
Preparing For Montevideo

Summers

Be sure to have photocopies of the personal data page of your passport and credit cards packed separately from the items themselves.

Do not forget your passport. Without it, you cannot board the plane at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

Suggested Packing List

Clothing

- Two nice outfits for evening excursions or events
- Two pairs of dress pants or khakis
- Seven long-sleeved shirts
- A couple of sweaters and/or sweatshirts (you may want to buy a sweater or two while there)
- Three or four pairs of jeans
- House slippers
- Sandals
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sweats (two changes: one for working out in the cold and one for warm weather)
- A winter coat (not too heavy; keep in mind it does not freeze there so you want to dress in layers)
- Rain jacket with hood
- Hat or cap
- Scarf and warm hat
- Washcloths (1 towel is provided)
- Short-sleeved shirts
- Two weeks of underwear, socks and anything else worn daily
- Bathing suit
- Two or three pairs of appropriate shorts for warmer weather

Toiletries (all of this can be purchased in Montevideo)

- Shampoo
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Contact lens solution
- Razors
- Sunscreen lotion
- Supply of personal items you use on a daily or monthly basis (e.g., feminine products)

School Supplies (all of this can be purchased in Montevideo)

- Bible (bilingual if possible)
- Paper/pens/pencils
- Notebooks
- Textbooks
- Backpack
- Notecards
- External data storage (flash drive) for computer

Miscellaneous (all of this can be purchased in Montevideo)

- Medications and prescriptions
- Batteries

- Spanish-English dictionary
- Cards/games/videos/books
- Travel alarm clock
- Umbrella
- Digital camera
- Earplugs
- Flashlight
- Adapter/converter

Don't Bring

- Food
- Electronic appliances
- Bedding

You may want to itemize the contents of your baggage for insurance purposes in the unlikely case that your bags are lost. Remember, if you buy anything there you will need room to take it home with you.

Here are some average temperatures:

Months	°Fahrenheit
September-December	54-72
January-March	72-90
April-June	56-74
July-September	39-59

Flight Information

Carry-On Luggage and Checked Baggage

- As Baggage Allowances change frequently, please see the website of the airline on which you will be traveling for the most up to date information.

Financial Matters

Airline Tickets

Any student wishing to deviate on the return may do so for a deviation fee, provided the change is scheduled before tickets are purchased. Students should make plans as far in advance as possible to avoid disappointment. Deviation forms should be handed in at least 120 days in advance of departure. If you wait until you arrive in Montevideo, it may not be possible to change your return schedule.

Bank/Debit Cards

Arrangements should be made for your personal expenses before departure. You should take at least one credit card and either a bank checking card or debit card with ATM capabilities.

Fees may be charged for ATM usage, and exchange rates vary. There are ATMs within a few blocks of the ACU housing, or "Con Tutti". Travelers checks may be

used but the exchange rate will not be as good as an ATM. For emergencies only, checks may be cashed. There is a \$50 fee for returned checks so make sure you have money in your account to cover the check.

“Cambios” in Montevideo, Colonia and Punta del Este change U.S. dollars, cash and Travelers’ Cheques (the latter at slightly lower rates or modest commissions). Banks are the rule in the interior. Better hotels, restaurants and shops accept credit cards, but Uruguayan ATMs may reject North American or European debit cards (in the interior).

Tipping

Most restaurants and large hotels will automatically add an 8-10% service charge to your bill so always check in advance before you give any extra money. You are, of course, welcome to tip in addition to that for exceptional service. If you are not satisfied with the service, however, refuse to pay the service charge, stating your reasons for doing so; you will be within your rights legally.

Here’s a guide for tipping:

- Restaurants: 8-10% of the check for full meals if tip is not already included; a small token if you’re just having coffee or tea.
- Taxis: Taxi drivers do not require tips, although you may round off the fare for convenience.

Living in Latin America

Receiving Mail

The mail takes about two weeks from the U.S. and four weeks to the U.S. The mailing address at the Montevideo facility is:

(Student Name)
Obligado 1137
Montevideo 11300
URUGUAY

Return address must include UNITED STATES.

Small packages may be mailed to the address above, although students should be warned not to send valuable items through the mail. Any package with a stated value of more than \$50 will go through a customs inspection. As a result, you will probably have to pay close to 100% duty on the contents of the package. Any customs inspection requires as much as one full day and a lot of “hassle.” It is best to avoid receiving packages.

