Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students should prepare themselves by learning about their host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with [http://www.britannica.com/](http://www.britannica.com/) for a summary.
- Students should know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: [http://www.allyoucanread.com/buenos-aires-newspaper-argentina/](http://www.allyoucanread.com/buenos-aires-newspaper-argentina/)
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. Students may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before they leave home: [http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html](http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html)
- Customs and traditions in the host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions students may want to visit the following website: [www.hthstudents.com](http://www.hthstudents.com)
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website ([www.bc.edu/international](http://www.bc.edu/international)) and specifically to the Study Abroad Handbook for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to departure, students will meet with their International Study Advisor at an orientation to help them further prepare for their study-abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

- On-Site Coordinator Information:
  Sergio Serulnikov, the resident director and on-site coordinator, is available in case of emergency on a 24-hour-basis. Students should make a note of his contact information before they go abroad, and we encourage them to share this information with their families.
  Sergio Serulnikov, Resident Director
  Amsterdam 3758
  Ciudad de Buenos Aires (1417)
  Argentina
  Phone: (54-11) 4568-5642*
  Cell: from the US (54-11) 3644-6700*, from Argentina 15-3644-6700
  serulnik@bc.edu
  *When dialing from the U.S., students must dial 011 first.
- Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA)
  Alejandro Pertini
  Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación Académica
  E-mail: alejandra_pertini@uca.edu.ar
- University Address
Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Students will be met at the Buenos Aires airport and picked up, provided they supply necessary travel information one month prior to arrival to the resident director, Sergio Serulnikov.
- All students are required to obtain a student visa soon after their arrival in Argentina. The university will guide students through the visa process; however, students are responsible for reading all information and following all instructions provided by the university. All university-scheduled meetings regarding visas are mandatory. For more information about passports and visas, please visit: http://embassyofargentina.us/embassyofargentina.us/v2011/en/consularsection/tramites/studentvisa.htm
- Students will receive pre-departure orientation information via e-mail.
- All workshops and orientations are mandatory.

Academics
Program Dates and Academic Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>Spring 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 29th:</strong> Arrival date</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>July 1st-19th:</strong> Intensive Spanish language course</td>
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<td><strong>July 22nd-26th:</strong> Orientation and Registration Week</td>
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<td><strong>August 5th-12th:</strong> Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November 29th:</strong> Classes End</td>
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<td><strong>December 7th:</strong> PEL only Departure Date</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November 29th- December 22nd:</strong> Final Exam Period (regular courses)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December 23rd:</strong> Departure date</td>
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*For Fall 2014, Fall 2013 dates are posted for approximate reference. Students should not purchase airline tickets until dates are posted.*

** Each student’s course schedule will determine his or her return date. Students who are not sure which type of classes they will take (PEL, Regulares, or a mix) should buy a plane ticket with an open return.

- BC-sponsored activities:
  - The activities vary depending on the season, but the program may include the following types of cultural events, day trips, and weekend excursions:
    - Arrival and Host Family Introductions
    - Mate de Bienvenida
    - Welcome Dinner
    - Navigating Buenos Aires City Tours
    - Argentine Dancing
The Beat of Buenos Aires
Academic Orientation
Day Trip to El Tigre
Overnight Excursion to Salta
Feria de Mataderos
Fútbol
Day Trip to La Cinacina Estancia
Overnight Excursion to Iguazú Falls
Closing Merienda

Unless otherwise noted, dress is appropriate casual: no sweatpants, T-shirts with writing, or torn jeans. If there is an event entrance fee, the Boston College program fee will cover the cost, unless noted otherwise. For excursions, BC will pay for roundtrip travel and lodging. Students should notify Sergio Serulnikov at least five days in advance if you cannot attend an event. It is also very important that students are at the specified meeting places on time.

- For course selection information, please refer to OIP Program Description Course Catalog.
- Course approval information will be found at: http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html
- Information about Transcripts and grades is available at: http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html
- As a BC student, you are required to take a full load of courses at your host institution abroad. BC program participants can refer to the course load requirement table.
- If you have a learning disability, you should discuss with your ISA whether your host university is able to make appropriate accommodations; if so, bring documentation from your doctor or the BC Disabilities Office to support any request for accommodation at your host university.

Housing

- All BC students will live with an Argentine host family during the orientation and intensive language course for their first month in Buenos Aires. One month prior to their arrival in Buenos Aires, the on-site coordinator will email students with the host family options so that students can express their preferences for housing assignments. Each host family has experience hosting international students, internet access, and lives in a safe neighborhood close to public transportation. In general, the students cannot cook in homestays but are provided breakfast and dinner and are allowed to store food in the refrigerator. If you have any questions about homestays, please direct them to the program coordinator, Sergio Serulnikov.
- Boston College recommends that students remain in their homestay for the duration of the semester. However, students may choose to move into an apartment in Buenos Aires after their first month. If students decide to move from their homestays they will be responsible for finding their own rental housing, which then must be approved by the on-site coordinator. The coordinator can provide information to assist students in finding an apartment during the orientation activities in Buenos Aires. This assistance can include providing contact information for trusted realtors, giving advice on neighborhoods, leases, and fees, and answering any questions about the rental process. Once students have selected their housing they should contact Sergio Serulnikov directly for approval.
Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: 
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/financesawards.html

Host families typically provide breakfast and dinner during the week days. Shared apartments must provide meals.

Transportation expenses are not covered by the program.

Students are encouraged to orient themselves before arriving in Buenos Aires using this custom google map.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Students must make sure that they have had any required or recommended vaccinations for their travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.

- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by OIP’s blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html. You are encouraged to consult HTH on-line services for health and safety information about all world destinations, travel illnesses, and as a resource for international medical providers.

- Students are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: http://www.state.gov/ for important travel information including travel advisories.

- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. Students will have a smoother transition by making sure that they prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
  http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
  http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html

- Be aware that the manner in which medical help is obtained, the way patients are treated, the conditions of medical facilities, and how health care is afforded may be quite different from U.S. practices. U.S. health care values, assumptions, and methods are not universally practiced; even notions regarding the onset of an illness or the timing of expert attention may be considered culturally based.

- Refer to your Study Abroad Handbook for further information about health and safety issues including women, LGBT, disabled people and others.

- In the event of a large-scale emergency, such as a natural disaster, you should first text your onsite coordinator; follow the emergency procedures discussed in the onsite orientation; and call or text your parents to let them know where you are and that you are safe.

- The emergency numbers in Argentina are: 101 (Police), 100 (Fire), 107 (Ambulance)

- Students are required to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety:
  http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html

BC emergency contact information:
OIP: (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
BCPD: (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)

Alcohol and Drugs
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. Students are subject to the laws of their host country, so if students choose to drink alcohol abroad, they should always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about their host country’s laws by visiting:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses

Finances
• The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/international/financesawards.html
• Banking information: Students are encouraged to use ATM machines. Please contact on-site coordinator.
• Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html

Returning to BC
• Students should complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
• Students may mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting oipexchange@bc.edu
• It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock.

References
• Suggested readings:
  “Argentina” in Thomas E. Skidmore & Peter H. Smith’s Modern Latin America
  A Short History of the Argentinians, Félix Luna
  Argentina 1516-1997. From Spanish Colonization to Alfonsin, David Rock.
  http://www.uca.edu.ar/
  http://www.buenosaires.com
  www.migraciones.gov.ar
  www.mrecic.gov.ar
• Student and parent guides at http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html