



# Latin American Culture and Spanish Language in Mendoza, Argentina

**May 18 - June 5, 2015**

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SOA), in cooperation with the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Honors Program and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

NIU students will be studying at the Centro de Español como Lengua Extranjera (CELE) at the Universidad Nacional del Cuyo in Mendoza, Argentina. CELE already assists several U.S. universities with study abroad program (such as University of California-Davis, University of Hawaii and Baylor University). Through two very successful Fulbright exchanges, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at NIU has strong ties to the Universidad Nacional del Cuyo. One of our Fulbright Exchanges was with Ms. Amparo Argerich who is the director of the CELE office that coordinates study abroad programs with U.S. universities. One of the long-term goals of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures was to establish a successful study abroad program to take advantage of the excellent relationships we developed with the faculty at the Universidad Nacional del Cuyo.

The Universidad Nacional del Cuyo is also an excellent choice because it is one of the most respected public universities outside of Buenos Aires. In many ways it is comparable to NIU: it has a very strong regional presence, drawing many students from the area, but it also has a healthy mix of foreign students from outside of Argentina.



**PROGRAM DATES:** The program will officially begin on Monday, May 18, 2015 in Mendoza, Argentina, and will end on Friday, June 5, 2015. Students will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements in order to arrive in Mendoza, Argentina on Sunday, May 17, 2015. (In order to avoid travel between international and regional airports in Buenos Aires, students are strongly encouraged to fly from Chicago to Santiago, Chile and then from Santiago to Mendoza).

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** Frances Jaeger, associate professor of Spanish of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Jaeger has been teaching Spanish language and Spanish-American literature and culture courses at NIU since 2000. As a student who lived and studied in Barcelona, Spain for two years, she understands the importance of study abroad to achieve a more nuanced understanding of foreign countries and cultures. While at NIU, she was instrumental in reviving the Study Abroad program in Costa Rica (which she directed for two years) and was involved in two Fulbright exchanges with faculty from Mendoza, Argentina. As a specialist in contemporary Spanish-American literature, she has lived and/or traveled in many Latin American countries (Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Mexico).

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES:**

The primary purpose of this program is to provide participants with the opportunity to incorporate a study abroad experience early in their college careers. For this reason, the ideal candidates for this program would have sophomore standing at the beginning of this program (although we would not rule out interested juniors or seniors). Since the objective of the program is to introduce students to Argentine and Latin American culture, the courses and the program are designed to be a gateway to pursue other interests and fields. Students are provided with the option to choose from three possible three-credit courses: *Argentine Cinema* (taught in English), *Understanding Latin America* (taught in English) and *FLSP 202 Intermediate Spanish II* (taught in Spanish). Each choice allows the student to tailor the program to individual needs or interests. For example, some students may wish to complete their foreign language requirement with FLSP 202 while having a study abroad experience. It is possible that the experience of studying in Argentina will encourage them to pursue a foreign language major or minor. Likewise, the introductory nature of the Argentine culture through film or Understanding Latin America may stimulate an interest in film studies, anthropology, history, economics, biology, political science or environmental studies.

In addition to the three credit course of their choice, all students will participate in a one credit Introduction to Viticulture and Enology. The objective of this course is to take advantage of Mendoza's unique role as a world renowned wine producing region. Part of this class would involve visiting large and small (boutique) vineyards in order to gaining an understanding of the types of



Building where classes will be held at the Universidad Nacional del Cuyo.



wine and the steps of wine production. Moreover, since these vineyards also have hospitality branches with restaurants and retail outlets, students will be introduced to the business side of wine production. Again, in keeping with the introductory nature of this program, this class may spark an interest in the wine industry. At the very least, this course will serve as a compliment to the business etiquette classes offered through the College of Business in that students will acquire a basic understanding of wine that would be beneficial in formal, professional functions and settings.

In short, this program does not require prerequisites (except for students opting for FLSP 202) or a specific major because its purpose is to get students to think globally early on when they are still making decisions regarding their majors or possible career paths. The point of this program is to pique their interest so that they will return to NIU with a stronger commitment to a global worldview when deciding on their own life path. All students will receive 4 credit hours upon successful completion of the program.

**PROGRAM SITE(S):** This program will take place at the Universidad Nacional del Cuyo in Mendoza, Argentina.



Mendoza is a city located in the province of Mendoza in western Argentina. Since this province borders Chile, Mendoza is very close to the Andes mountain range, making it an ideal location to



pursue outdoor sports and adventure travel. The larger Mendoza metropolitan area has about 1 million inhabitants, so the city offers many urban amenities such as pedestrian zones, sidewalk cafés, modern malls, Argentine and international restaurants and interesting shops. Two major industries in Mendoza are wine and olive oil, so the city is surrounded by vineyards and olive groves. Ranked as one of the top nine sites for wine in the world, Mendoza has developed a very successful niche as a wine tourist destination. Mendoza is approximately 2,500 ft above sea level, and the climate is arid (semi-desert). The study abroad program would take place during the Southern Hemisphere's fall, so expected average temperatures would be in the 50s-60s F (actually temperature may be higher or lower).

