

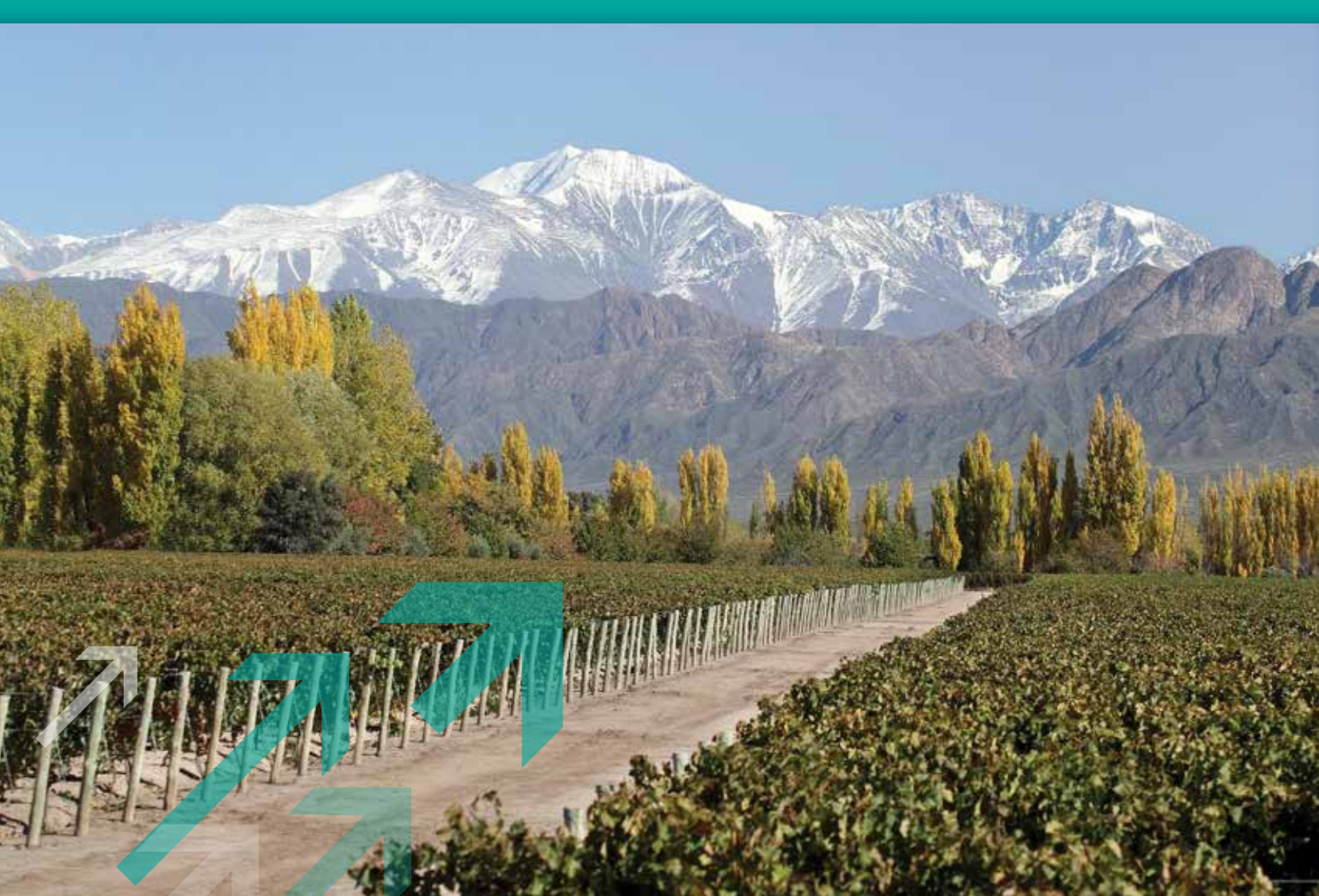


STUDENT HANDBOOK

UVa in Mendoza, Argentina

McIntire School of Commerce and the School of Engineering & Applied Science

STUDY ABROAD
Mendoza



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Bienvenido a Mendoza

Dear UVa Student,

Congratulations on your decision to visit us in Mendoza, Argentina!

We've prepared this handbook to help you make the most of your upcoming experience, so please be sure to read it carefully. It contains important information on everything from what to pack, what to do in an emergency and where to go for a great meal.

We hope you enjoy your time in Mendoza, and that you take full advantage of this unique opportunity to expose yourself to a different perspective on everything from politics and economics to family and business.

Sincerely,

The Study Abroad Mendoza Team



ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

24/7 SUPPORT STAFF IN MENDOZA

Name	Telephone / Email
David English	Cell/Whats App: +54 9 261 508-5566 david@studyabroadmendoza.org
Jose Mostafa	Cell/Whats App: +54 9 261 602-0101 jose@studyabroadmendoza.org

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Institution	Telephone	Address
El Portal Suites Hotel	(54) 261 438-2038	Necochea 661, Mendoza City
Hospital Central	420-0600 Emergency: 420-0063	Salta and Além Streets, Mendoza City
Hospital Español	449-0300 / 0333 / 0094	San Martín 965, Godoy Cruz
ECI-Ambulances	0810 222 0810 / 520-7000	9 de Julio 1936, Mendoza City
Police	911	N/A
U.S. Embassy	(54) 011 5777-4533	Av. Colombia 4300, Buenos Aires

Period of Support Services

Study Abroad Mendoza services commence and end with your group's arrival at and departure from the Mendoza airport. *If you arrive or depart on your own, you are responsible for your own transportation.*

Excursions

If you cannot participate in an excursion for any reason you should contact Study Abroad Mendoza immediately so that logistics can be adjusted accordingly with as much advance notice as possible.

Refunds

Study Abroad Mendoza does not refund the cost of activities in which you do not participate as they are valuable aspects of the program and have been arranged and paid for in advance of your arrival in Mendoza.

Note: Planning and logistical services for your study abroad program are provided under contract with your university by Study Abroad Mendoza, LLC, 1204 16th Ave. S., Nashville, TN, 37212. Lodging, transportation, meals, and excursions are subcontracted services provided in Mendoza by third parties.

CULTURAL OVERVIEW

EAT, SLEEP AND SAY HOW IT IS

Courtesy of the Wine Republic magazine and Amanda Barnes

As the saying goes, when in Rome, do as the Romans do! So, when you're in Argentina, eat, sleep and say how it is. The following is a "cheat sheet" to clue you in on some of the most important cultural nuances that make Argentina such a unique and enchanting country.

Hellos and Goodbyes

Entering a room full of Argentines takes a while. The custom is to go from person to person to say hello and kiss each one on the cheek. Repeat as you leave. And yes, we mean everyone in the room, including children and babies. If you decide to slink out without the kisses, you run the risk of seeming a rude or cold foreigner.

Asado

Grilled over the embers of poplar trees, *asado* (bbq) is a staple in the diet, social and family life of nearly every Argentine. In fact, Argentina's per capita consumption of beef is way off the charts. Eating a stunning average of 150 pounds of red meat a year, Argentines consume double the USA's average and almost quadruple England's.

Siesta

While passing out for hours after a big lunch may not be socially acceptable back home, here taking a siesta is considered a compliment to the chef! Even during the week it's common to go home for lunch (the biggest meal of the day), see family and catch a few zzz's. Because of this, the workday ends around 9 pm, but it's considered worth it for quality of life. Besides, most of the stores are

closed during the siesta from 1 pm to 5 pm, so you might as well take a snooze just like the locals do!

