

COMPARATIVE
AMERICAN STUDIES

Guidelines and
Regulations for CAS
Students in Buenos
Aires 2016/17

Guidelines for CAS Students in Buenos Aires, 2016-2017

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i) Visas and Medical Insurance:

Past cohorts of CAS students assure us that all that is needed during the year abroad in Argentina is a **tourist visa**. You should therefore not waste time or money in attempting to get student visas. Tourist visas need to be renewed every 90 days, but this presents no problem and is free of charge if one is re-entering the country (say, from a day trip to La Colonia de Sacramento or a two day trip to Montevideo).

You are covered under the [University of Warwick travel insurance](#) which is comprehensive for accident and emergency and loss of baggage etc. This is not private medical insurance. The staff at the Centro Universitario de Idiomas CUI can help you arrange this through [Assist-med Argentina](#) when you arrive or you can arrange it yourself through their web page. It is not necessary to get it before you go.

ii) The duration you must reside in Buenos Aires:

You are required to reside in Buenos Aires from the beginning of September until the beginning of December (12 weeks) and from the beginning of February until the end of May (16 weeks). You should notify the CAS office if, for whatever reason, you

have to be absent from Buenos Aires during these periods. Always keep CAS up to date with your contact details.

iii) The Vacation, December- January

You must provide the CAS office with **a clear schedule of your movements during the vacation period (between December and January)**. This will help CAS deal with enquiries from your families as well as with the organisation of staff visits. You should continue to check your e-mail throughout the long vacation period, answering queries from the CAS office promptly.

iv) Essay deadlines for CAS students in Buenos Aires and Library Access

These short essay deadlines are timed to fit in with your residence in Buenos Aires. Essays can be on any theme related to Latin American Studies. (For more information see year abroad handbook). You should write two essays in English and two in Spanish. We recommend you write the first two in English and the second two in Spanish. You should confirm the title with your year abroad tutor after a little research and before writing. Extensions will be granted only under exceptional circumstances (Warwick requires that a doctor's note be provided as evidence when requesting extensions on grounds of illness).

Short Essay 1	14 November
Short Essay 2	30 December
Short Essay 3	2 May
Short Essay 4	3 July

Essays should be submitted via tabula in the usual way. Please do not put your name on the essay. You should include a front sheet showing your Warwick ID number along with the essay title and word count. You need to complete the submission cover sheet and email this separately to valerie.melling@warwick.ac.uk

To research for both English and Spanish Language essays you will have access to the University of Warwick library digital resources as usual. For resources for your Spanish language essays the best library in Buenos Aires is the [National Library at Aguero 2502](#). It has by far the best collection. To access the library show your passport at the front desk and you will be given access to the catalogue for the day. You can use a self-study area or you can consult the collection in the reading room. There are lockers for bags, comfortable chairs in the lobby area and a good café.

v) Practical support for CAS students in Buenos Aires

[Buenos Aires International Students](#), an NGO offering internships in organising events, as well as social activities. It has a beautiful space in central Buenos Aires for students to meet and provides advice on housing and other aspects of life in Buenos Aires. The lingua franca is Spanish. It is run by **Diego Larre Borges** larreborges@baisargentina.com who works closely with the Centro Universitario de Idiomas.

v) Language Tuition I: General Guidelines

All CAS students in Buenos Aires will attend the language school [Centro Universitario de Idiomas \(CUI\)](#), Calle Junín 222

You will do a course in [Spanish for Foreign Language Learners](#). Language teaching at the CUI employs standards consistent with those set by Council of Europe for language teaching and learning, and students can acquire certification of different levels of linguistic competence which reflect those standards. You will receive a Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA) certification for each level of Spanish. It operates in cycles of 120 hours (two courses of 60 hours each), and there are three cycles: Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced. There is also a Specialised Cycle and a Graduate Cycle, which might be useful in exceptional cases. The information pack from the CUI defines these courses.

Language courses include an additional three hours of special teaching, to deal with any particular difficulty the student might have. Students in the Elementary and Intermediate cycles (level 1 to level 4) may be required to attend 3 supplementary hours by their teacher to solve any learning difficulties. Students in the advanced and specialized cycle, will have a monthly group workshop in order to develop their writing skills. This might be useful for dealing with your essays in Spanish and preparation for the project. The CUI will supply advisors from the Faculties with

which it has contacts. In five months you will complete five levels which range from 1 to 10.