The Universidad Nacional del Cuyo is the major public university of Mendoza. Currently it has an enrolled of about 35,000 distributed among 12 academic schools. Our program is administered through the Centro de Español como Lengua Extranjera (CELE), so while one course will be taught the NIU faculty member, the other courses will be led by Universidad Nacional del Cuyo faculty and staff.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** While the one-credit course in Viticulture and Enology automatically includes field trips to local vineyards, there are two additional weekend excursions included in the program. One trip is an excursion to the Andes mountains (from the Argentine side) that includes an overnight stay. The second excursion is a day trip (either a visit to a local *finca* to enjoy an Argentine *asado* or a visit to explore the desert). The costs of these excursions are included in the price of the program, and students are obligated to participate in these excursions as part of the program. Informally, Dr. Jaeger will offer weekly exploratory walks in Mendoza in order to view sights of interests. Participation in these walks are optional.



During their stay in Mendoza, students will live with local host families. The families selected will speak English (if the students do not speak Spanish). Typically two students will house with one host family, which means that students may have to share rooms. Laundry, local phone calls and some meals are automatically included with the home stay.



**PROGRAM AUDIENCE:** Space is limited and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. The program is designed for undergraduates only. Students from all majors are welcome since possible course topics spans a range of potential interests. Given the variety of options available, students may elect this program to complete their foreign language requirement with FLSP 202 or may wish to use one of the other courses to complete a 300-level elective.

**INSTRUCTION METHOD:** All classes are held on the Universidad Nacional del Cuyo (Mendoza campus). While the Understanding Latin America course will be taught by Dr. Jaeger, all other courses will be taught by Universidad Nacional del Cuyo faculty and staff. Typically, the classes

will be a combination of lecture and discussion. While all classes will require reading of textbooks and articles, the nature of written and oral assignments will vary in each course. The Introduction to Viticulture and Enology will include some lecture as well as field trips and on-site wine tastings.

**PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT:** For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive a total of 4 semester hours of undergraduate credit. All students will participate in the *Introduction to Viticulture and Enology* class (1 credit hour) and choose one three-credit course from the following three options. Students must enroll in the three-credit course in order to qualify for the program. It is not possible to participate in the program for only one credit.

<b>UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT:</b>	
<b>FLSP 300 Special Topics</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Understanding Latin America is an introductory course which analyzes the various factors (economic, environmental, political, biological, historical) that have shaped Spanish-speaking Latin America. Particular focus is on how the exploration and development of Latin America formed the globalized world.	
OR	
<b>FLSP 202 Intermediate Spanish II</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> Further development of the skills of reading, writing, listening comprehension and speaking. Grammatical problems; reading of literary and nonliterary texts. Conducted in Spanish. <b>Prerequisite:</b> FLSP 201 or placement in FLSP 202 through a placement test.	
OR	
<b>INTL 300 Argentine Cinema</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> An introductory course into contemporary Argentine cinema with special attention devoted to cultural topics.	
AND	
<b>INTL 200 Introduction to Viticulture and Enology</b>	<b>1 semester hour</b>
<b>Description:</b> An introduction into the production of wine. This course includes field trips to vineyards as well as lecture and discussion on how wine is made and marketed in Mendoza.	

**HONORS CREDIT:** Qualified students may also elect to receive Honors credit for any study abroad course(s) with the approval of the NIU faculty or instructor responsible for the course. For more information please contact the University Honors Office.

**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES:** The program is open to all undergraduates who meet the NIU general admission requirements and have at least sophomore standing. While there is no Spanish language requirement for this program, students who speak some Spanish will find it easier to manage day-to-day situations. Currently enrolled students must meet College of Liberal Arts and Sciences course GPA requirements.

Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic or disciplinary probation are not eligible to participate in study abroad programs. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate course requirements.**

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have **not** previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not **currently** enrolled at NIU, should ask the Registrar at their institution to forward an official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

**APPLICATION:** Click [Latin American Culture and Spanish Language in Mendoza, Argentina](https://niu.studioabroad.com) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for "Argentina" or the program name to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the <https://niu.studioabroad.com> website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu).