Dining

Thanks to the siesta, you may actually be able to keep your eyes open at dinner (which begins as late as 11 pm!). This schedule may actually work in your favor, as it is never a problem to get a table at a good restaurant at 9 pm, though most likely your fellow diners will be foreigners.

It's not just the late start that makes dinner a test of endurance. Argentines also partake in *sobre mesa* or "over the table," which is an extended free-flowing conversation after the meal. Waiters never hover over a table or bring the check without being begged for it first. In fact, you usually have to go to extreme lengths to get the bill!

Sex Separation

A notable occurrence at meals in Argentina is the separation of the sexes. While it's not always the case, it isn't odd to see all the men on one side of the table and all the women on the other. When asked why this dining sex segregation exists, many Argentines reply, "So men can talk about what interests men and women can talk about what interests women."

Punctuality (or lack thereof)

In Argentina, it's not a big deal to be late for social activities. In fact, you'll come to expect it. Besides tourist excursions and buses, little runs like clockwork. Invitations for 9 pm should be translated as 10 pm, or later. Showing up late is not considered rude, it's just how it is. If you can't learn to be tardy for an engagement, do yourself a favor and take a book to read. You're going to be waiting for a while!

Soccer

Fútbol is the national passion and has the power to capture the entire country's attention during important games. Offices are shut, streets are abandoned and appointments are cancelled during the World Cup. On an average Sunday, it's normal to watch hours and hours of soccer after an *asado* (if you can manage to stay awake!).





Political Correctness

In general, Argentines are not worried about political correctness (with foreigners or amongst themselves). In few other cultures would someone so readily admit to being 35, overweight and living with their parents!

According to your weight, here you are labeled either *gordo/a* (“fatso”) or *flaco/a* (“slim”). Despite the bluntness, these comments do not provoke anxiety or weight complexes. In fact, weight is an open topic that is regularly commented on by locals. Friends and family members make you immediately own up to a few excess pounds yet will probably try to serve you an extra helping at dinner if you are looking a little thin.

If you have dark skin and hair you will be called *negro/a* (“blackie”). You don’t even have to have blonde hair to be labeled *rubio/a* (“blondie”) - all it takes is light skin. This call-it-how-it-is honesty doesn’t stop here. Consider yourself lucky if you aren’t called *pelado/a* (“baldie”) or *enano/a* (“shorty”)! Again, none of these terms are meant as derogatory. They are simply common terms of affection.

Furthermore, Spaniards are *gallego/a* (Galician), Arabs *turco/a* (Turkish) and Asians *chino/a* (Chinese). The same goes for Americans; despite the fact that the term applies to Northerners, all Americans are labeled *yanquis* (Yankees).



Mate

Pronounced “mah-tay,” this tea is made from yerba mate leaves steeped in hot water. It is drunk from a hollowed-out gourd with a metal straw. Mate tastes somewhat like a rustic green tea and there are few social occasions that don’t call for it: the beach, at home, at soccer matches, with friends in the park, at the office, etc. It can be drunk with or without sugar, though for many foreigners as well as locals without is considered too bitter.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO PACK...

1. Extra clothes hangers
2. Large Ziplock bags for taking back wine bottles and other breakables
3. Washcloths (they are not used in Argentina for bathing)
4. 3 prong converter (most plugs in Argentina are angled and three prong)
5. Water bottle or CamelBak
6. Small backpack for excursions
7. Sunglasses, sunscreen and a hat, even in winter!
8. Hairdryer (although rooms are equipped with basic ones)
9. Reading glasses
10. Bathing suit (for spa day)
11. Camera
12. Wristwatch

CLOTHING TO PACK...

1. 3 pairs of shoes (nice, tennis, and flipflops)
2. 2 pair jeans (for hiking and winery excursions)
3. 4 pair nice pants/skirts (for client visits)
4. 2 nice outfits (for final presentations and final dinner)
5. 2 pairs of shorts + bathing suit
6. 5 shirts (including t-shirts, tanks, etc.)

Note: Pack all valuables (such as laptop computers, iPads, cell phones, e-book readers, etc.) in your carry-on bag as theft of items in checked baggage has been known to occur at the Santiago airport. In case of lost luggage, also pack at least one full change of clothes and any important medication in your carry-on bag.



KEY CULTURAL TIPS

- Do not expect cars to stop for you at crosswalks – they will not. Eventhough pedestrians have right of way by law, cars have right of way by custom!
- Do not drink directly from bottles or cans (beer, water, soda, etc.), especially those larger than 750ml or at a meal.
- Do not put your feet up on tables, chairs or stools.
- Do not speak or laugh louder than the locals when out as a group (watch how the adult locals behave for insight on how to behave yourself!).
- Do not display expensive cameras, jewelry or computers in public places.
- Expect for street children to approach you at sidewalk cafes where tourists usually congregate. Simply say “No, gracias” and they should leave. Repeat firmly if necessary.
- Do not set your cell phone out on the table when having lunch, dinner, or even a coffee, especially if you are seated at a table on the sidewalk. It will likely be swiped when you least expect it!
- In general, dress up rather than down. Argentines are fashion conscious (think Italy). *Flip-flops are a no-no in public!*
- Kiss women and children on the cheek when greeting them.
- Always greet everyone when entering or leaving a room.
- If drinking or eating out, everyone at the table is expected to order something.
- At nearly all eataries other than Subway, McDonald’s, Mr. Dog and Kingo it will take *at least* 90 minutes to have lunch or dinner. When time is short, buy food at Carrefour or visit one of the fast food Meccas. Also, try the food court and stalls within the Mercado Central on Las Heras street (stalls close for the siesta, but not the food court!).
- Do not consider any itinerary you’ve received as set in stone and pay attention to announcements at the end of each day about the schedule for the upcoming day. Flexibility is key to success in Argentina given the informal local culture and the political as well as economic context.
- Do not expect internet connectivity to be fast, anywhere.
- Public drunkenness is considered an indication of a very poor upbringing. Argentines never go out with the goal of “getting wasted” or doing shots. *The objective is to socialize, not consume alcohol in large amounts.*

HOTEL VISITORS

Do not invite people you have just met to your room. Interact with guests in the common areas of the hotel.

ARGENTINA AND MENDOZA AT A GLANCE



HISTORY

On March 2, 1561, Pedro de Castillo founded the city of Mendoza and named it in homage to the governor of Chile, Don García Hurtado de Mendoza. The city moved and was refounded in 1562 by Juan Jufré. The Jesuits began their evangelical and cultural work in the 17th century, followed by the Franciscans and the Dominicans. In the early 19th century, General José de San Martín used Mendoza as a base for taking the war of Latin American independence to the Spanish colonial forces in Chile. In the mid-19th century, Charles Darwin visited Mendoza on his way to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The earthquake of 1861 ruined a large part of the colonial city and 5,000 people died. A newly designed city emerged from the rubble thanks to the French urban planner Ballofet. This is why Mendoza has a more open and “modern” design (central plazas, large parks and wide streets with wide sidewalks) as compared to many other Argentine and Latin American cities where a traditional Spanish colonial feel is still the norm.

GEOGRAPHY

Argentina's geography and cultural history contribute to its unique place in Latin America. The country is located in the area known as the Southern Cone. Essentially triangular in shape, Argentina is bound by the steep and rugged Andean Mountains to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the fertile Rio de la Plata river system to the north. In the south, the country tapers to the tip of South America. Because of its length (Argentina is as long as the United States is wide), the weather in Argentina ranges from subtropical (like Florida) in the north to temperate (like North Carolina or Virginia) in the middle and subarctic (like Alaska) in the far south. Mendoza is on the western side of the country, only about 70 miles as the bird flies from Santiago, Chile.

GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS

Argentina's past is a tumultuous one. From dictatorship to democracy, Argentina has seen some stunning changes in the last 70 years. Peronist socialism beginning in the 1940s, as well as the spectacular 2001 economic crash, weakened the country's legendary status as the wealthiest in Latin America. Today, the primary industries in Mendoza include petroleum extraction and processing, agriculture, light manufacturing, and tourism related to winemaking. While the Argentine economy has recovered since 2001, the relatively weak peso (especially on the black market) means American dollars go farther than in many other parts of the world.

The government in Argentina remains somewhat fragile; at one point in 2001, the country went through five presidents in two weeks. But the ongoing political problems have not really affected the experience for foreign visitors. Argentina still offers wonderful cities, European-style elegance and highly social people who are warm and welcoming.



LIFE IN MENDOZA

With a population of over one million, greater metropolitan Mendoza lies at the foot of the Andes mountain range in a valley irrigated entirely by mountain snowmelt. Mendoza is renowned for the fine quality of its wines. In fact, more than 70 percent of the total acreage devoted to the cultivation of grapes in Argentina is located within this province.

The city of Mendoza itself is small and has 130,000 inhabitants. Its tree-lined streets and open spaces provide a beautiful contrast to the modern urban perimeter. The city center has broad walking boulevards and many open-air cafes filled with fashionably attired locals.

Public transportation within Mendoza is plentiful with numerous bus and trolley lines. A new tram line, with rolling stock donated by San Diego, California, and linking Mendoza with Maipu, opened in mid-2012.

The city of Mendoza is located 1,100 kilometers from Buenos Aires, which is 15 hours by bus or car, or an hour and a half by air. Given Mendoza's proximity to Chile (380 kilometers by road from Santiago), many Mendocinos prefer to vacation at the beach in Chile rather than the more distant Argentine beaches on the Atlantic Ocean.

Mendoza is within two hours of various recreational centers in the Andes. Winter-sport enthusiasts from around the world are drawn by the close proximity of the mountains and activities including skiing, snowboarding and mountain climbing.

The province of Mendoza is one of the 23 federal states in the Republic of Argentina and its territory is divided into 18 *departamentos* (counties), each with its own political and administrative power. The capital of the province is the city of Mendoza, while San Rafael is the most important town in the southern region of the province.

RELIGION

The Argentine constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the government generally respects this right in practice. However, the constitution states that the federal government “sustains the apostolic Roman Catholic faith,” and grants Catholicism some privileges not available to other religions or denominations. The constitution gives all residents the right “to profess their faith freely” and states that foreigners have the same right. The Argentine constitution was heavily influenced by that of the United States, although it has been amended considerably.

The Argentine government does not collect information on religious affiliation. However, information supplied by the National Registry of Religions, representatives of various faiths, and statistics from nongovernmental organizations, yield the following estimates, which do not necessarily imply active religious practice: Catholics (70%); Protestants (9%); Muslims (1.5%); Jews (.8%); other religious groups (2.5%); and the remainder declaring no religious affiliation.

PRACTICING YOUR FAITH

Information on non-Catholic houses of worship can be found at www.culto.gov.ar.



GETTING AROUND IN MENDOZA



AIRPORT TRANSFER

Transport from Mendoza's airport to the downtown area is by:

Taxi – Unmarked private taxis (called *remises*) as well as yellow and black city taxis are usually available to the left as you exit the central main doors of the airport. Rates vary depending on destination. The average fare to downtown is approximately US\$ 6 (to be paid *in pesos* – there is an ATM in the airport from which to withdraw pesos before getting a taxi/remise).

Bus – We strongly discourage visitors from taking buses at the Mendoza airport due to their confusing routes.

Rental car – Daily rate: approximately US\$ 100. If you rent a car at the airport you will have to pay a 10% surcharge.

Note: Student groups will be met at the Mendoza airport by Study Abroad Mendoza staff upon arrival and accompanied to the airport for their return flight to the United States (except in the case of students arriving or departing independently from the main group at the group's pre-established date and time).

MENDOZA URBAN TRANSPORTATION

Options for getting around in Mendoza on your own during free time include:

Taxi – Black with yellow roofs and plentiful. Their standard fare is flag drop plus several pesos every 90 meters. Most drivers are friendly and trustworthy and will not overcharge you, but be on the lookout for unscrupulous gougers. All vehicles are required to provide receipts noting the distance traveled and fare charged. If you're not sure where you're going or how much the ride might cost, ask the driver for an estimate before you depart and make sure he gives you a *ti-que-cito* (ticket) or *factura* (receipt). Taxi drivers do not expect tips, although rounding cents up to the next whole number is common (\$7.65 pesos = \$8.00 pesos). You can also call a "radiotaxi" if you don't want to flag one down on the street. These taxis are

dispatched from a central location and are thus accountable for the route and fare charged. Any hotel or restaurant can call one for you.

Remis – These private taxis look like regular cars but have yellow numbers on their trunks. Their standard fare is flag drop plus several pesos every 90 meters. Compared to taxis, *remises* are much newer, more comfortable and safer since they are dispatched and monitored from a Remis Control Center. Just like taxis, you can call them from any phone at any time.

Bus – In Argentina, a *colectivo* or *micro* is a bus. A trip costs the equivalent of about 35 cents (US), but we strongly discourage you from taking buses due to their confusing routes and the need to buy a special card to ride them. A notable exception is the *Tramvia de Compras* (Shopping Trolley) which has the appearance of a San Francisco cable car and takes a predictable circular route around the city center. It can be boarded at the corner of Belgrano and Las Heras streets directly outside the main entrance to Carrefour supermarket. Completing the entire loop takes about 30 minutes and provides a good overview of Mendoza's plazas and central business district.

Note: All transportation to and from program activities will be provided by shuttle bus companies as part of the program.

GETTING DIRECTIONS

If you need to ask for directions, beware of the following pitfalls:

Mendocinos tend to talk about "up" and "down" rather than right or left. Assume that anything that is physically uphill from where you are is "para arriba" and vice versa. The catch is when streets run north/south. These can be either "para arriba" or "para abajo." It may take you a while to get the hang of it! Until then, just be aware that "arriba" and "abajo" are directions. If you don't know what someone means by these terms, ask: "¿Quiere decir a la izquierda o la derecha?"



OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

CURRENCY

Argentina's currency is the Argentinian peso (denominated by "\$"). The best places to change dollars to pesos are the exchange houses Maguitur and Cambio Santiago on San Martin Street (corner of Catamarca/Espejo), or using your ATM card from back home at most ATM machines in the city center. If someone approaches you on the street to change dollars, they are probably a con artist. Beware!

There are 5 cent, 10 cent, 25 cent, 50 cent, 1 peso and 2 peso coins. The 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins have two versions: silver and gold.

Paper money comes in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000. You may see there are two versions of the \$100 bill. This is because the version with the old design still circulates.

Most ATM machines in Mendoza accept Plus and Cirrus compatible cards. *The nearest ATM to your hotel is next to the Banco Superville on the corner of Necochea and Belgrano, one block due west of El Portal Suites.*

Note 1: When withdrawing cash from ATMs, enter an amount that ends in \$90 (such as \$490) so that the machine gives you a selection of small bills as well as \$100 notes. Most businesses (and taxis) will not accept \$100 bills for purchases totaling less than \$30 pesos.

