

# Journalism Residency Argentina Winter 2019 Handbook

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# Program & Country Information

## Program Team

There are a number of different partners and players that make important contributions to your academic, cultural, and personal experience abroad.

You will have a multi-tiered support network while you are completing your JR:

- Your **on-site supervisor**, typically an editor who works daily with each student, will provide ongoing support and feedback to ensure that students are busy and productive. This supervisor also will be responsible for completing a midterm and final evaluation of the student.
- Your **local minder** serves as an emergency contact and resource for you on-site.
- Your **Medill faculty adviser** will follow your academic progress throughout the quarter.
- Your **ULA adviser** is your assigned adviser in the Undergraduate Learning Abroad (ULA) office and is available to provide advising about logistical, financial, and health and safety matters before, during, and after your JR experience abroad.

Journalism Residency Argentina	
<b>Local minder</b>	Dolores Biocca <a href="mailto:bioccamd@gmail.com">bioccamd@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:dolores@prbond.com">dolores@prbond.com</a>
<b>On-site supervisor</b>	<i>Assigned based on placement</i>
<b>Medill faculty adviser</b>	Mei-Ling Hopgood <a href="mailto:mhopgood@northwestern.edu">mhopgood@northwestern.edu</a>
<b>ULA adviser</b>	Francesca Miroballi <a href="mailto:f-miroballi@northwestern.edu">f-miroballi@northwestern.edu</a>

## Program Schedules

Below are basic schedules of program dates, which are *subject to change*. Additional details will be distributed by email or upon arrival.

### Journalism Residency Argentina

Sunday, January 6	Arrive in Buenos Aires Check in to accommodations
Monday, January 7 – Saturday, January 12	Orientation Program
Monday, January 14 – Friday, March 23	Journalism Residency
Sunday, March 24	Program/accommodation end date Depart for United States

## Accommodations

ULA will work with your in-country hosts to arrange for your housing while you are abroad, and the costs of your accommodations during the program period are covered by your program fee. Medill and ULA select housing based on proximity to work, comfort and safety.

Students in Buenos Aires will stay in furnished apartments in the Palermo neighborhood. The building will have security, as well as a pool and other amenities. More specific information about the units will be provided once available.

Since accommodations are apartment rentals, students will be responsible for keeping the apartment in good condition, and any fees for damages will be students' responsibility. ULA will take care of paying accommodations fees for the full program period. Students are responsible for all meals.

## Visas

Consult the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. consulate website of your destination to determine whether you will require a visa to study in this country. Contact your ULA adviser if you believe you will require a visa, and ULA and Medill will work with you to secure the necessary documentation for your visa application.

**Journalism Residency Argentina.** U.S. passport holders do not need a visa to enter Argentina if their stay is less than 90 days.

## Transportation

### Travel Stipend

Students participating in Journalism Residency programs abroad will receive a local transportation stipend to offset the costs of work-related or ground transportation expenses, such as airport transfers, daily transportation to/from the placement site, transportation to/from field assignments, and any other work-related or personal transportation expenses. This stipend is meant to encourage you to choose the safest and most responsible transportation option – in many cases metered taxis or hired cars – even if that option is more expensive than others.

Your travel stipend will be processed **after** the start of your JR quarter. Be sure to set up direct deposit in CAESAR (CAESAR > Main Menu > Student Financial Services > Set Up Direct Deposit), so your stipend may be sent to you in a timely manner. *Note: This is different from direct deposit for work-study and must be set up separately.*

### Getting To/From the Airport

Medill/ULA will arrange transportation to/from the airport. If you arrange any personal trips that involve long road trips or include air travel, first consult with your site supervisors and local minders about your travel plans.

### Commuting

Students have several options for getting around their program city, and different modes of transportation are safer and more reliable than others. Below is some basic information

related to your program location, but also refer to the **Health, Safety, and Security** section for tips about safe travel.

