



ACADEMIC STUDIES ABROAD

Student Visa Information for Argentina

Reciprocity Fee

On December 20, 2009, the government of Argentina began charging U.S. citizens a “reciprocity fee” of USD\$140 when they arrive at Buenos Aires (EZE) airport. (The fee is reciprocal because Argentines are charged USD\$140 when they enter the U.S.) Once paid, the fee permits multiple entries into Argentina for ten years, in accordance with United States visa reciprocity. The fee can be paid in U.S. dollars cash, by credit card, or travelers checks. **This means that you should expect to pay this reciprocity fee of US\$140 when you arrive at EZE airport.**

The reciprocity fee is NOT your visa; it is a fee that is separate from and in addition to the visa. It simply allows you to enter Argentina as a tourist. **You will still have to go through the process to get your visa, as described below.**

Student Visa

There are basically 3 types of possible visas for students going to Argentina. **The type of visa you need and the necessary documents and fees depend on your country of birth.** Please read this document to find out which type of visa you need.

ASA’s on-site director in Buenos Aires will assist you with the visa process, but it is ultimately up to YOU, the student, to make sure you obtain your visa. The Universidad de Belgrano will not allow you to take your final exams unless you provide them with a photocopy of your visa!

Please be aware that visa requirements and fees are SUBJECT TO CHANGE without prior notice. Visa requirements and fees are determined solely by the government of Argentina. Although ASA makes every effort to stay updated on the most current visa requirements, we are not responsible for changes in visa requirements and fees because they can happen without prior notice. Above all, please understand that getting a visa for any country involves a lot of “red tape,” so it is important for students to be patient and comply with the visa requirements.

I. **“Residencia Transitoria Especial”** – If you were born in the United States (or in one of the other “non-Mercosur” countries listed in Section III), and you will study in Argentina for 6 months or less (i.e. one semester), you will have to apply for Special Transitory Residence within 30 days of arriving in Argentina.

To apply for Special Transitory Residence, you need to present the following documents and fee in person, by appointment, at the *Dirección Nacional de Migraciones* (Immigration Office) in Buenos Aires:

- Passport (must be valid for at least 3 months beyond your proposed return date from Argentina)
- Photocopies of your ENTIRE passport including ALL pages – even the blank pages
- 2 passport photos (4 cm. by 4 cm.) with a blue background. You can get these taken in Buenos Aires.
- Registration Certificate from the Universidad de Belgrano, showing the duration of your study period. This will be issued to you by the university, after you arrive.
- Criminal Records Certificate from Argentina. The purpose of this is to show that you do not have a criminal record in the country of Argentina. You will have to go to the *Registro Nacional de Reincidencia y Estadística Criminal* to obtain this document, for a fee of 25 pesos (approx. US\$8). (Address of this office: Piedras 115, Buenos Aires.)
- Immigration tax in cash – 300 pesos (approx. US\$100).
- **The total cost is approx. US\$108 – be sure to budget for this.** (Actual cost will vary depending on the exchange rate at the time you pay it. For the current exchange rate, go to www.xe.com.)

II. **“Residencia Temporaria”** - If you were born in one of the following MERCOSUR countries, you will have to apply for Temporary Residence within 30 days of arriving in Argentina: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela. This will allow you to study in Argentina for up to 2 years.

If you were born in the United States (or in one of the “non-Mercosur” countries listed in Section III), and you plan to study in Argentina for more than 6 months, you will also need to apply for Temporary Residence.

To apply for Temporary Residence, you need to present the following documents and fee in person, by appointment, at the *Dirección Nacional de Migraciones* (Immigration Office) in Buenos Aires:

- Passport (must be valid for at least 3 months beyond your proposed return date from Argentina)
- Photocopies of your ENTIRE passport including ALL pages – even the blank pages
- 2 passport photos (4 cm. by 4 cm.) with a blue background. You can get these taken in Buenos Aires.
- Registration Certificate from the Universidad de Belgrano, showing the duration of your study period. This will be issued to you by the university, after you arrive.
- Criminal Records Certificate from Argentina. The purpose of this is to show that you do not have a criminal record in the country of Argentina. You will have to go to the *Registro Nacional de Reincidencia y Estadística Criminal* to obtain this document, for a fee of 25 pesos (approx. US\$8). (Address of this office: Piedras 115, Buenos Aires.)
- Criminal Records Certificate from your country of birth if you lived there anytime after you turned 18. (If you only lived in your birth country when you were 17 or younger, you don't need the certificate because you were a minor.) In addition, you will have to get a Criminal Records Certificate from all the countries in which you have resided during the last five (5) years. The document(s) must be legalized by the Argentine Consulate or certified with the Apostille of The Hague. If you have resided in the U.S. during the last 5 years, your Criminal History Record must be requested from the FBI (<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/fprequest.htm>). *We strongly recommend that you request this prior to departure because in the case of the FBI, it may take them 6 weeks or more to issue your Criminal Records Certificate!*
- Immigration tax in cash – for students born in the U.S. or one of the non-Mercosur countries listed in Section III, the fee is 600 pesos (approx. US\$200); for students born in one of the Mercosur countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay or Venezuela), the fee is 300 pesos (approx. US\$100). Actual cost of the visa will vary depending on the exchange rate at the time you pay it. For the current exchange rate, go to www.xe.com.

III. Mercosur vs. Non-Mercosur Countries

The MERCOSUR countries are: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The non-Mercosur countries are: United States, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Holland, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Nicaragua, Norway, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom (UK), Vatican City and Yugoslavia

► **If your country of birth is NOT listed above, you will have to obtain a Student Visa prior to departure at the Consulate of Argentina in your country of residence. We recommend submitting your visa application no less than 60 days prior to departure, in order for your visa to be processed before your departure.** For students residing in the United States, the Consulate to which you must apply depends on your state of residence. Each Consulate has a jurisdiction of states for which they are responsible. For a list of Argentine Consulates in the U.S. and their jurisdictions, go to <http://www.traveldocs.com/ar/embassy.htm>.