Note 2: Do not bring cards with 5-digit pin numbers to Argentina, as most ATM machines here only receive 4-digit cards.

CREDIT CARDS AND TRAVELER'S CHECKS

American Express

To cash American Express checks you must do so at one of the currency exchange houses mentioned above. To cash traveler's checks from other companies, you must go to a major international bank. Most businesses will not accept traveler's checks. You may purchase them at some currency exchange houses and banks. Lost or stolen checks: (0261) 420-3233.

Visa, Diners Club, and Mastercard

These three credit cards are the most commonly accepted in Argentina, *but be aware that a great many businesses here are cash only!* In some banks you can withdraw cash with these cards for a service fee of 6%, which is paid at the time of the transaction. Citibank and HSBC both offer this service. To find out where the nearest branch is located, call 0800-444-2484 or ask Study Abroad Mendoza staff.

Few businesses accept traveler's checks in Mendoza. The fastest and most effective option is to cash them at banks or currency exchange houses.

Credit Card	In case of loss or theft 24 hs
American Express	0-810-555-2639
Visa	0-800-444-0836
Mastercard	0-800-444-5200
Diners Club	0-810-666-3663

TIPPING

In Argentina, it's customary to give tips in certain situations, although it's not obligatory:

- When you go to the theater, it's common to give \$1 or \$2 pesos to the usher. In exchange, he'll give you the program.
- In a restaurant or bar, leave a tip of about 10% of the total bill.
- In hotels, give between \$5 and \$10 pesos to the bell boy.
- It's not necessary to tip taxi drivers—if you do, it should be 10%.
- For food delivered to the hotel, give a tip of \$3 or \$4 pesos.

BARGAINING

Argentines often ask for a discount when purchasing a product or service. However, it's a special skill that requires excellent Spanish skills and knowledge of cultural nuances!

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Argentina's household current is 220 volts, 50 cycles (as opposed to 110 volts, 60 cycles in the United States). Electrical transformers are needed to use U.S.-voltage appliances in Argentina unless they are marked as dual voltage. Plug adapters can be purchased in most electronics stores in town. To see what kind of outlets are used in Argentina visit www.kropla.com/electric2.htm

CALLING HOME

Telephone charges on local calls are measured in minutes per call, and they are expensive. *All phone charges (and other incidentals) will be billed to your room.* Since students are staying in shared accommodation, if there is a disagreement about who has incurred charges, all roommates will receive an equal portion of the bill.

Do not make calls on your hotel phone unless you use a calling card or call collect. If you call collect, ask the operator for a "cobro revertido".

We recommend the use of an international telephone calling card, which is available through most long-distance phone companies. Contact your long-distance carrier to obtain one in your name. The benefit of using one of these cards is that charges are based on U.S. rates, making calls more economical for you and your family. The other benefit is that rates are itemized by the American companies, allowing you to keep track of expenses.



To call home, you may purchase a *tarjeta telefónica* (pre-paid calling card) such as "Teletel" or "Hable Más." You can find them in the city's gas stations and *kioscos* (small convenience stores). The cards use an 800 number and therefore work with any telephone. **However, the best option for calling home is Skype via the hotel's WiFi network.**

Do not expect your U.S. cell phone to work in Argentina despite whatever special plan you may have pre-arranged with your U.S. carrier. If your cell phone does work in Argentina, do expect to have a surprisingly large phone bill when you return home. Rates are seldom as low as the U.S. carrier states and connection to an Argentine carrier is seldom as easy as portrayed!

CALLING PHONES IN ARGENTINA

If you are in Mendoza and want to call another city, and are dialing from a landline such as a hotel or payphone, you will need to dial the appropriate city code and number.

Cell phones in Argentina always have a 15 after the city code number. For example, David English's cellular number outside of Mendoza (but dialed from within Argentina) is 261-15-5085566.

If you are calling a local cellular phone from a land line or from another cellular phone, you dial the cell number with the 15 but without the city code number before it. For example, David English's cellular number within Mendoza is simply 15-5085566.

To call an Argentine cell phone from outside Argentina, you must insert a 9 after the country code 54 and then drop the first 15 of the cell number. For example, David English's cellular number dialed from the USA would be 011-54-9-261-5085566.

Check with your provider prior to departure for instructions on calling a local cell phone from your U.S.-based cell.

WIFI

You will have free WiFi (via passcode) within the hotel, but expect it to be significantly slower than back home. Broadband is new to Mendoza.

NEWSPAPERS

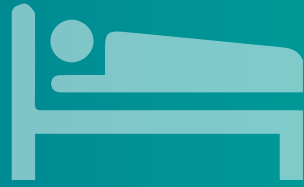
Mendoza Newspapers

- Diario Los Andes (www.losandes.com.ar)
- Diario Uno (www.diariouno.com.ar)

TELEVISION

TV News: Mendoza Channels

- Channel 7: Monday to Friday at 7 am, 12:30 pm, and 9 pm.
- Channel 9: Monday to Friday at 7 am, 1 pm, and 9 pm.



LODGING & MEALS

LODGING

You will be staying in shared rooms at El Portal Suites hotel. *Check-in is 3 pm and check-out is 11 am.*

El Portal Suites
Necochea 661
Mendoza, Argentina, 5500
+ (54) 261-438-2038

Damages & Room Charges

You are responsible for damage to rooms, furniture, or other hotel assets as well as room service/minibar charges.

Bedtime

Argentines tend to stay up late (past midnight). *However, your daily routine will often begin at 7:30 am.* Only stay up past midnight on Fridays and Saturdays!

MEALS

Your program fee includes breakfast at the hotel and a number of group meals (where soft drinks, water and wine are included, but not in unlimited quantities). *Items ordered off the set menu (such as orange juice, tea or coffee) are not included and are at your own expense.* Other meals are on your own and at your own expense.

Taste all the food offered to you. It's important to accept that some cuisine you encounter abroad will be quite different from what you are accustomed to. *Even if you are certain you will not like something, try it out of respect for the culture and the study abroad experience!*

Argentines eat a light breakfast, large lunch, and a late dinner that may be either light or substantial, depending on personal preference. Often dinner is not served until 10 pm (although most program dinners are at 8:30 pm or 9 pm).

Special Diets

If you have special dietary needs (kosher, vegetarian, food allergy, etc.), please advise Study Abroad Mendoza staff in advance and remind us before each meal.

Most Argentines cannot conceive of life without meat. Salads, vegetables and pasta are strictly side dishes! As a result, vegetarians are poorly understood in Argentina, and not taken into account at meal time. Please consult with our support staff if you are having a hard time finding food that meets your dietary requirements.

Table Manners

"Sí, por favor," "No, gracias," "Sí, señor," "No, señor." While these phrases are formal, they are expressions you should use with wait staff. A simple "Sí" or "No" can be considered rude, particularly if you are a foreigner.





SAFETY

EARTHQUAKES

In Mendoza, *temblores* (tremors) and less frequent *terremotos* (earthquakes) are a reality of life. While not something to fear, it's best to be prepared. Consider where you might go during an earthquake if you are in the hotel, out on the street or visiting a winery.

Mendocinos are used to dealing with earthquakes. Please carefully read the following information so that, like the locals, you will know what to do in the event of one.

