

# STUDENT ´S GUIDE



**BUENOS AIRES**

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**ARGENTINA**  
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## SWARTHMORE BUENOS AIRES

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# SWARTHMORE BUENOS AIRES

Swarthmore in Buenos Aires program is a project that aims at offering a different experience to the students that are interested in knowing a Latin American country with an important cultural tradition and an outstanding university and academic level.

Swarthmore in Buenos Aires program is based within the premises of the Universidad de San Martín, one of Argentina's recently created public universities which has experienced a remarkable growth in these last years.

## 1. General information for the students

Buenos Aires is a city with a wide range of cultural and gastronomic alternatives. To make the most of your experience here, we want you to have as much information as you can from the moment you decide to come to Buenos Aires.

### 1.1 Weather

In Argentina we use the Celsius Degree Scale (0° Celsius = 32° Fahrenheit). During winter (June-September), we have a temperature of 8°C-10°C. In summer (December-March), temperatures reach up to 36°C-37°C, with a mean of 28°C. In spring (September-December) and fall (March-June), temperature is around 22°C.

### 1.2 Currency and Money Exchange

The legal currency in Argentina is the PESO (\$). For each US Dollar, you can obtain around 3,70 pesos.

You can exchange dollars with your passport in hand both in Banks and in Money Exchange offices.

## ADDRESSES FOR MONEY EXCHANGE:

CAMBIO TOPAZ S.R.L.  
URUGUAY 368 - Local 1  
4374-4336

BANCO PIANO  
SAN MARTÍN 345  
4321-9200  
AVDA CABILDO 1181  
4782-4127

In Argentina, there are bills for 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 pesos, and coins for 1 peso, 50 centavos (cents), 25 centavos, 10 centavos and 5 centavos.

Not all the places have the necessary change to break a 100 or a 50 pesos bill, so it is advisable to have low denomination bills at hand to pay for daily things.

There is a widely developed network of ATMs (Cajeros automáticos), clearly identified throughout the city. Most of them only give out pesos, but it is possible to find some ATMs that also provide dollars (these have special identifications and labels).

In most of the shops you can pay with credit card (tarjeta de crédito), but is important to first check if there are extra charges for paying with credit card (in some cases, there is a surcharge of a 10%).

If you are travelling with TRAVELER´S CHECKS, you can exchange them in American Express´ office (the address is Arenales 707).

### 1.3 Means of transportation in the city

Buenos Aires provides a complete network of public means of transportation with an extended timetable.

**BUSES (COLECTIVOS):** the *colectivos* network covers Buenos Aires city and its outskirts. It is important that, before taking a bus, you ask for precise directions on where to take the bus and where to get down, for the *colectivos*´ routes are often complicated and can be misleading even for the locals. We suggest you buy a *Guía T*, a city map and guide that also provides

*colectivos*, subway and train routes. It costs around 5\$ and you can buy it in any newsstand.

A trip in *colectivo* costs between \$ 1.10 and \$ 1.25 for city routes. It is extremely necessary having coins, so that you can use the machine which provides the ticket.

Although the bus service is active 24/7, at night and during the weekends, they have less frequency.

**SUBWAY (SUBTE):** the Subway system covers the main points of the city. There are six lines: A (light blue), B (red), C (blue), D (green), E (purple) y H (yellow), and you can connect between the lines with the same ticket. It is the fastest way to travel, although in rush hour it can get uncomfortable because lots of people take the Subway. One ticket costs \$1.10, and the Subway runs between 6.30 am and 10.30 pm.

**TRAINS:** the railway network is used especially to travel from neighborhoods that are far from the center to downtown Buenos Aires. We strongly recommend that you do not travel by train on your own, for some train lines are not safe (many people get robbed). It is better to take a *colectivo*, even if the trip takes more time.

**TAXIS:** we recommend not to take *any* taxi. If you are going to take a cab on the street, make sure it has the proper identification of a Radio-Taxi company. The name of the company should be displayed on the doors of the car. Many taxis also have identification on the roof.

If you are in a specific place (e.g. a house or a club), a radio-taxi can pick you up at that address for no extra charge.

#### Radio-Taxis:

PREMIUM: 5238-0000

MI TAXI: 4931-1200

ONDA VERDE: 4867-0000

For almost the same cost, you can call a REMISE, a private car that acts as a taxi and that are widely used in the city. Remises will only pick you up if you are in a specific place (e.g. a house or a club)

REMISES RÍO DE LA PLATA: 4783-9556/4787-5277

REMISES UNIVERSAL: 4315-6555

REMISES OLIMPIA: 4545-4400

## 1.4 How to get to the airport and the Bus Central Station.

Buenos Aires´ International airport is located in Ezeiza (Province of Buenos Aires), 35 km from downtown Buenos Aires.

From/to the airport you can take special buses (from a company named "Manuel Tienda León"), taxis or remises.

### Buses:

MANUEL TIENDA LEÓN: 4314-3636 and 4315-5115

You can also use the taxi and remise companies we have already informed you about. Never accept the transportation services that are announced out loud at the airport: *they are not trustworthy.*

If you travel to the provinces of the interior of the country, you can take a bus or a plane. Aeroparque Jorge Newberry, an airport located within the city boundaries, is the terminal for domestic flights.

