



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Study Abroad**

*Division of International Affairs*

# **Latin American Culture and Spanish Language in Mendoza, Argentina**

**May 27 - June 14, 2019**

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

NIU students will be studying at the Centro de Español como Lengua Extranjera (CELE) at the Universidad Nacional de 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 World Languages and Cultures at NIU has strong ties to the Universidad Nacional de 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 World Languages and Cultures was to establish a successful study abroad program to take advantage of the excellent relationships we developed with the faculty at the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo.

The Universidad Nacional de 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 27, 2019 in Mendoza, Argentina, and will end on Friday, June 14, 2019. Students will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements in order to arrive in Mendoza, Argentina on Saturday, May 25, 2019. (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:** Linda Saborío, associate professor of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures in the NIU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Since joining NIU in 2006, Dr. Saborío has taught Spanish language and literature courses to both undergraduate and graduate students; she also served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for her Department and as the Faculty Senate President. During her time residing in Costa Rica, Dr. Saborío developed a deep understanding of the importance of living abroad and fully immersing oneself in another culture. Her research interests in Spanish American and Latinx theater have taken her to many Latin American countries, including Mexico, Brazil, and Panama, and she has directed study abroad programs for both undergraduate and graduate students to Mexico, Costa Rica, and Spain.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES:**

The primary purpose of this program is to provide students with the opportunity to be fully immersed in Argentine culture while building on their Spanish language skills. Although students may use this experience as a gateway to pursue similar interests and related disciplines, one objective of the program is to introduce students to Argentine and Latin American culture in order to encourage them to continue their studies in Spanish. Students are provided with the opportunity to choose one course option from the following three-credit courses: *FLSP 300 Special Topics in Spanish Language, Literature and Culture: Understanding Latin America* and *FLSP 463 Hispanic Culture through Film*. These two course options are tailored to students who are looking to complete a course for their major/minor requirements, as well as students who are at the intermediate and advanced levels with their Spanish language studies.



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

In addition to the three-credit course of their choice, all students in the program are required to enroll in *INTL 301 Study Abroad Programs: Introduction to Argentine Culture*. The objective of this required course is to provide students with the opportunity to explore a unique culture in order to broaden their understandings of diversity, cultural differences, and the importance of inclusiveness. As part of this course, students will participate in a variety of experiential learning activities including local excursions (to an Argentine ranch, the Andes and local vineyards), cultural activities (museum tours, concerts, theater) as well as tango lessons, conversation partner activities with Argentine students, and a volunteer activity in a local school.

In short, this program does not require specific prerequisites (except for course prerequisites for FLSP 300 and FLSP 463) 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 6 credit hours upon successful completion of the program.

**PROGRAM SITE(S):** The program will take place at the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo in Mendoza, Argentina. Mendoza is a city located in western Argentina near the border with Chile where it is surrounded by the scenic Andes mountain range. The larger Mendoza metropolitan



area has about 1 million inhabitants, and the city offers many urban amenities, such as pedestrian zones, sidewalk cafés, modern malls, national and international restaurants, and a variety of locally owned shops. With two major industries of wine and olive oil, Mendoza is surrounded by picturesque vineyards and quaint olive groves. Mendoza is approximately 2,500 ft above sea level, and

the climate is generally arid (semi-desert). Given that the study abroad program would take place during the Southern Hemisphere's fall season, the expected average temperature would be in the 50s-60s.

The Universidad Nacional de Cuyo is the major public university in Mendoza. Currently it has an enrollment of approximately 35,000 students distributed among 12 academic schools. Our program is administered through the Centro de Español como Lengua Extranjera (CELE).

**HIGHLIGHTS:** In addition to afternoon cultural activities and field trips, there is one weekend excursion included in the program. This excursion is to the Andes Mountains (from the Argentine side) that includes an overnight stay, meals, and guided tours. The cost of this excursion is included in the price of the program, and students are obligated to participate. Students will also be given the option of a one-day excursion to go white water rafting. The optional excursion is not included in the price of the program. Additionally, Dr. Saborío will offer exploratory walks in Mendoza in order to view sights of interests as part of INTL 301. On other days, students will participate in conversational partners with UNC students or have a tango lesson. Since all these activities are part of INTL 301, they are a required part of the program.

During their stay in Mendoza, students will live with local host families. Typically, one student will house with one host family. Laundry, local phone calls and some meals (all breakfasts and dinners, plus some lunches) are automatically included with the home stay.