- **Journalism Residency Argentina.** Refer to this site for tips on getting from one place to another: <http://www.viaja-facil.com>.

## Identity & Diversity<sup>1</sup>

The sections below provide some basic information, summarized from the Diversity Network Country Diversity Climate Notes and reflections from past students. Also refer back to the **Identity and Diversity** section of the Orientation Guide above for general guidance and resources.

### Sexual Orientation and Identity

Argentina is reported to be a gay-friendly destination, so openly gay students can feel comfortable in Argentina. Buenos Aires is even sometimes touted as the gay capital of Latin America, and Buenos Aires and Córdoba have vibrant gay scenes. Buenos Aires has anti-discrimination laws that protect homosexuals. Most provinces allow same-sex civil union, with a movement to extend the full rights of marriage to gay unions as well. In urban areas, students are unlikely to face harassment for being open about their sexuality. This is also the case in the countryside, although rural areas can be more conservative than the country's cities. Additional Resource: Federación Argentina LGBT (<http://www.lgbt.org.ar/>)

### Gender

Argentina is a country known for its “machismo.” How this manifests in interactions between men and women will vary, but American women often interpret Argentine men's behavior as more dominant, forward, or aggressive than their counterparts in the United States. It is very common for Argentine men to make comments about women's physical appearance in order to get their attention. This is known as a “piropo,” or complement in Argentina, but can manifest itself as anything from the equivalent of mild catcalling to verbal harassment, according to American standards. Although it is appropriate to simply ignore piropos, it is possible that any response, positive or negative, may be interpreted as an invitation for more attention or even as a “challenge” that can escalate from verbal to physical expression. Women are more likely to be the object of unwanted attention if they are alone, particularly after dark.

American men may experience machismo as an expectation that they behave more confidently, directly, or even aggressively than they are accustomed to at home. Additionally, American men in study abroad programs in Argentina may find themselves in the role of “protector” of female friends they spend time with, since even the presence of a male can deflect a fair amount of unwanted attention towards women. It's not uncommon for female study abroad students to seek out a male friend to accompany them in order to feel safer when going out. American men may or may not identify with various aspects of Argentine machismo, but it is important to recognize that male gender roles are an important part of the local culture.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the Diversity Abroad Network (2017): <http://www.diversitynetwork.org/>

## Race and Ethnicity

The majority of travelers to Argentina are white, so Argentines often tend to conceptualize all North American and European visitors as white. They sometimes assume that non-Caucasian students are not American. For instance, African Americans or Hispanic Americans may be thought to be from Brazil or other Latin American countries, and students of Asian descent may be considered Chinese regardless of their actual ethnic origin.

As Argentines of African and Asian descent are few, especially outside of Argentina's urban centers, there are relatively few goods and services, including beauty products, designed for students of these ethnicities. Most of rural Argentina is homogeneous, with people of African and Asian descent absent. Consequently, it is in these areas that people may be overly curious. Generally, U.S. students of color should not feel overly concerned about experiencing discrimination in Argentina, but this is not to say that prejudice and racism are nonexistent there.

African American students may be called "negro/a" (black), the local word in Spanish commonly used to describe black people, and which can be used, depending on context, in either a derogatory way or as a term of endearment. Asian or Asian American students may be called "chino/a" (Chinese), but from the Argentine perspective, this is a neutral term and does not generally connote offense. Hispanic American students may not be perceived as being from the United States. They may be expected to speak Spanish fluently because of a Hispanic surname, and also assumed to understand the culture and language and thus expected to interact socially with more ease.

