

## College of the Holy Cross Study Abroad Program Buenos Aires, Argentina

### Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires

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#### The City

Buenos Aires is the capital of the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world and, in many ways, an ideal site for study abroad because of its rich cultural offerings and the Spanish faculty's ties to the area. Settled in the early sixteenth century, Argentina declared its independence from Spain in 1816 and rose to economic and world prominence in the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. Argentina, and especially Buenos Aires, perched on the mouth of the vast Río de Plata, is a prime example of the distinct Southern Cone culture, characterized by European influences, a more cosmopolitan flair, greater development and greater economic and political stability in recent years in comparison with the rest of

Latin America. The unique culture of Buenos Aires is the result of a variety of influences: the enormous influx of immigrants from European countries, such as Italy, England, Germany, etc. to the cities of the Southern Cone beginning in the nineteenth century; the Hispanic population; and, a unique gaucho heritage blending indigenous and Hispanic cultural traditions. Residents enjoy hundreds of galleries and museums, numerous historical and architectural monuments, hundreds of movie and performance venues, (the Colón Theater garners world-wide distinction) and partake in an active café culture which takes place in the city's many broad avenues and open plazas.

#### The University

The University's main website explains its Jesuit origin, citing 1622 as the year Jesuits founded the first Argentinean University, and 1944 the year the Instituto Superior de Filosofía was founded from that institution and finally that in 1955 the Universidad del Salvador opened its doors. The USAL is an urban campus with 16,000 students, 71 undergraduate majors and 81 graduate degrees and certificates. The most popular departments and schools are Philosophy, History, Language and Literature, Medicine, Psychology and Educational Psychology and Social Sciences. The majority of USAL student population is middle class and live in Buenos Aires while about 30% hail from outside the city. The University's Mission is: "The holistic education – scientific, Liberal Arts and Christian—of all students regardless of degree or major, in order to develop professionals, academics and researchers as well as the promotion of scientific research that balances science and faith."

#### Orientation Program

There will be a four week language and culture orientation with excursions to other sites in Argentina. Students will get the opportunity to polish their Spanish as well as learn about their new adopted city. The orientation language classes are held at the Universidad del Salvador. Excursions begin during the orientation period and continue into the semester and may include: Iguazú, Salta, and Mendoza.

**Academic Advisor:** Nicolas Koralsky

### **Academic year program**

In Argentina, the academic year does not take place during the same months as in the United States. The program presents the options for studying a semester or a year in Argentina. In the year-long option, students depart the first weekend in February and return in early November or, following the regular US calendar, departing in June, and returning on July. The Argentine summer break starts in early November and runs through mid-March. The spring semester runs from February to the first week of July and the fall from mid-June to end of November.

### **Course Load**

Usually a full course load abroad is equal to a full course load at Holy Cross. However, since students are taking their courses in a foreign language, a full course load in these programs will be slightly less than that required of local students. Students must take a mandatory Spanish course if they do not place out of it at the end of the orientation period. If they place out of the Spanish class, they must take at least one Argentine content course (literature, history, etc.) No credit is given for the orientation course, but students receive a grade for the course on their Holy Cross transcript. For a list of courses please visit our website. <http://holycross.edu/engaged-learning/study-abroad/academic-and-cultural-immersion/universidad-del-salvador>

Please note that students should not take more than the equivalent of four Holy Cross credits within their major. Moreover, for Political Science students can take a maximum of 3 (one-semester) courses for major credit and for Economics and Economics/ Accounting a maximum of 2(one-semester) courses (one upper- and one lower-level elective) for major credit.

### **Housing**

As with most Study Abroad Programs where a second language is required, students will be placed with carefully-selected host families, where they will receive morning and evening meals, a private room, Internet, and at least some time set for conversation and advice.

### **Costs**

You will be billed Holy Cross tuition as well as standard Holy Cross room and half board charges. Your account will receive a credit to help defray travel costs. These bills and credits will come directly from the Bursar's office at the College of the Holy Cross. These charges cover the tuition for the Orientation program, room, & half board; academic year tuition, room, & half board; an academic year language program; academic support; academic and cultural advisors; bus passes; and selected excursions during the Orientation and the academic year. Students should budget for both visa expenses and incidental expenses.

### **Independent Cultural Immersion Project (ICIP)**

The ICIP is an activity paired with a reflection paper. Successful completion of the project is a normal part of the academic requirement. You may fulfill the ICIP as an internship, as community service, or by "following your passion." Please note that in Argentina, internships are harder to come by and may require a good deal of personal initiative. This will be graded by the overseas advisor who will notify us of the official grade. The ICIP will appear on your Holy Cross transcript with the grade given by the overseas advisor. It does not become part of your thirty-two courses required for you to graduate. A much extended description of the project can be found on the Study Abroad web site.

### **Financial Aid**

For Holy Cross sponsored programs, financial aid is available to students who qualify with the exception of Alumni Memorial Scholarships, which do not travel abroad. Generally, the total financial burden on the family for a student to study abroad should not be significantly more than for a student remaining at Holy Cross. A financial aid package may be different from what a student receives at Holy Cross.