If you are indoors

- Stay indoors
- Take cover under a sturdy desk or table, or stand in a structurally sound interior doorway
- Stay clear of windows and heavy objects that may fall over
- Close curtains to cover large windows
- Cover your head
- Do not run outside, as you are much more likely to be hurt by falling debris than if you stay inside

If you do go outside after an earthquake

- Do not utilize the elevator, take the stairs
- Watch out for items that have fallen or are broken, creating hazards

If you are outside

- Get into the open, away from buildings and power lines
- If you are in a crowded area, take cover where you are
- Stay calm and encourage others to do the same

If you are in a car

- Stop if it is safe, but stay inside the car
- Stay away from bridges, overpasses and tunnels
- If possible, avoid stopping under trees, light posts, power lines or signs

If you are in a mountainous area or near unstable cliffs or slopes

- Be alert for falling rock and debris loosened by the earthquake. Landslides are common after seismic activity, especially in mountainous areas.

During any emergency it's essential to remain calm at all times. If possible, contact Study Abroad Mendoza staff via cell phone with a message stating your condition and location. Leave a phone number where you can be reached.

ZONDA WIND

Viento Zonda (Zonda wind) is a local term for the Foehn wind (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foehn_wind) that blows into Mendoza from the eastern slopes of the Andes mountains. It is a dry, dusty wind originating from polar maritime air, warmed by rapid descent from 6,000 meters (18,000 feet) above sea level. It can exceed 80 km/h (50 mph).

The Zonda is believed to affect blood pressure and mood, causing irritability and depression. Many locals associate Zonda with various health issues such as allergies, asthma, heart ailments, excessive sweating, tremors, and insomnia. Go inside immediately when Zonda strikes!

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

The voltage in Argentina is 220v, 50 Hz (in the U.S. it is 110v and 60 Hz). Be careful with electrical appliances from back home that are not dual voltage! For some devices, you must use a voltage converter like those sold in Radio Shack and similar stores. Most U.S. kitchen appliances are not dual voltage and require a converter (in addition to a plug adapter). Because of the different currents, U.S. 110v appliances with a digital clock will not keep correct time.

If you own a dual voltage device (nearly all laptops, cell phones, etc.), you can buy a plug adapter in most electronics stores in Mendoza. Some supermarkets now carry them as well (usually next to the tape and glue). Ask for "Un adaptador de dos patas gringas a dos patas Argentinas" if you don't see what you are looking for.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Do not keep items like money, wallets, purses, cellular phones, mp3 players, laptops and cameras in an easily accessible area of your backpack. Their pockets are a target for pickpockets who frequent crowded streets. Always keep a photocopy of your passport separate from your actual passport. These items and other valuables should be safe in your hotel room, *but store them out of view (not on your nightstand or a table top).*

FIRE SAFETY

Locate the fire extinguisher in the hotel and know how to contact emergency services (911).

HOUSING SAFETY

When entering and leaving the hotel, please follow the security rules. Never allow someone you do not know or recently met to visit your room.

THEFT AND MUGGING

- Do not carry large amounts of cash with you on the street. If you must carry cash, wear a security pouch under your clothing. Separate your money into several pockets and keep your wallet in a front pant pocket. Pickpockets are quite skilled and frequently work in teams of two or more. A common trick in Argentina is for someone to point out (or cause) a stain on your clothing while at the same time helping themselves to your wallet. If you are mugged, do not resist or fight back. Your life is worth more than the contents of your wallet!

- Do not carry anything valuable in the outside pocket of your backpack. Do not carry your backpack on your back in the city center or on crowded buses - keep it with you at all times on buses and do not use the overhead racks. At nightclubs, do not keep anything in your back pockets.

- Always change money at banks or authorized institutions, never on the street or in public places. Do not open your wallet and count the bills on the street. As a foreigner, you will be seen as an easy target.

- Do not flaunt jewelry in public. Keep it inside your clothing or leave it at the hotel in your safe. If you carry a camera or video recorder, wear it across your shoulder and chest. Remember to keep valuables out of sight in your hotel room, never on a nightstand or table top.

- Do not place your cell phone on the table when eating at a table on the sidewalk.

- Always carry a map if you are not well acquainted with the city, but keep a low profile if you need to stop to consult it. Step into a drugstore, bank or supermarket to check your map.

- Do not travel alone at night. If you and a friend venture out

after dark, please let someone know where you are going and when you plan on returning.

- Don't travel through unfamiliar neighborhoods, especially if they are off the main commercial or tourist areas, until you are more familiar with the city. Speak with our staff to find out about unsafe areas of the city.

- Blend in by not calling attention to yourself by being overly boisterous or by looking/acting like a tourist (no flip-flops!).

- To guard against thieves on motorcycles, walk on the inside of sidewalks and carry your purse on the side away from the street.

- Especially at crowded nightclubs, do not carry anything of value in your back pockets!

Mendoza may seem to be much safer than most U.S. cities, and while this may be true, it is not crime free. Do not do anything you wouldn't normally do in a major city (i.e. hang out in parks or other isolated areas at night, follow strangers to places they might want to lead you, etc.).

If you follow the above suggestions, your stay in Argentina will surely be a memorable and enjoyable one!

SMOKING IN ARGENTINA

Many Argentines smoke. However, in Mendoza it's prohibited to smoke in closed public spaces, with the only exceptions being casinos, jails and some restaurants or clubs after midnight.

REGISTER WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY

All Study Abroad Mendoza program participants who are U.S. citizens are required to register with the U.S. embassy before travel to Argentina. This is a simple process that can be completed online at www.buenosaires.usembassy.gov. Students who are not U.S. citizens should register with their country's embassy prior to date of travel.

What is Travel Registration?

Travel registration is a free service of the U.S. government for U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration enables you to provide information about your trip that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency. Americans abroad also receive important updates from the U.S. embassy or consulate.

Why should I register?

Millions of Americans travel abroad without incident. However, U.S. embassies and consulates assist nearly 200,000 Americans every year who are victims of crime, accident, or illness - or whose family and friends need to contact them in an emergency. When an emergency occurs, or if natural disaster, terrorism, or civil unrest strikes during your

program, the U.S. embassy or consulate can be a vital source of assistance and information. By registering, you enable the embassy or consulate to locate you when you need them the most. Registration is voluntary and costs nothing, so be sure to make it a part of your travel preparation!

How can the embassy or consulate assist me while I am abroad?

U.S. consular officers assist Americans who encounter serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties. Although consular officers cannot act as your legal counsel or representative, they can provide the names of local attorneys and doctors, provide loans to destitute Americans, and provide information about dangerous conditions affecting your overseas travel or residence. Consular officers also perform non-emergency services, helping Americans with absentee voting, selective service registration, receiving federal benefits, and filing U.S. tax forms. Consular officers can notarize documents, issue passports, and register American children born abroad. Most embassies and consulates have web sites with more information.

If you request American citizen services from the embassy or consulate you will be asked by the consular staff to provide proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a U.S. passport or American birth certificate. This is just one reason why it is so important to keep a copy of your passport in a separate place from the original.

How will my information be used?

The Department of State and its overseas embassies and consulates request your personal information only to inform and assist Americans traveling or residing in foreign countries. All personal information you provide is secure and protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. Your personal data will remain in active files for twelve months after the completion of your last trip, your last registration activity, or your departure date from your foreign country of residence. At that time you will receive an e-mail notifying you that your registration data records, log-on, and password will be automatically deleted after three months unless you take steps to keep your registration active. No data from the IBRS system will be archived. Registrations of long-term overseas residents will remain in the file indefinitely unless edited or deleted by the registrant.

