



Mary Prager. Swarthmore Program in Buenos Aires, 2º 2009.

Unlike at Swarthmore, a social life is not simply given to you when you are studying abroad. It's really on each student to build a life for herself. I wanted to meet and interact with locals in a way that would be authentic for me. I wanted to avoid becoming immersed in the foreign student scene. I took a few dance classes and a singing course, and made an effort to meet people who are interested in Japanese culture. I also took guitar lessons with a folk musician and attended several of his concerts. My flatmates and I took advantage of local cinema offerings, and participated in social and political events, like cultural festivals, commemorations of atrocities committed during the most recent dictatorship, and the gay pride parade. The Swarthmore program informed us about these kinds of opportunities. But it was also essential that we look information up online and keep our eyes open. Overall, I think the program could have made it easier for us to meet Argentines. For example, the program might make an arrangement with local universities. But I don't know if such encounters would have felt natural and comfortable, or at least not completely contrived. I am very happy to share more information about my social experience in Buenos Aires through e-mail or conversation.