**\$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT:** A \$200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The \$200 is broken down into \$100 for the non-refundable application fee and \$100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The \$100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The \$200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$200. More detailed instructions can be found on the website.

**IMPORTANT** – All applications will be categorized as "Pending – No Deposit" until the \$200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the \$200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the

\$200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

<b>APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 3, 2015</b>
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**ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS:** Participants will reside with local host families because the Universidad Nacional del Cuyo has no student dorms. Since students are expected to arrive the weekend before classes begin and will probably return home the weekend after the end of the classes, the program cost covers host family stay from May 16 to June 7, 2015. Depending on availability, some host families may be hosting two students, so there is a possibility that two NIU students will share a room. All breakfasts and dinners during the program will be provided by the host family. The host family will also do laundry or provide laundry facilities. The host family stay includes local phone calls (international calls are the student's responsibility). In addition, the host family will pick the student up at the airport (provided that arrival dates are May 16 or 17) and take the student to the airport for the return flight home (provided that the departure date is June 6 or 7). During field trips, the program will provide lunches (either at the university cafeteria or at the vineyards), and weekend excursions include all meals. In other words, most meals are included in the price of the program except for lunch on certain class days. The specific days when students are responsible for their own lunch will be clarified in the program calendar during orientation sessions.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements between the U.S. and Mendoza, Argentina and for purchasing their tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is recommended.) Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in Mendoza, Argentina in time for the official beginning of the program, they should plan to depart the U.S. no later than May 16, 2015.



Dr. Jaeger urges all students to book their flights from Chicago to Santiago, Chile and then on to Mendoza, Argentina. If students choose to fly over Buenos Aires, they will have to take a taxi from the international airport to the regional one (similar to going from O'Hare Airport to Midway but the distance is greater). For reasons of safety and to reduce the possibility of missing a connection, students should fly Chicago-Santiago, Chile-Mendoza.

For information regarding airfares and airlines students may wish to check-out additional airfare sites on the Internet.

**Important** - The Study Abroad Office advises all participants that flight reservations for this program should not be booked until:

- a. After the March 3, 2015 application deadline  
**AND**
- b. The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

This advisory is given so that participants do not find themselves financially responsible for airline tickets should it be necessary to cancel the program. (See section entitled, **CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM**)

**LAND TRANSPORTATION:** For program-related travel the group will travel by bus. These excursions and field trips will be arranged by CELE. This transportation is provided as part of the NIU program cost. (Refer to the *Tentative Daily Schedule* for specific details regarding other program-related transportation.)

**PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT--** All participants are required to possess a valid passport by March 15, 2015. Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas. Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. After March 15, 2015 applicants may need to request expedited services or apply in person at the Chicago Passport Agency. If applicants are not within the Chicago area, they must apply at the nearest passport agency.) Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department's website: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html>. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.



**VISA:** A valid passport is required prior to March 15, 2015 in order to obtain a visa to enter Argentina. Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. Since Argentina requires a reciprocity fee (\$170 as of 2014), students should budget accordingly. More details about the visa and fee will be provided in March.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD:** The ISIC card is provided as part of the program cost. The I.D. card can provide discount on international airfare and other travel. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

**PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS:** You may have your passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$3.00 for the first photo and \$2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.



**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS:** In order to enter Argentina, students are not required to obtain special vaccinations. Nevertheless, all standard immunizations should be up-to-date. The NIU University Health Service can administer most immunizations.



**NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE:** NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan will be enrolled by the Study Abroad Office. The NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan has a \$250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.

**NIU PROGRAM COST:** The program cost pays for the following cost-related services:

- 1) Host family stay accommodations and 2 to 3 meals daily while the group is in Argentina; transportation to and from airport in Mendoza.
- 2) Land transportation in Argentina; two weekend excursions.
- 3) Admission fees to cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule.
- 4) International Student I.D. Card.
- 5) NIU tuition for undergraduate credit.
- 6) NIU major medical insurance.

**PROGRAM COST: \$4,660**

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

**ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:**

- Airfare
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$130, including 2 passport pictures).
- Passport size photos.
- Fee for acquiring the visa to enter Argentina (approximately \$170)
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for travel to Argentina.
- Immunization fees (*if immunizations are required*)
- \$40 Undergraduate application fee for non-NIU undergraduate students.
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel.
- Local bus fees (for commuting to the university)
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

**FINANCIAL AID:** As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization.

Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, International Programs Business Manager, Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, [prosenberg@niu.edu](mailto:prosenberg@niu.edu) for more information.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Applicants withdrawing from the program after March 3, 2015 will not be refunded the \$200 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$200 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after March 3, 2015 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

- 1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; **and**
- 2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

**CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM:** The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Argentina, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Argentina, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

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**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER  
OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!**