PASSPORTS

Do not carry your passport with you unless it is absolutely necessary - make several photocopies and store them separately from your passport. Carry a photocopy with you at all times. In the event that you lose your passport, a photocopy may help speed up the replacement process. Keep your passport in a concealed place in your room.

Should your passport be lost or stolen, you must file a police report. You will be required to fax or hand deliver a copy of the police report, copy of your passport or your birth certificate, and photo identification to the U.S. embassy.

U.S. Embassy Hours of Operation (Buenos Aires)

Monday-Friday:

Open from 8:30 am until noon and 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

The Embassy is closed on U.S. and Argentine holidays.

Passports, reports of birth, and notary services are by appointment only (Buenosaires-ACS@state.gov). Federal Benefits Unit (Social Security) is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Contact Information

American Citizen Services

Telephone: 54-11-5777-4354

After Hours Emergency Number: +11-5777-4873

E-mail: buenosaires-ACS@state.gov

Web: Buenosaires.useembassy.gov

Location

U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires

American Citizen Services

Av. Colombia 4300

C1425GMN Buenos Aires



DRINK SPIKING

Always be mindful of your drink. Do not accept drinks from strangers. Never leave your drink unattended.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

In case of sexual assault, it is important to go to the hospital immediately. Do NOT bathe or change your clothes since forensic tests may be taken with your consent. You may have to make a statement to law enforcement and/or the prosecutor who will be handling your case. Contact your UVA professor and Study Abroad Mendoza staff, day or night, if you have been assaulted.

Note: If you have any questions about any of the aforementioned safety issues and recommendations, please contact the Study Abroad Mendoza staff without hesitation.



HEALTH AND SUPPORT

ALCOHOL

The legal drinking age is eighteen in Argentina. If you choose to drink here, drink moderately (as the locals do). *Drinking to excess is especially dangerous in a foreign environment and frowned upon by Argentines as a sign of a very poor upbringing. No one here goes out to "get wasted."*

The penalties for drinking and driving are severe. If you are arrested for an alcohol-related crime, you are subject to all local laws. Study Abroad Mendoza does not provide legal support to students who are arrested.

Study Abroad Mendoza reserves the right to dismiss students from any activity if they are intoxicated and/or disruptive.

ALCOHOL ABUSE

Illegal behavior or behavior that may result in danger to you or others is not tolerated. Study Abroad Mendoza reserves the right to remove from the program any student who behaves in a violent or self-destructive manner or who is charged with an alcohol-related crime.

DRUGS

If you are found possessing, using, or dealing drugs, you will be dismissed from the program and prosecuted. *All local laws will apply, since your American citizenship does not provide immunity in Argentina.*

In Argentina, possession, use, and trafficking of illegal drugs is a criminal offense. The State Department warns U.S. citizens that if caught, penalties are strict. Offenders can expect extended pre-trial detention without bail and lengthy jail sentences and fines when convicted.

If you are arrested, we reserve the right to dismiss you from the program. Study Abroad Mendoza does not offer legal assistance to students arrested abroad.

If you feel that you have a problem with drugs, please contact the Study Abroad Mendoza staff immediately so that we may assist you accordingly.

COUNSELING

Students with pre-existing mental health conditions (including eating disorders, substance abuse problems, and depression) are particularly susceptible to increased stress while studying abroad. If you have any mental health condition that would require any special accommodation and you wish that condition accommodated, you must fully disclose to us any mental health condition before your arrival so we are aware of it and can address your special needs. Your condition will be kept strictly confidential.

Note: Some medications for mental health conditions are not available in Argentina. Bring a supply that will last for your entire time abroad.

DISCRIMINATION

The majority of Argentines are open-minded people who will be interested in meeting you regardless of your background. However, discrimination exists in Argentina in the form of anti-Americanism, racism, anti-Semitism, and homophobia. Discrimination is built on negative, simplistic stereotypes that are influenced by a variety of factors, including the media. If you feel you are being discriminated against, please discuss it with Study Abroad Mendoza staff.

You might experience discrimination simply by virtue of being a foreigner in Argentina. Anti-American sentiments can change while you are abroad, depending on the world political situation. Negative comments about U.S. society and



government parallel U.S. political involvement around the world. Discrimination usually takes the form of negative comments rather than demonstrations or physical threats.

Minority students sometimes find the experience of studying in Mendoza to be different than their nonminority peers. Most Argentines have had little exposure to students of color or non-European decent. Minority students are often stared at by the locals, particularly on the street, in clubs and in restaurants. However, these stares should not be taken as threatening. The vast majority of Argentines are simply curious about types of people they have never before seen.

African-American students may find that it is difficult to go unnoticed in a city with an overwhelmingly light-skinned population. African Americans in particular are prone to be stared at as a rarity; many Argentines have never seen an African American in person. Often students are shocked to hear the word *negrito/a* used casually among Latin Americans when talking about anybody who has even the slightest tint to their skin tone. The intent is usually innocent and the word is often used as a term of endearment. *Chinito/a* is a term that is commonly used for people of Asian descent. It is not meant to be offensive and generally reflects affection on the part of the speaker.

Please do not hesitate to discuss with our staff any concerns about discrimination that arise during your program.

The Argentine constitution bans discrimination against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Students (GLBT). In 1996, the constitution was amended to forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation. That being said, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Argentines are usually less open about their sexuality than many Americans. Unfortunately, a certain degree of homophobia still exists in Argentina.

If you choose to visit a primarily gay establishment, please use caution when exiting. Upon leaving, walk out with a group of people and immediately take a taxi back to the hotel. As at any nightclub, remember to keep your valuables in your front pockets and never leave with strangers.

While discrimination is a reality of life in Argentina, keep in

mind that one of the reasons you are studying abroad is to learn about other cultures. Past students who have been affected by discrimination recommend you ignore any incidents and look to the majority of Argentines who are open to people of all backgrounds, regardless of their race, creed, sexual orientation or religious beliefs.

HOSPITALIZATION

The public health system in Argentina provides emergency and non-emergency services free of charge to all, regardless of nationality or immigration status. However, the quality of non-emergency care in public hospitals is generally below U.S. standards. Serious medical problems requiring hospitalization in private facilities and/or medical evacuation to the United States can cost thousands of dollars or more. Private physicians, clinics, and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for health services.

MEDICATIONS

Argentine pharmacists are under no obligation to fill American prescriptions. We recommend that you take enough prescription medication for your entire time abroad. If your relatives try to ship medication to you in Argentina, the package may be held indefinitely in Customs.

If you can't bring all of your medication with you, you may have to make an appointment with an Argentine doctor to get a prescription. Some medicines may not be available in Argentina.

SPECIFIC HEALTH ISSUES

Sanitary conditions in Argentina are good and the water supply is considered safe for the locals. However, it may contain naturally occurring bacteria to which you are not accustomed. Your body will slowly adjust, but initially you may suffer from mild diarrhea. City water is treated in treatment plants just as in the United States.

Visit the Center for Disease Control Web site at www.cdc.gov to see current conditions in Argentina and whether the CDC recommends specific immunizations or precautions. You should also visit the World Health Organization's Web site, www.who.int for information about outbreaks of infectious diseases.

TURISTA

A common illness associated with traveling in South America is *Turista* (traveler's diarrhea and related symptoms, such as abdominal cramps, nausea, and vomiting). You should be especially careful drinking water in small towns and rural areas, but in general Argentina has excellent potable water that is fully treated.

