

# Here's my Study Abroad Story

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**Major:** International Relations/Economics

**Program Description:** I attended the Buenos Aires CIEE study abroad program and I highly recommend it. The program exceeded all expectations. It was exceptionally well organized and planned. The staff was very friendly and made every effort to reach out to students. In fact, the staff was comprised of many college students so we were able to establish good friendships and make inroads into Argentine society. CIEE also did a wonderful job with a thorough two-week orientation and home stay placements. The program facilities were also great, with a large computer lab and air-conditioned classrooms. CIEE also organized many interest-groups and social activities. I took part in a weekly indoor soccer game and attended several theatre events. Finally, CIEE took us on two group trips outside of Buenos Aires, which were fabulous and extremely well planned. Overall, I loved everything about it!

**Typical Day:** A typical day abroad involved attending several classes around the city, going to lunch with friends, going to the gym in the evening, having a late dinner with my host family, and going out or hanging out with friends again at night.

A typical weekend involved adventures around the city or trips outside with friends.

**Highlights:** The highlights of my abroad experience were the friendships I made and the travel I did. While there I made some amazing friendships that will undoubtedly last forever. We shared unforgettable memories and adventures. I was also able to travel all



over Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, and Brazil.

I also enjoyed improving my Spanish, learning local intricacies, shopping in Buenos Aires, playing soccer and attending soccer games, and stepping outside my comfort zone and out of the CMC bubble.

**Challenges:** I didn't really have any language or homesickness issues. My biggest challenge was making Argentine friends. I found such a great group of American friends, that it was tough to see a need or find motivation for seeking out Argentine friends. In hindsight I should have pushed myself further down this avenue. I also found it hard to understand Argentine society. Sometimes I was unable to reconcile my personal values with being sympathetic to local culture.

**Advice?** Study abroad for a year! My biggest regret is not studying abroad for the whole year. Study abroad was the single best experience of my life. While abroad you have no real responsibilities except to learn, experience, and enjoy. Everything is facilitated for you, including a wonderful group of potential friends.

While abroad, take advantage of every possible opportunity. Actively seek out local friends and place yourself in potentially uncomfortable situations to do so. Express a genuine interest in understanding local culture and people. Attend as many cultural and social events as possible because you won't have that chance for a long time. Be unafraid and live it up!