

Reflections on Studying Abroad with BU-LASMA

In Fall 2012 I spent a trimester at la Universidad de Belgrano as part of the LASMA program at Boston University. I lived and studied in Buenos Aires, Argentina, learning about the Latin American region firsthand, practicing my Spanish, and experiencing the Argentine culture. At la Universidad de Belgrano I was a part of the International Relations program. I took four courses: Salud y Desarrollo en la Era Global, Tendencias Actuales en Ciencia Política, Movimientos Sociales y Políticos, and Organismos Internacionales. My classes were small, and the other students hailed from around the world, though mostly from Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Argentina. We all became very close, working together on group projects and spending time together in Buenos Aires. I also had personal relationships with my professors. The classes were interesting, allowed me to practice my Spanish, and gave me the experience of learning about international relations from a Latin American standpoint. I found Buenos Aires to be a city that I could explore endlessly, full of parks, neighborhoods, restaurants and cultural experiences. I found the culture fascinating. It was incredible to experience what I studied in classes firsthand. **My experience in Buenos Aires is defined best by the wonderful group of international friends that I made during my time at la Universidad de Belgrano, and by the way Buenos Aires quickly began to feel like home.**

Alex Grossman

Studying abroad in any foreign country is an invaluable experience, both academically and personally; but studying abroad specifically in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a particularly unique experience. As a country, Argentina offers living environments of all types, from the deserts of the north, the glaciers of the south, the mountains of the west, to its large capital city. The diversity of the society gives way to an equally diverse culture, rich with various styles of music, dance, art, and food. In Argentina, there is something for everyone. It's an amazing place to study, work, and live.

My particular experience of enrolling in graduate classes at the University of Belgrano in the fall 2012 was a wonderful experience. I sat in class alongside international students from all over Latin America. Their background, experiences, and prior education, gave a new, fresh perspective on many of the topics we studied. This classroom experience also enabled me to make great friends and perfect my Spanish language skills.

Boston University's LASMA program not only enriches its students academically, by means of it being a first-rate academic institution and its highly qualified and experienced professors, but the study abroad component of the program sets it apart from others by requiring its students to spend time studying and living in a Latin American country.

Dana Bruhns