en las áreas anteriormente mencionadas? ¿Por qué?
5. ¿Qué clases has cursado o qué experiencia laboral has tenido que te pueda beneficiar en las áreas de investigación mencionadas anteriormente?
6. Cita tus cualidades investigadoras. Pondremos énfasis especial en habilidades tales como el análisis de información por computadora.
7. Enumera las distinciones académicas que hayas recibido, tanto al nivel universitario como al nivel de educación secundaria.
8. ¿Cuales son tus objetivos educativos?
9. ¿Cuales son tus objetivos profesionales a corto y a largo plazo?

Please return your cover letter, *résumé*, answers to the above questions and any supporting documentation to IFSA-Butler. Submissions should be typed in Spanish. All information will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member in Buenos Aires, who will then help you further develop your ideas into a workable research topic.



**Mandatory Course for Directed Research  
Concentration: Directed Research Methodology  
Argentine Universities Program**

**Course Description:**

Students participating on the directed research concentration will enroll in this specially designed methodology course as a part of the entire directed research project. This course is taken in conjunction with the actual research conducted, mandatory meetings with the academic advisor and the writing of the final research project. All three components are recorded at the end of the semester on a Butler University transcript as one university course worth 6 U.S. semester credit hours.

The directed research methodology course provides students with the theoretical and practical tools required to conduct a research study which, in this particular case, will address Argentine social reality. During the course of the research project, students will focus on a series of topics including framing a working hypothesis, searching for bibliographical material, analyzing primary and secondary sources, fieldwork, evaluating the data collected and presenting the conclusions.

The course involves group classes on methodology, individual weekly classes dedicated exclusively to addressing each student's specific research topic, the supply of information and the contacts required to organize the research work and the field work, corrections and ongoing advising, as well as Spanish classes directed at enhancing the student's academic writing skills.

**Course Prerequisites:**

Students are expected to have a level of Spanish proficiency that will enable them to read and communicate orally reasonably well in order to understand the bibliography and conduct interviews or surveys when and if required. It is worth noting that students will be assisted on an individual basis by a Spanish language professor in the correction of the written report of their research.

**Course Objectives:**

- Facilitate, from a methodological point of view, the key elements of the research process.
- *Infuse students with the best habits of scientific work: critical sense, clear objectives, strict conceptual design and formulation, the search for empirical referents and a programmed work plan.*
- Develop criteria and skills during the research stage and in the preparation and presentation of the written report.

**Bibliography:**

Letourneau, Joselyn, *La caja de herramientas del joven investigador. Guía de iniciación al trabajo intelectual*, La carreta editores, Medellín, 2007.

Eco, Umberto, *Cómo se hace una tesis*, Gedisa, Barcelona, 2001.

Samaja, J., *Epistemología y Metodología*, Eudeba, Bs. As., 1999.

**Specialized Bibliography:**

Blalock, H., *Introducción a la investigación social*, Editorial Amorrortu, Bs. As., 1998.

Bunge, M., *La investigación científica*, Ariel, Barcelona, 1968.

Chalmers, A., *Qué es esa cosa llamada ciencia*, Siglo XXI, Madrid, 1984.

Festinger and Katz (comp.), *Los métodos de investigación en las ciencias sociales*, Editorial Paidós, Barcelona, 1992.

García Ferrando, M., Ibáñez, J. y Avila, F.; *El análisis de la realidad social: Métodos y Técnicas de Investigación*, Alianza Editorial, Madrid, 1990.

Padua, J., *Técnicas de investigación aplicadas a las ciencias sociales*, Fondo de Cultura Económica, México, 1996.

Quivy and Van Campenhoudt, *Manual de investigación en ciencias sociales*, Limusa Noriega Editores, México, 1999.

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Selltiz, Wrightsman and Cook, *Métodos de investigación en las relaciones sociales*, Editorial Rialp, Madrid, 1980.

Taylor and Bogdan, *Introducción a los métodos cualitativos de investigación*, Paidós, Barcelona, 1996.

Wainerman, C. and Sautu, R., *La trastienda de la investigación*, Ediciones Lumiere, Bs. As., 2000.

Bachelard, G., *La formación del espíritu científico*, Siglo XXI Editores, Bs. As., 1974.

Berger, P. and Luckmann, Th., *La construcción social de la realidad*, Amorrortu, Bs. As., 1979.

Klimovsky, G., *Las desventuras del conocimiento científico*, AZ Editora, Bs. As., 1997.

Schuster, F., *Explicación y Predicción*, CLACSO, Bs. As., 1982.

Schütz, A., *El problema de la realidad social*, Amorrortu, Bs. As., 1974.

**Course Rules:**

Students will be expected to:

- Attend weekly meetings with the concentration director to discuss the methodological steps that are completed from one week to another and the progress achieved in the fieldwork.
- Submit a weekly written report of completed work.
- Revise and correct written work with the Spanish language professor on an individual basis.
- Submit the final paper when and as required for correction by the course coordinator and director.
- Submit two copies of the final paper.

**Course Assessment Method:**

Course grading will take into account not only the final paper but also compliance with course rules, timely submission of written work for Spanish language correction and the grade assigned to the work by the Spanish language professor.

**Guidelines for Submission of Final Paper:**

Before submitting their papers for evaluation, students will be expected to ensure compliance with the following guidelines:

- The paper should be 25 to 30 pages long, written on A4 paper, Times New Roman, 12 point font and double spaced.
- Pages should be numbered.
- Each chapter should begin on a new page.
- Each title in the table of contents must match the title in the text exactly.
- Photographs, graphs and tables should be accompanied by a pertinent caption (title and source).
- The graphs and tables should be in Spanish.
- The paper should be free of Spanish language corrections.
- The list of interviews (if applicable) should include reference to: surname, name and position of respondent, and place and date of interview.
- In the bibliography section, books and articles should be listed separately from websites visited.

**Schedule of Activities:**

- Week 1 - Selecting a topic
- Week 2 - Written outline of work objectives
- Week 3 - Presenting a research plan
- Week 4 to 6 - First partial correction of Spanish language (introduction plus one complete chapter)
- Week 7 - Progress report. Students should submit in writing 40% of the completed research work and a status report on the remaining 60%.
- Week 8 to 12 - First submission of the paper for Spanish language correction
- Week 13 - Second submission of the finished paper for Spanish language correction
- Week 14 - Submission of final paper to concentration director (once the paper has been approved by the Spanish language professor)
- Week 15 - Final submission after the paper has been corrected by concentration director (two copies)