The CUI provides some useful services for you upon your arrival: transport from the airport (for a fee) a reception (this year the Meet and Greet will be on 5 September at [The International Office in CUI, Junín 222, 3rd floor](#)), help with accommodation, and orientation in the city, including guidance on how to use local transport with the help of [Como Llego](#) (an indispensable app which has all the train and bus routes). This orientation can be acquired before the Spanish courses begin, and would give you confidence in moving around the city at a time when your Spanish is still limited. These are all potentially useful services which will provide a bridge for those first few weeks when you are most likely to need support in getting to grips with a new environment. This year the Meet and Greet will be on 5 September at [The International Office in CUI, Junín 222, 3rd floor](#).

[The help that CUI offers with accommodation and practical issues could be valuable.](#)

We recommend that you spend at least the first month with a family to become accustomed to the city, although it is now much easier to get accommodation in advance via the internet (eg. [Craigslist for Buenos Aires](#) or [comparto depto](#) plus several sites which rent rooms in hostels and apartments). The CUI provides lists of hotels, hostels, family accommodation, and university residences. The latter is the most difficult to get, given that you arrive in Buenos Aires when the academic year has been underway since March, and the residences tend to have filled up with Argentines from the provinces. They may be useful when you return from your travels in February. Living in a student residence would put you into immediate contact with Argentine students. **Be careful when arranging your own accommodation** in advance before you are familiar with the city – some landlords may advertise the location of their property incorrectly.

Language Tuition II: Program for students from the University of Warwick and things you must act upon

i) Language teaching: The Department will pay for **7 months of language tuition**. Courses start on or around the 1st of each month, from September. The 7 month's tuition is spread over the two semesters. We require that you take three months language tuition before the holidays in December and January, leaving four months for the second semester in February and March. Attendance at these classes is compulsory. We receive your marks and your attendance record on a monthly basis from the Language Centre and we expect these to be satisfactory.

ii) Accommodation and being met at the airport: The University Language Centre will provide accommodation for you with a host family and pick you up from the airport for a fee of \$70 USD. (Safe airport taxis to Buenos Aires can be arranged on arrival at the taxi kiosk and there is a cash till at the airport. The taxi should cost about 400-500 pesos.)

If you want to take advantage of either of these services you should inform the Language Centre as soon as possible 1) of your arrival details and 2) of whether you require accommodation with a family.

Contact Camila Arias Martínez
Departamento de Estudios Internacionales
Centro Universitario de Idiomas
Junín 222 - (+5411) 5238-3061
camila.arias@cui.edu.ar

iii) Orientation, Conversation Club, Language Tandem and Cultural Activities:

Check these out. These might provide opportunities for breaking out of the CAS expatriate community and developing social ties with Argentines. Alternatively there are more casual language exchanges in bars and cafes at [Mundo Lingo](#) or at [Buenos Aires International Students](#)

viii) Additional academic possibilities in Buenos Aires

i) Facultad de Filosofía y Letras :

In the second semester - Spanish language ability permitting - you should aim to take mainstream modules taught in Spanish at the UBA's [Facultad de Filosofía y Letras](#). In this case, you should register for the modules of your choice at the very beginning of the semester. Registration is in March for the semester which runs from March to June. Contact Mercedes Cravero on interfilo@gmail.com. She is Director of "Relaciones Institucionales: Estudiantes Extranjeros" at the [Facultad de Filosofia y Letras](#) (this department looks after foreign students: orientation, admission to modules, etc.). Warwick students will be charged \$400 (US) which gives you access to as many "practical" modules as you like; in essence at Warwick we would consider this to be seminar classes. "Theoretical" modules, which are open to everyone (and are the equivalent of Warwick lectures), may be audited throughout the year and are a good option if you don't want to commit to a module but do want to improve your Spanish comprehension and could help with your essay work. It is recommended that you sign up for four courses whether you want to attend them all or not. Timetables for "theoretical" lectures are available from UBA. CAS will cover the expense for joining the "practical" modules, although you will need to pay upfront. **Make sure you retain the receipt and return it to us for reimbursement before the end of the academic year (the end of June).**

ix) Things you should do before arriving to make matters easier upon your arrival in Buenos Aires.

i) [Complete the Spanish Language Test](#)

This will enable the school to place you in a class of the appropriate level upon your arrival.

ii) Contact the cohort of CAS students currently in Argentina now, and the final year students who have returned from Argentina. They have lots of good practical advice about what to bring, how to find accommodation, where best to live, what to take, how to manage banking etc., etc.

iii) Contact Camila Arias and inform her of your arrival arrangements and any accommodation requirements you have.

iv) Get yourself a good guidebook (including a map) of the city, if you are planning to arrange your accommodation yourself in advance this will help..[Lonely Planet Argentina](#) has good practical advice on cultural differences, safety and security etc. It has a good website.

Dr Rosie Doyle

Tutor for the Year Abroad

