

ACU in LATIN AMERICA

Pre-Departure Guide

www.acu.edu/studyabroad



Preparing to Travel

Be sure to have photocopies of the personal data page of your passport and credit cards packed separately from the items themselves. Also leave copies of these with someone in the U.S.

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

Suggested Packing List

Clothing

- One or two nice outfits (for evening excursions or events)
- One or two pairs of dress pants or khakis
- Six long-sleeved shirts
- Six short-sleeved shirts
- A couple of sweaters and/or sweatshirts (you may want to buy a sweater or two while there)
- Two or three pairs of jeans
- Two or three pairs of appropriate shorts for warmer weather
- Shower shoes and house shoes (slippers)
- Sandals/flip-flops
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sweats (two changes: one for working out in the cold and one for warm weather)
- Winter coat (best to use layers)
- Rain jacket with hood
- Scarf, gloves and hat/cap
- Washcloths (1 towel is provided)
- Two weeks of underwear, socks and anything else worn daily
- Bathing suit

(When packing, consider the cost of laundry – approximately \$6 for two loads of washing and drying.)

Toiletries (All of these items can be purchased in Montevideo.)

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Contact lens solution
- Razors
- Sunscreen lotion
- Supply of personal items you use on a daily or monthly basis

School Supplies

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

Miscellaneous (Most of these items can be purchased in Montevideo, though electronic items will be expensive.)

- Medications (See “Medical Information” for more information.)
- Batteries (Note that lithium batteries are not as easy to find in Montevideo as they are in the U.S.)
- Spanish-English dictionary
- Cards/games/DVDs/books for leisure (There are TVs and DVD players at Casa ACU.)
- Travel alarm clock
- Backpack for traveling

- Umbrella
- Digital camera
- Earplugs
- iPod
- Flashlight
- Pictures from home
- Journal
- Adapter/converter

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 in South America you will need room to take it home with you.

Here are some average temperatures:

Months	°Fahrenheit
September-December	55-73
January-March	72-91
April-June	56-75
July-September	39-61

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

A student wishing to deviate on the return may be able to do so for a deviation fee. Students are not allowed to change the destination(s) or flight number(s) of their return flight(s), but may change the date, provided there are seats available on the desired return date and there are no restrictions on the type of ticket originally purchased. Students should make plans as far in advance as possible to avoid disappointment. Deviation requests should be directed to the study abroad coordinator and subsequently to the travel agent.

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 two blocks of Casa ACU. Most large hotels, restaurants and shops usually accept credit cards. Most towns have places to exchange U.S. dollars.

Meal Plan

You will be charged the equivalent of 10 meals/week for the semester you are in Montevideo. This means that breakfast and lunch will be provided Monday – Friday (or the equivalent). Your evening and weekend meals will be at your own expense.

Tipping

Many restaurants and large hotels will automatically add an 8-10% service charge to your bill so always check in advance before you leave a gratuity. You are welcome to tip in addition to that for exceptional service. Taxi drivers do not require tips, although you may round up the fare for convenience.

Living in Latin America

Faculty and Program Supervisors

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

All disciplinary action will be handled by the appropriate personnel on site who will be in touch with representatives on ACU's campus if necessary. Please refer to the form entitled "Behavior Contract" which you submitted with your application and the ACU Student Handbook for more information.

Spiritual Opportunities

We anticipate that your time in Uruguay will be a blessing both to you and to others. You will have the chance to worship with Christians who meet next door to Casa ACU. Your interaction with fellow students, faculty and staff as you live, study and travel together will also give you the opportunity to grow and learn about living in community. An important aspect of the Casa ACU community is worshiping together in English on Sunday evenings and in regular chapel times throughout the week.

Getting Around in Montevideo

When you arrive in Montevideo, you will be met at the airport by the on-site directors and travel to Casa ACU on a charter bus. The next few days will be filled with

orientation and activities to help you learn your way around.

Casa ACU is located on the south side of Montevideo, just inside the downtown area. You can walk to the old city in 30 minutes. 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. Casa ACU is on one of the major streets of the city (Colonia) and one block away from the main street.

Almost everything that you will need is within walking distance: food, daily shopping, bus station, mall, churches, beach, etc.