Rates may vary so you should see the U.S. Postal Service Web site at www.usps.com.

Email

Con Tutti has wireless internet, so students are encouraged to bring their personal laptops and tablets. .

Telephone Use

Con Tutti does not have a telephone connection. If you want to be able to be reached by phone at any time, it is recommended that you buy a SIM card when you arrive in Uruguay. Pay-as-you-go phones or SIM cards for unlocked phones can be purchased at many places.

If your current mobile phone will provide you with service in South America, it is highly recommended that you check with your service provider as to costs, and what types of plan alternatives may be available to you while you are abroad.

If you have a smartphone, make sure you have downloaded Skype and Whatsapp before you leave the States. Test the app before you leave for Uruguay since they will send you a sms for verification. Make sure that Whatsapp is working, this will be the main way of group communication.

There is a three-hour time difference between Uruguay and U.S. Central Standard Time (from March to October, Uruguay is two hours ahead) so keep this in mind when calling.

To call the U.S. dial 001 + area code + number.

Living In Fellowship

Students will have a room to themselves in Con Tutti. Rooms will be furnished with a bed, bedding, pillow, lamp, closet, clothes hangers, as well as one towel. Students will be responsible for their own washing and/or dry cleaning of clothes and bedding.

Con Tutti is to be treated in much the same way as a residence hall on the Abilene campus. No visitors are allowed into the facility. A large part of the facility consists of bedrooms; therefore, access must be limited. The front door must be kept locked 24 hours a day. You will be issued one key. If you lose your room key you will be charged a replacement fee of \$50.

Disciplinary Action

All disciplinary action will be handled by the appropriate personnel on site. For questions, please see the form

entitled “Behavior Contract” which you submitted with your application.

Spiritual Fellowship

While in Uruguay, you will have the opportunity to be blessed and bless others with the Christian fellowship you will share with faculty, staff and the people of Uruguay. You will discover many opportunities for Christian service. You also will have the opportunity to educate yourself about the beliefs of others. This is part of your Study Abroad experience and will help you develop your own Christian worldview. All of this will be covered in the orientation after you arrive in Montevideo.

Your First Day in Montevideo

When you arrive in Montevideo, you will be met at the airport and taken to Con Tutti. After settling in, you will receive a room key and begin orientation sessions planned by the On-Site Directors.

Getting Around

Con Tutti is located on the south side of Montevideo. You can walk to the beach in 15 minutes. A walking tour brochure will be provided the first day you arrive. Every block is measured by 50 numbered units, rather than 100, so as you are taking a look around at addresses keep this in mind and become familiar with the numbering system.

Within walking distance are a local university, the beach, several restaurants, and daily shopping needs.

Public Transportation

There are several bus stops within a few blocks of Con Tutti. The major line number is 121, which will take you from the corner, to the old city, and back (within a block). It costs about one dollar to ride almost any bus, and you have to pay each way. You go in the front door, pay the ticket taker “guarda” (sometimes the driver), and then push the button near the rear door when you want to exit. Buses stop every two blocks. The nearby main bus station also provides interior and foreign travel.

Taxis are plentiful and user-friendly. Among all, what it is most used is Uber, so make sure you have the app downloaded.

Long Weekends

During the fall and spring semesters, you will have a few long weekends (with no class on Friday) and a one-week break. These opportunities will have an additional cost

if you decide to travel. Specific information will be presented in the orientation meeting.

Individual Travel

Travel Regulations for all Study Abroad students:

You will have the opportunity to travel independently in the Montevideo area. After approximately 9 p.m., you should not travel alone. Regardless of the time of day, if you leave the Montevideo metropolitan area you must travel in groups of three or more. Wherever you go, you should use common sense in traveling so you will not become a victim of petty theft or other crimes. For example, if you are out at night, stay in well-lit places.

You should always keep the phone number of the on-site supervisor with you in case of emergencies. In addition, when you are within Latin America, it is recommended that you carry a photocopy of the identification page from your passport with you and leave the passport in the safe at Con Tutti. If you leave the country, it is necessary to carry the original passport.

You should take great care not to lose your passport. If you lose your passport, you are to contact the on-site director immediately and begin the process of ordering a replacement passport at the local U.S. Consulate.