**PROGRAM AUDIENCE:** Space is limited and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. The program is designed for undergraduate students only. Students from all majors are welcome to apply; for this reason, a variety of course topics and range of potential interests are offered. Non-NIU students are also welcome to participate in this program. Additionally, students may select this program to fulfill course requirements in their Spanish major or minor, or to complete a 300/400-level elective (Honors).

**INSTRUCTION METHOD:** All classes are held at the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo Mendoza campus. While *FLSP 300 Special Topics in Spanish Language, Literature and Culture: Understanding Latin America* will be taught by Dr. Saborío, all other courses will be taught by Universidad Nacional de Cuyo faculty and staff. Typically, the classes will be a combination of lecture and discussion with specific emphasis placed on language building activities and/or cultural awareness. While all classes will require some reading assignments in Spanish or English (depending on the course), the nature of written and oral assignments will vary in each course. For example, the course INTL 301 may require some activities to be completed before the program begins in Argentina; however, the majority of “class” time in Argentina will be focused on experiential learning through field trips and local activities. For all courses, there will be a final written assignment, which may be submitted as part of an ePortfolio.

**PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT:** For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive a total of 6 semester hours of undergraduate credit. All students will enroll and participate in the INTL 301 class (3 credit hours) and then choose one three-credit course from the following three options. Students must enroll in the two three-credit courses in order to qualify for the program. It is not possible to participate in the program for only three credits.

<b>UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT:</b>	
<b>FLSP 300 Special Topics in Spanish Language, Literature and Culture: Understanding Latin America</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. <b>Prerequisite:</b> Consent of department.	
<b>OR</b>	
<b>FLSP 463 Hispanic Culture through Film</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> An introductory course into contemporary Argentine cinema with special attention devoted to cultural topics. <b>Prerequisite:</b> FLSP 320 or FLSP 361 or FLSP 362 or consent of department.	
<b>AND REQUIRED COURSE INTL 301</b>	
<b>INTL 301 Study Abroad Programs: Introduction to Argentine Culture</b>	<b>3 semester hours</b>
<b>Description:</b> An introduction into different facets of Argentine culture through field trips, cultural activities, volunteer work and film.	

**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.**

NIU 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, Office of Student Conduct, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student can be granted admission to a study abroad program.

For any student to be admitted into a study abroad program, an applicant's transcript must be on file with 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; SAO will make this request on behalf of the applicant.

**Non-NIU Students:** Non-NIU Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU, who have not previously enrolled at NIU, should send a copy of their transcript (official or unofficial) as soon as possible to the SAO.

Students can send transcripts to the SAO via email to [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu), fax a copy to 815-753-0825, or mail or hand-deliver a copy of their transcript to the following address:

Northern Illinois University  
Study Abroad Office  
Williston Hall 417  
DeKalb, IL 60115

**APPLICATION:** Click [Latin American Culture and Spanish Language in Mendoza, Argentina](#) 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, non-NIU 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 consists of a \$100 non-refundable application fee and a \$100 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 application portal.

**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 changed to inactive.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**February 1, 2019**

**Please read the following carefully.**

*Space in this program is limited, so early application is recommended.* Qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

**Upon acceptance into the program, applicants must change their status to “Committed” and complete *all* post-decisions items on the Study Abroad Portal in order to be considered an active participant and reserve their place in the program.**

**Applicants who have not changed their status to “Committed” will be withdrawn from the program.**

**ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS:** In order for participants to experience a full immersion into Argentine culture, students will reside with local host families. Given that students are expected to arrive the weekend before classes begin, and will probably return home the weekend after classes end, the program cost covers host family stay from May 27 to June 14, 2019. Depending on availability, some host families may be hosting two students, so there is a possibility that two NIU students will share a room. As a general rule, however, each host family will sponsor one student. 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 25 or 26) and take the student to the airport for the return

flight home (provided that the departure date is June 15 or 16). During field trips, the program will provide some (but not all) lunches (either at the university cafeteria or another location), and weekend excursions include all meals. In general, 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 25, 2019.



Dr. Saborío 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 may 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 February 1, 2019 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 in Argentina. 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 must have a passport in order to participate in this seminar. *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. Information on acquiring a passport is available at the U.S. State Department's Website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>. U.S. passport holders do not need special visas for this program. Non-U.S. passport holders may need special visas for travel in Argentina **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**



**PASSPORT PHOTOS:** You may have your passport photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$5.00 for two photos. Photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Photos can be paid for with exact cash, personal check or charged to your NIU bursar account. 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. It is strongly recommended that students get an extra pair of photos taken to keep on their person in case of a missing or stolen passport.