Bus Central Station is located in Retiro area. For further information on bus schedules, you can call 4310-0700.

Guía T can help you find out how to get from your lodging place to the Aeroparque and the Bus Central Station.

## 1.5 Telephone numbers

EMERGENCIAS (police, ambulance, fire department): 911

INFORMATION ON TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 110

PHONE TECHNICAL SERVICE: 114

U.S. EMBASSY IN ARGENTINA: (emergencies of US citizens): 5777.4354 (After hours calls: 5777.4873)

## Other useful numbers:

Aerolíneas Argentinas: 4.320.2329

American Airlines: 4.318.1111

Lan Chile: 4.378.2222

United Airlines: 4.316.0777

Varig: 4.329.9201

United Airlines : 4316.0777

Correo Central (Post Office Central): 4.316.3000

FedEx: 4.630.0300

Western Union: 4.311.4785

Buquebus (trips to Uruguay): 4316.6500

## 1.6 International calls:

You can buy phone cards both for international and local calls. Each card has specific instructions for their correct use. Nevertheless, if you wish to make a direct international call (i.e. without a card), these are the steps you should follow:

1. Dial 00
2. Dial the country code
3. Dial the city code
4. Dial the phone number you want to reach

For example, to call a friend in New York, you should dial:

1. 00
2. 1 (US code)
3. 212 (New York code)
4. your friend's phone number

## 1. 7 Medical services

Swarthmore in Buenos Aires Program has a primary physician, Dr. Eduardo Moon. You can call him to arrange an appointment. His phone numbers are 4.672.4896 and 15.5.591.9793.

Dr. Moon can see you at his office or, if necessary, he can go to your house. The student has to pay for the medical expenses. If your health insurance has a reimbursement system, you have to ask Dr. Moon for an invoice in order to get the reimbursement when you get back to the US.

Dr Moon can also help you and orientate you if you need to see a specialist. We also have a list of specialists (gynecologist, dentist, etc) to provide you with in case you need them.

Swarthmore in Buenos Aires Program is not responsible for the health system the students choose, but it is mandatory that the students come to Buenos Aires with a health insurance that can cover an emergency. It is important that the insurance the students hire pays for the admission in a clinic and emergency practices in Argentina. The students should contact the health insurance company in advance to ask for the telephone numbers and the general information of the clinics in Argentina they have agreements with.

The following is a list of suggested clinics and hospitals you can attend if there is an emergency. They all have E.R. rooms.

### **HOSPITAL ALEMAN**

Avda. Pueyrredón 1640

Tel. 4805-6087 o 4821-1700

(credit cards accepted: Diners, American Express, Visa and Mastercard)

### **HOSPITAL ITALIANO**

Gascón 450

Tel: 4959-0200

### **CLINICA BAZTERRICA**

Juncal 3002

Tel: 4821-1600

(credit cards accepted)

### **SANATORIO MATER DEI**

San Martín de Tours 2952

Tel: 4809-5555

(they do not accept credit cards)

## **CENTRO DE OJOS BUENOS AIRES**

Azcuénaga 1677

Tel: 4805-9035 / 8724

## **2. Information on daily life**

When making the decision to live for some time in a different country, with a different culture, we can get a grasp of that country's daily life. Cultural shock may complicate your staying, that is why it is very important you know how to handle electrical and home appliances perfectly, and every other artifact that you may have at your residence place and that you do not know how to use.

### **2.1 Electricity and home appliances**

In Argentina, electricity runs at 220 V. US electrical appliances, such as computers, are configured for 110 V, so you have to buy an electricity adapter (that cost around 30 U\$) to make sure your appliances won't break down. Stoves and ovens are not electric, they use gas, so it is very important to be extra careful with the gas valves whenever you cook. Please make sure you ask the family that lodges you how to handle the gas stove before using it.

### **2.2 Leisure and cultural activities**

Buenos Aires offers a wide range of leisure, cultural, and tourist activities. Many of them will be organized by Swarthmore in Buenos Aires Program, but there are many more options that can be of interest.

**ASATEJ** (ISIC Travel agency) 4.580.8501 // 4.312.0101

**Aeropuerto de Ezeiza** (flights information): 5.480.6111

**Manuel Tienda León** (trips to and from the airport of Ezeiza): 4393.4454

**Centro Cultural Recoleta**: 4803.1041 (exhibitions, concerts)

**Centro Cultural San Martín**: 4.374.1251 (theatre plays, movies)

**Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas**: 4954.5521 / 4954.5523 (wide variety of courses. Very popular among Argentine students)

**Teatro Colón**: 4.378.7100

## 2.3 Rough estimate of daily life in Buenos Aires

As you surely know, some costs and prices change when you come to Argentina. The following list can be helpful to orientate you when planning your budget:

Movie ticket: \$18

Theatre play ticket: \$40

Club ticket: \$30

A coffee in a bar: \$5-6

A beer in a bar: \$10-12

Dinner in a restaurant: \$40