If you have *Turista*, you will lose fluids, so dehydration and loss of body salts may result. Drink plenty of clear liquid, such as 7-Up, Sprite, ginger ale, bottled water, or fat-free salty broth. Avoid coffee and milk. Bananas or yogurt are a good first solid meal after you've had *Turista*.

To avoid *Turista* in Argentina, always drink bottled water and eat only peeled fruit (if you can't first wash it yourself). Be wary of raw fish, ice cubes and uncooked vegetables (however, these items are generally safe here!).

GENDER RELATIONS AND MACHISMO

American students tend to believe that gender roles are stereotypical in Latin America and that gender relations are defined by a principle of strong male dominance (*machismo*). Students also tend to assume that women are willing to be subservient to men, staying within the home, raising families, and arranging their time around anticipating the needs of their male relatives.

In Argentina and in much of Latin America, the traditional male-dominated structure is changing. It's common for both parents to have jobs outside the home, and even women who do not work outside the home have active lives in the community. The number of women in the arts and in professional fields in Argentina is larger proportionately than in other Latin American countries. Women writers are viewed with pride as spokespeople for Argentina.

Be aware that in Argentina dating customs are different to back home. Young people tend to go out in groups rather than in pairs but escalate rapidly once dating one-on-one.



African-American and platinum blonde women in particular may be surprised by the number of *piropos* (compliments) said to them by men on the street and in clubs. The best strategy is to do what Argentine women do: ignore the comments and cat calls and keep walking briskly ahead.





SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment constitutes unwanted sexual advances or behavior, such as physical contact or verbal or written comments or suggestions that offend or intimidate a person.

Examples of sexual harassment include

- Leering, patting, pinching
- Displays of offensive pictures, posters, or graffiti
- Dirty jokes, derogatory comments, offensive written messages and offensive phone calls
- Groups of people ridiculing, leering, wolf whistling, or making sexual comments towards a person or group

Study Abroad Mendoza does not tolerate sexual harassment among its employees or students. Any complaints will be treated confidentially.

Note: Keep in mind you are visiting a new and unique culture. Understandably, unfamiliar methods of personal communication may be uncomfortable for you. Argentines touch and kiss each other more openly and frequently than many Americans. Within the cultural context, this behavior is not viewed as harassment. Nonetheless, if an interaction becomes uncomfortable, even after acknowledging the cultural differences, discuss it openly with the offending individual. This provides the opportunity to identify legitimate cultural differences. If you do not feel comfortable talking directly to the offending party, please discuss the matter either with your professor or our staff.

STDs/Unplanned Pregnancy

All sexually active people can contract or transmit a sexually transmitted disease (STD). These diseases are a health threat just as much abroad as in the United States, so take the same precautions that you would at home. Although you can purchase condoms at any pharmacy, we recommend you bring your own. If you use contraceptive pills, bring enough for your entire stay as well as your prescription (you will need it to pass through Customs).

Abortion is illegal in Argentina. Secret abortions are extremely dangerous. Reduce the risk of STDs and unplanned pregnancy by behaving responsibly and protecting yourself.





ACADEMICS

CREDITS AND GRADES

Your university will award all academic credit and grades for your study abroad course. If you have a question when you receive your grade for the program, please contact your professor directly.

ATTENDANCE

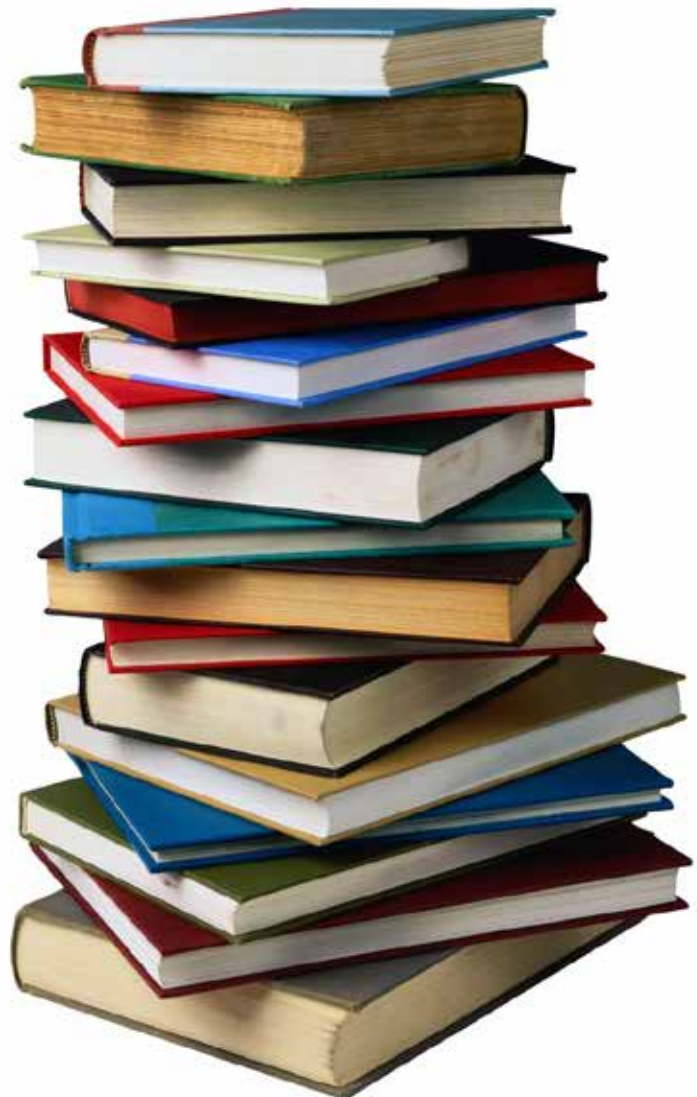
You are required to attend all regularly scheduled activities. Failure to attend classes/activities may result in a loss of credit.

COMPLETION OF COURSEWORK

You must complete all your academic obligations according to the requirements of your university.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You must comply with your university's rules for academic honesty and plagiarism. You will be subject to discipline if you violate these rules.





ANNEX



Suits, Dresses

Male		Female	
Argentina	US	Argentina	US
42	32	40	8
44	34	42	10
46	36	44	12
48	38	46	14
50	40	48	16
52	42	50	18
54	44	52	20

Shoes

Male		Female	
Argentina	US	Argentina	US
39	7	35	4
40	7.5	36	5
41	8	37	6
42	8.5	38.5	7.5
43	9.5	39.5	8.5
44	10.5	40	9
45	11.5	41	10
46	12	41.5	10.5

Shirts

Argentina	US
36	14
37	14.5
38	15
39	15.5
40	16
41	16.5
42	17
43	17.5
44	18

Weight, Distance and Volume Conversions

1 ounce	28.35 grams
1 pound	.45 kilograms
1 gram	0.04 ounces
1 kilogram	2.2 pounds
1 inch	2.54 centimeters
1 foot	.3 meters
1 yard	.91 meters
1 mile	1.61 kilometers
1 centimeter	.39 inches
1 meter	3.28 feet
1 kilometer	.62 miles
1 fluid ounce	29.57 milliliter
1 pint	.473 liters
1 quart	.94 liters
1 gallon	3.78 liters
1 liter	2.11 pints
1 liter	1.05 quarts
1 liter	.26 gallons
°C	5/9 (°F-32)
°F	9/5 (°C+32)

MENDOZA WEB SITES

www.experiencemendoza.com

www.mendoza.com.ar

www.mendoza.gov.ar

www.mendozadenoche.com.ar

www.mendozanoduerme.com.ar

RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS, CLUBS & ICE CREAM



Most of the following establishments have Web sites, are listed on TripAdvisor and can be found with a Google search. Look up the streets listed below with the map on the last page of this handbook or the map in the back of the Wine Republic magazine.

