



Name: Courtney Strom

Program: Universidad del Salvador

Semester and Year: Fall 2016

10 Things Future Students Should Know about USAL

1. Argentina is in the southern hemisphere, which means the seasons are opposite. Pack accordingly! It also rains a lot.
2. Live with a host family! Those who chose this option, rather than living in a college residency, were very happy with their decision.
3. Speaking of housing, this program does NOT organize your housing; it's up to you. However, if you email them, the USAL advisors can suggest the best neighborhoods or provide you with some host family/residency options for you to contact.
4. Unlike most programs, you do NOT need to get your VISA before you arrive. The advisors there will walk you through the entire process during orientation. Make sure you have documentation with you at the airport, because some airlines (i.e. Delta) had an issue with this.
5. USAL does NOT use a credit system like Marquette does for their classes. So rather than having to calculate credit equivalency, just know that by taking 5 classes (the minimum that USAL requires), each of those classes will count as 3 cr. (for a total of 15 cr.), regardless of how many hour per week they are.
6. Get involved with the organization BAIS (Buenos Aires International Students). They organize many trips all over the country that are super easy to participate in. I highly recommend the Iguazu Falls; they are incredible!
7. USAL does not have a typical college campus; rather it is a series of buildings dispersed throughout a region of the city. Depending on which neighborhood you live in, you may need to use public transportation to get there from your home, but all of the USAL buildings are within walking distance (5-25 min) from one another. Bring good walking shoes!
8. Water is not free at restaurants so make sure to bring a water bottle with you! Also, the water in the city is safe to drink. At my house, we all drank water straight from the sink.
9. Bring a lot of cash with you to exchange. The rate you can get through the blue market is significantly better than what you get taking money out of the ATM (plus no fee). Once

you do have to switch to using ATMs, going to non-argentine banks such as Citibank or BBVA Francés, will get you the best rate and lowest fee.

10. You are provided with a phone SIM card that you can pick up once you are there and then put money on an account to use. It is not entirely necessary to use, though, since almost every person there uses the app Whatsapp. You can just use Whatsapp to communicate with people both in Argentina and at home if you're on Wi-Fi. Luckily, you can pick up Wi-Fi just about anywhere in the city, which is very convenient!