**NIU INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE PLAN:** Students will be enrolled in the NIU International Travel Insurance Plan through ACE. This plan is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program and will be billed your MyNIU account. It is not possible to waive this mandatory insurance. Coverage will begin two days prior to the program start date and end two days after the official program end date.

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS:** While there are no required vaccines for entry to Argentina, Hepatitis A and Typhoid Fever vaccinations are recommended by the Center for Disease Control for students traveling on [Study Abroad programs](#) and [Health Information for Travelers to the Argentina](#).

Students should also seek advisement from the [DeKalb County Health Department \(DCHD\)](#) for immunization and travel health information. The DCHD can administer most immunizations. Contact the DCHD at least eight weeks before the program begins to allow time for immunizations to take effect. Some vaccines need to be given over a period of months, so participants in this program must START EARLY!

**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 some cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule.
- 5) Six semester hours of NIU undergraduate credit.
- 6) NIU International Travel Insurance.

**PROGRAM COST: \$3,955\***

This amount represents the total in charges and fees that will be paid to NIU for this program. Please note that the following charges will post individually on your MyNIU account:

- Study Abroad Program Charge
- Instructional Cost
- NIU Academic Program Enhancement Fee (if applicable)

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 \$430, including 2 passport pictures).
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for non-U.S. passport holders.
- Immunization fees (*if immunizations are required*)
- \$40 Undergraduate application fee for non-NIU undergraduate students.
- Independent travel costs associated with independent travel.
- Local bus fees (for commuting to the university)
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Books for classes.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

**NIU UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEE FOR NON-NIU STUDENTS:** There is a \$40 non-refundable Undergraduate application fee for undergraduate students applying to NIU for the first time. If you are currently enrolled at NIU as a degree-seeking student, you are not required to submit this payment.

**FINANCIAL AID:** As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or you're privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply.

If you are an NIU student and plan to apply for aid or loans to supplement this study abroad program you must contact the NIU Financial Aid and Scholarship Office in Swen Parson 245, (815) 753-1395 to discuss your current aid package and what you might be eligible for during the Summer term. Questions regarding the program budget can be directed to the Study Abroad Office, [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu), (815) 753-0857.

Please visit <http://www.niu.edu/studyabroad/resources/index.shtml> for information on financial resources for study abroad.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Applicants withdrawing from the program after February 1, 2019 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 February 1, 2019 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; **and**
- 3) The program has the minimum number of participants required to operate.

**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 Advisory 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 Advisory is issued for Argentina, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

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

## Study Abroad Planning and Cost Estimate



**Northern Illinois University**

*Study Abroad Office*

Williston Hall 408

DeKalb, IL 60115

(815) 753-9530

[niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu)

**Student Name:**

**Program Name:** Latin American Culture and Spanish Language in Mendoza, Argentina

**Approx Dates:** May 27 - June 14, 2019

**Semester Abroad:** Summer 2019

**Hours:** 3

### **Study Abroad Office Bills to Student's Account**

Application Fee/Deposit	\$200.00
Study Abroad Program Cost	\$3,630.00
	<b>\$3,830.00</b>

### **NIU Bills to Student's Account**

Academic Enhancement Fee	\$125.00
UGRD: < 7 hrs: \$125 or > 7 hrs: \$250	
GRAD: \$22/hour, caps at 12 hrs	
Student to Student Program Fee	\$0.00
Term cost, assessed to all students who register for 12 or more hours	
	<b>\$125.00</b>

### **Estimated Additional Expenses not billed to Student's Account**

Housing	\$0.00
Meals ( <i>most meals included</i> )	\$200.00
Roundtrip Airfare	\$1,800.00
Passport	\$145.00
Books/Supplies	\$150.00
Personal Expenses/Local Transportation	\$345.00
	<b>\$2,640.00</b>

### **Total Estimated Cost of Program**

**\$6,595** *Estimate*

#### **Please Note:**

*This planning and cost estimate is designed for estimating study abroad costs, mandatory fees, housing, and other costs associated with studying abroad and is based on costs specific to this study abroad program.*

*The "Estimated Additional Expenses not billed to Student's Account" section is based on estimates and addresses basic necessities and conservative personal expenses. This section does not include extracurricular activities or independent travel.*

*Please note that this budget is an estimate at the time of publication and is subject to change. Costs can fluctuate based on changes in currency exchange rates, tuition and fees increases, airfare, varying personal lifestyles, etc.*

**Financial Aid:** Financial Aid may be applied to the cost of studying abroad. Please contact the Student Financial Aid Office for more information. Swen Parson 245, (815) 753-1395, [finaid@niu.edu](mailto:finaid@niu.edu)