## Cultural Adjustment

Below are some tips for navigating Argentine social and business culture:

- You may experience a different perception of personal space in Argentina than you do at home. Conversations may take place in a close proximity, and stepping back from someone you are speaking with may be regarded as unfriendly.
- A handshake and nod to both men and women is a common greeting among acquaintances. Close male friends shake hands or embrace, and men will kiss close female friends on the cheek. The full embrace, or abrazo, may include a hug, handshake, several pats on the shoulder, and end with an additional handshake.
- If you are invited to an Argentinean home, you should bring a gift of flowers, chocolates, etc. Any small item or gift that is not readily available in Argentina is highly regarded. You should avoid bringing leather goods, knives, and wine.
- The concept of time and punctuality is different in Argentina and Latin America as a whole, and there are different rules for business and social occasions. For dinner or parties, it is expected that guests will arrive 30-60 minutes late. However, an on-time arrival is expected for lunch and events that have a scheduled start time, like the theater. If you want to know whether punctuality is expected, you may ask, "En punto?" (On the dot?).
- You are expected to arrive on time for all business meetings and interviews, although the Argentine counterpart may be late. In general, the more important the person, the more likely it is that he or she will keep you waiting.

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- Personal relationships are incredibly important in Argentine business culture. It may take several meetings to cultivate the relationship and accomplish your goal, particularly as Argentines are uncomfortable discussing business over the phone.
  - Exchanging business cards is customary, so it is a good idea to carry them with you. In general, Argentines are very sociable and outgoing, and it is likely that they will invite visitors out to a restaurant and to their homes. (Note the above regarding expectations of punctuality at social gatherings.)
  - Business attire in Argentina is on the conservative side. Men will wear dark suits and ties, and women will wear blouses and dark suits or skirts.
  - Most Argentine businesses, especially in Buenos Aires, operate from Monday through Friday. Government hours are 7:30-13:00 in the summer months, and banking hours are 10:00-15:00. Although some businesses will close early, many Argentine businessmen will put in long days, often lasting until 22:00. A business meeting at 20:00 is not unusual.

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# Health, Safety, and Security

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The sections below provide information about health and safety risks and resources in Argentina. Refer back to the **Health, Safety, and Security** section of the Orientation Guide about preparing for and responding to health, safety, and security concerns.

## Staying Healthy

Medical facilities in Buenos Aires are of high quality, and you will be able to access a high standard of routine and specialist care.

Food is generally safe in major cities, but you should always wash your hands with soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before eating. Tap water is considered safe to drink in Buenos Aires. If you are traveling out of the city, be sure to do some research on food and water safety before you go.

As a reminder, you must complete all required immunizations for travel to your site. Check health and safety recommendations for Argentina provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

[http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/extended\\_student/argentina](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/extended_student/argentina)

## Safety and Security<sup>2</sup>

In addition to the **Standing Travel Advice** outlined in the Orientation Guide above, you are advised to follow these precautions during your journalism residency in Argentina:

- Refer to the Country Information Sheet for safety and security guidelines: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/argentina.html>
- Petty crime is common at airports, on public transportation, and in tourist locations. Be vigilant, and care for your belongings.
- Be careful in San Telmo, Recoleta, and La Boca neighborhoods of Buenos Aires, where violent robberies have been reported with increasing frequency. If you are visiting La Boca, stick to designated tourist streets, and go during daylight hours.
- Be suspicious of anyone who approaches you on the street, since criminals often work in groups. A common scam is for one person to spray mustard or another substance on you and then pretend to help you clean the stain, while another person robs you. Also make sure not to place your bags on the back of your chair or on the floor at a restaurant, since these may be snatched.
- There are elevated levels of risk for crime in the cities of Rosario and Santa Fe, a few hours to the north of Buenos Aires. You should avoid unnecessary travel to these cities.
- Demonstrations are common in Buenos Aires and other major cities. Although these are typically peaceful, protests can block streets, highways, and major intersections, causing traffic jams and delaying travel. There is also the potential for escalation. As stated above, students are not permitted to participate in—or attend—any kind of public demonstration.

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Drum Cussac. (2017).



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# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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## Packing

### ***Is there anything special that I need to pack for my program?***

Essentially everything that you may need you can find in your JR locations, but you should make sure to pack clothes that are suitable for the workplace. Talk to past students for tips!