Some tips before embarking on independent travel:

1. Make sure you are caught up on your classes. It will be difficult to make up the work after you return if you get behind.
2. Be informed – know something about your destination before you go. You will get more out of the trip and feel more comfortable as you travel.
3. Create an itinerary to leave with the on-site Director. While part of the fun in traveling is spontaneity, it is necessary to leave some notification of where you will be staying and when you are coming and going.
4. Pack lightly. For weekend or bus trips, you can pack a school backpack or a small duffel bag. A large backpack is not recommended.
5. Know your travel times and be there early to meet transportation.

Admission of Non-ACU Guests

The ACU facility is not designed to entertain guests, and non-ACU persons should not be invited to the facility. In the event that a student wishes to have a non-ACU person meet them, you should check with the on-site director or the RA.

Rooms

You are responsible for your room. A check-in form for each room will be issued upon arrival. You should inspect the condition of your room and note any damage not reported to the on-site supervisor within 24 hours. Damage to the room during the course of the program must be reported to the on-site supervisor within 24 hours. You are not permitted to place items on the wall surfaces of any room without prior permission from the on-site director. The director will check for and record any damage at the conclusion of the program.

Your ACU account will be billed for any damage for which you are responsible. If responsibility cannot be determined, the cost will be divided equally among all occupants of the room. Failure to complete checkout procedures will result in a charge of \$100 to your ACU account.

You are expected to keep your room in an orderly and clean condition. Hot plates and other cooking devices are fire hazards and are not permitted in rooms. Kitchens are to be used for preparing and eating food. The on-site director may inspect rooms on a regular basis to insure cleanliness. Bed linen is provided and will be laundered every two weeks. It is your responsibility to assist the on-site director in the efficient exchange of bed linen.

We recommend that you keep your room locked when away from the house. ACU bears no responsibility for personal items left anywhere in the house. ACU reserves the right to inspect rooms at any time to ensure the safety of the students in the program.

Curfew

Safety issues for the entire group (students, faculty, any children present, staff, etc.) are always a matter of concern for everyone involved. While on an ACU Study Abroad program, life is truly lived in community, and everyone has to be sensitive to each other and “watch out” for each other. Therefore, ACU Study Abroad has set a curfew of midnight on nights before class days and 2 a.m. on nights before non-class days. Students are urged to be inside the house 5-10 minutes before curfew in order to insure compliance. Curfew violations will be handled by the discipline committee. Remember, if you are out at night, you should be with at least two other people.

Safety

The safety of students and personnel is a concern of the Study Abroad programs at ACU. Montevideo is considered a safe city with many places to shop, beautiful parks to visit, and opportunities to participate in recreational activities. Students should remember when they are traveling not to invite any street crime such as petty theft, pick-pocketing, etc. When you arrive in Montevideo, familiarize yourself with the city map, pay attention to the on-site orientation and use common sense when traveling about. When traveling around Montevideo, keep a low profile, and when out after 10 p.m. make sure you have one or two fellow ACU students with you.

Medical Information

If you are taking prescription medications while abroad, please make proper arrangements with your physician prior to departure.

Pharmacies are close and easy to get to if you need medications. Two pharmacies closest to the facility are “Farmashop” (two blocks away at Av. Brasil 2487) and “Pigalle” at Av. Brasil 2570. By law, there is always a pharmacy open in each neighborhood. Brand names are different in South America, so check with the on-site supervisor before purchasing over-the-counter medication.

A major hospital is approximately eight blocks away and is called the “Britanico” (British). The Britanico has some English-speaking physicians. In addition, there is a recommended physician who makes house calls and may be used depending on the circumstances. If a student is injured, the church building has ambulance insurance coverage. You may wish to make a note of the hospital’s location upon arriving in Montevideo. You also should refer to the Medical Insurance Coverage brochure available in the Study Abroad Office.

Classes

All of your classes are going to be taught by ACU faculty-in-residence. Qualified students also may take advanced Spanish courses at Universidad Católica (www.ucu.edu.uy) pending academic approval. If you are taking courses at Universidad Católica, please remember that you are representing Abilene Christian University. You must abide by the rules of Universidad Católica as well as ACU when taking courses there.

Faculty and Program Supervisors

During your stay, you will be under the direction and care of the faculty and on-site supervisor. Let them know immediately if any problems arise so they can resolve them promptly.

The high quality of the ACU Study Abroad program is partly due to the outstanding faculty who teach and lead students through this experience. In addition, those individuals responsible for maintaining the housing facility are crucial to the success of the program, and their hard work should be appreciated.

Registration While Abroad

Students should be able to register while in Montevideo for the next semester on ACU's website.

It is your responsibility as a student to make sure you do not have a hold on your account.