NEAR YOUR HOTEL

Mendoza Central Market (El Mercado Central)

Similar to a farmer's market in the U.S., here you will find a variety of stalls offering everything from exotic cheeses to seafood and fresh vegetables. There is also a food court with about 15 stands. A unique local treat are the inexpensive empanadas, pizza and beer on tap at the stall with tall stools and a U-shaped white countertop in the very middle of the market. Located on Las Heras street near the corner of Patricias Mendocinas (the entrance is small – look for it on the north side of Las Heras street). See <http://goo.gl/ORw7lw> Mon-Sat 8am-1pm and 4-7pm (only food court open in the siesta!). 5 minute walk from your hotel.

La Marchigiana

Will surprise you with its ambiance and great Italian pasta and International cuisine. Patricias Mendocinas 1550 (a half block from Las Heras avenue). Tel: 423-0751. 8 minute walk from your hotel.

Señor Buque

Sarmiento street west of Plaza Independencia is where most of Mendoza's high-end parrilla (asado bbq) restaurants are located, all of varying style and quality. Señor Buque is a good option, with attentive service and English speaking waiters. The menu is definitely for the carnivorous, with giant 700 gram t-bone steaks as well as kid goat specialties. There is a mixed grill with beef, chicken and pork. A salad bar offers 20 varieties of greens for those who like their veggies. Also on the menu is a variety of fresh pasta, seafood casseroles and paella, all of which can be washed down with wine from a list of 40 labels. On Sarmiento street between 25 de Mayo and Peru. 5 minute walk from the hotel.

Azafrán

Serves great Mendocino cuisine that embraces rustic roots and simple flavors but elevates it to fine dining with fanciful presentation and an experienced twist on some of the great Argentine classics. Try one of their signature dishes: gourmet empanadas or the mouthwatering petit filet mignon wrapped in phyllo dough. Sarmiento 765 (just up the street from Señor Buque). Tel: 429-4200. 5 minute walk from the hotel.



Tasca la Plaza

Home to an excellent tapas menu of mostly seafood dishes, this restaurant is also known for its intimate style. Montevideo 127. Tel: 420-0603. 7 minute walk from the hotel.

Believe Irish Pub

Undoubtedly one of the best bars to meet new people and one of the few places in Mendoza where you can sit on a stool at a bar and banter with the staff and punters over a tall brew. Excellent pub grub, a plethora of TV sport screens, and a resident DJ means there is never a dull moment. Colon 241. www.believeirishpub.com.ar 15 minute walk from the hotel.

Bute (for a slow lunch or a nice dinner)

One of the very few bar-restaurants in Mendoza with an American feel to it that includes a U-shaped wooden bar with stools and a menu with a lot more than pizzas and empanadas. Located on the corner of Chile and Espejo streets on the northwest corner of Plaza Independencia. 5 minute walk from the hotel.

La Barca (for a slow lunch)

The owners managed restaurants in the US for many years and speak excellent English. The food is homemade and fantastic but it is made to order and therefore slow to be served. Don't eat here when in a hurry! Espejo street between 9 de Julio and Espana. 8 minute walk from the hotel.

Sabores Criollos (for a quick lunch)

This "hole in the wall" was discovered by students a few years ago. Lomos, pizza, empanadas, choripan... pretty typical choices, but done pretty well, pretty quickly, and by some pretty nice folks! From El Portal, walk straight across Plaza Chile, turn left on Gutiérrez, and Sabores is on the left about 100 yards past 25 de Mayo. 3 min walk from the hotel.

Kingo (for a quick lunch)

A version of McDonald's with an Argentine twist. Great burgers and chicken sandwiches served not as fast as McDonald's, but close! Located on the southeast corner of Independence Plaza (corner of Patricias Mendocinas and Montevideo). 12 minute walk from the hotel.

Mr. Dog (for a super quick lunch)

Feeling like McDonald's but want to be loyal to Mendoza and the study abroad experience? Try this local chain that has been a huge success with inexpensive hot dogs, hamburgers and steak sandwiches. Located on the southeast corner of Las Heras and Patricias Mendocinas streets. 5 minute walk from the hotel.



ON ARISTEDES ST.

(like The Corner at UVa or “the strip” in a U.S. college town)

Antares Cervecería

Argentina’s premier micro-brewery has a chain of brew pubs in Buenos Aires, La Plata, Bariloche and now Mendoza. With premium hops, shiny packaging and the funkiest beer logo in Argentina, Antares offers seven types of beer including two stouts, a porter and a very refreshing grolsch. Arístides Villanueva 153. Tel: 423-8327. 15 minute walk from the hotel.

El Palenque

Offers basic fare such as hamburgers, steaks, steak fries (unique for Mendoza!) and outstanding empanadas. A laid-back atmosphere keeps this place busy all week long, so tables can be tough to come by. Hang in there though, the food and the prices justify the wait. El Palenque is a good place to get a feel for the local vibe but be warned, it can be noisy. Insider Tip: Ask about happy hour deals. They frequently offer two bottles of wine for the price of one. Arístides Villanueva 287. Tel: 154548023. 15 minute walk from the hotel.

El Patio de Jesus Maria

A pleasant all-you-can-eat grilled meat restaurant with, as the name suggests, a patio. Asado, steak, chicken and more steak. Located at the very top end of Aristedes street. 20 minute walk from the hotel.

DANCE CLUBS

Iskra

15 minutes by taxi from the hotel. This fashionable dance club (*boliche*) is 4km south of the city center. It features a large dance floor and two bars. Men must pay a cover but ladies usually get in free. Crowd is mostly 18 to 21. See iskradiscopub.com.ar. San Martin Sur 905. Gets going around 2:00 am Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

GEO

15 minutes by taxi from the hotel. It has a medium sized dance floor and three bars. Men must pay a cover but ladies usually get in free. Crowd is mostly 21 to 25. San Martin Sur 600 in Godoy Cruz. Gets going around 3:00 am Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Google Geo Disco.

Carilo

15 minutes by taxi from the hotel. This is one of Mendoza’s largest clubs and features five different dance areas, some inside and others out under the stars. Crowd is 21 to 30. Good only on Friday nights from November to March (Saturdays are for 40+). Closed in the winter.

ITALIAN-STYLE “GELATO” ICE CREAM

Mendocinos love ice cream and make some of the best in the country. Two of the best ice cream stores in Mendoza are Ferruccio Soppelsa and Perin (both family owned and operated for several generations). Classic flavors are dulce de leche, tiramisú, and strawberries and cream (*frutilla con crema*). Be sure to check out the wine-inspired flavors such as pineapple with Voignier, vanilla with Malbec, and peach with Syrah. Perin in particular has many unusual yet surprisingly good homemade flavors, such as Crema de Cielo. Join the local families who gather in the evening at these two legendary ice cream parlors on opposite corners of the Belgrano and Sarmiento/Emilio Civit intersection (where the light rail line crosses Sarmiento/Emilio Civit). There’s also a Soppelsa on the northeast corner of Plaza Independencia (Espejo and Patricias Mendocinas streets). Especially in the summer, these stores are open late (2:30 am or later). 8 minute walk from the hotel.



MENDOZA CITY CENTER