## Food & Water

### ***Can I drink the water?***

In the major cities of Argentina, tap water is considered safe. Bottled water is available everywhere. If you travel outside of major urban areas, you are advised to drink bottled water.

### ***Is the local cuisine vegetarian friendly?***

It can be. You are responsible for most of your own meals, and you can find lots of fruits, vegetables, and proteins at the supermarkets and at nearby restaurants.

## Money

### ***How much does the program cost?***

See **Appendix I** or refer to the program website for a breakdown of program costs.

### ***Are meals included in my Program Fee?***

No. Some group meals will be provided during orientation, but you should plan to cover the costs of most meals.

### ***How much cash should I bring?***

For safety reasons, you are advised to bring no more than \$200 cash with you, plus a credit card and an ATM or debit card to use for purchases and to access additional funds. It is also recommended that you bring a second credit card in case of emergency. If you choose to bring more US dollars, be sure to pack safely and monitor your belongings while traveling.

In Argentina, businesses catering to tourists will often accept payment in US dollars, at an official rate, so you may wish to bring dollars to use during your stay. ATM's are readily available and will dispense pesos, but the exchange rate used may not always be the most favorable. You will learn of other methods of exchanging currency. Consider the safety and security of these options.

## Transportation

### ***Will I be picked up from the airport?***

Yes.

### ***What if my flight is cancelled or delayed?***

ULA shares your flight itineraries with your local minder and faculty director, so that they can monitor your flights. If you will not arrive on your scheduled flight due to a missed connection, illness, or other reason, please email or text your on-site administrators and ULA to let us know when you are scheduled to arrive.

# Appendix I: Cost Breakdown

## JOURNALISM RESIDENCY ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires, Argentina

WINTER 2019

### Program Cost Information

<b>FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN</b>	
<b>PROGRAM FEE</b>	
<b>Tuition: \$11,220</b> The tuition fee covers all program expenses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty and site supervision at JR site</li> <li>• JR orientation program</li> </ul>	<b>\$16,440</b>
<b>Housing: \$4,600</b> The housing fee covers lodging in shared apartments or residences in Buenos Aires. No meals are included: students are responsible for covering the costs of all meals.	
<b>GeoBlue Health Insurance: \$120</b>	
<b>Transportation: \$500</b> Included in the program fee is a local transportation stipend to cover program-related transportation, such as commuting costs.	
<b>STUDY ABROAD ADMINISTRATIVE FEE</b> Students participating in this program are exempt from the Study Abroad Administrative Fee.	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN</b>	<b>\$16,440</b>

<b>ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS</b>	
<b>International Airfare</b> Students are responsible for making arrangements to fly round-trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the dates provided. Cost estimates are based upon travel from Chicago. International airfares vary greatly based on the point of departure, carrier, and type of ticket purchased as well as volatility of airline industry pricing. Students may choose to take advantage of frequent flyer or other airline awards available to them, which could significantly lower their travel costs.	<b>\$1,600</b>
<b>Discretionary Expenses</b> Personal expenses vary based on individual spending habits and budgets. Discretionary expenses represent an average of the amounts reported by previous students and include local transportation, personal expenses, and other incidentals. Students who plan to travel outside of their program location should estimate an additional \$500-\$1,000.	<b>\$1,800</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>

<b>TOTAL STUDENT BUDGET (Fees + Estimated Additional Costs)</b>	<b>\$19,840</b>
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For more information about billing, finances, and financial aid for study abroad, please refer to the Money Matters section of the ULA Website or contact Krista Buda Bethel ([krista@northwestern.edu](mailto:krista@northwestern.edu)) in the Financial Aid Office. Also refer to the [Withdrawal Policies](#) for Northwestern-Sponsored Programs for information about refunds in the case of withdrawal or dismissal.