It costs about 75 cents to ride almost any bus, and you have to pay each way. One important line number to remember is 121, which will take you from the corner by Casa ACU to either the old city going in one direction or the beach and mall going the other direction.

Taxis are plentiful, inexpensive, and user-friendly.

Living Arrangements

Most students will share a room. If you have a roommate preference, please notify the study abroad coordinator before you leave. Rooms will be furnished with a bed, bedding, pillow, desk, lamp, closet and several clothes hangers. Students will be responsible for their own washing and/or dry cleaning of clothes and bedding.

Casa ACU is to be treated in much the same way as a residence hall on the Abilene campus. The front gate must be kept locked 24 hours a day. You will be issued two keys. If you lose your keys you will be charged to replace them.

Rooms

You are responsible for the condition of your room. Any damage to the room that occurs during your occupancy will be charged to your student account. 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 any damage at the conclusion of the program. You 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.

You are expected to keep your room in an orderly and clean condition. Food must only be prepared and eaten in the kitchen. The on-site director may inspect rooms on a regular basis to ensure cleanliness. Bed linen is provided and you will be expected to keep it laundered and return it in good condition at the end of the semester.

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.

Students are responsible to assist in the orderly maintenance and operation of Casa ACU. The directors will provide further instructions pertaining to this during on-site orientation.

Receiving Mail

Please note that the postal system in Uruguay is not nearly as reliable as in the U.S., and for this reason, it is best not to send anything valuable through the mail, including care packages. All packages go through a rigorous customs process and as a result you will likely pay a 100% duty on the contents, as well as spend significant time traveling to retrieve the package. Therefore we recommend that you not plan to send or receive packages while in Montevideo. Letters and cards are fine to send, but please be aware that the mail takes about two weeks from the U.S., and there have unfortunately been several instances when mail has been lost. The mailing address at Casa ACU is:

(Student Name)
Casa ACU
Colonia 2073
Montevideo 11200
URUGUAY

Return address must include UNITED STATES.

Internet Access

Casa ACU has wireless internet, so students are encouraged to bring their personal laptops. Casa ACU also has a computer lab for student use. Internet access can be limited, though, due to technical constraints, so use your time online wisely. Excessive internet use that impedes other students' use of computers for academic purposes will result in suspended or revoked privileges. Please also see the ACU student handbook for

guidelines and regulations governing the use of computers on campus.

Telephone Use

You may use the telephones in Casa ACU for local calls only. Making phone calls from Uruguay to the U.S. is expensive. We suggest using Skype to communicate with family and friends over the internet. Skype allows you to make video calls as well, but you should keep this to a minimum to conserve bandwidth. Be aware that you can also call a telephone number in the U.S. from your computer by purchasing Skype Credit; this is the cheapest way to make international phone calls.

If your family wants to phone Casa ACU, the numbers are (including the country code):

- 1st Floor: 011-598-2-402-3623
- 2nd Floor: 011-598-2-402-4354

The difference between Uruguay and the U.S. Central Standard Time varies from two to four hours, depending on Daylight Savings Time.

Individual Travel

During the fall and spring semesters, you will have one week-long break and at least one long weekend, giving you opportunities to travel at your own expense.

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 directors with you in case of emergencies. In addition, when you are within Uruguay, it is recommended that you carry a photocopy of the identification page from your passport with you (or your driver's license) and leave the passport in the safe at Casa ACU. 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. Embassy.

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.

Safety

The safety of students and personnel is a primary 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 dark make sure you have one or two fellow ACU students with you.

ACU Study Abroad has set a curfew of midnight on nights before class days and 2 a.m. on nights before non-class days. Curfew violations will be handled by the discipline committee and if severe may result in the student's being dismissed from the program and sent home.

The only part of Casa ACU where guests are permitted is the lobby. Non-ACU persons must not pass beyond the waiting room behind the glass doors. Should a "guest" enter the interior of the facility, the student who admitted the "guest" to the waiting room will be responsible for the infraction, and the discipline committee will handle the infraction. This is a serious offense, and severe consequences may result.

Medical Information

If you are taking prescription medications while abroad, please make proper arrangements with your physician prior to departure. If you plan on purchasing medicine in South America, make sure that you know the generic

names, as brand names may differ. There are pharmacies close to Casa ACU, including one that is open 24 hours.

ACU pays for an emergency medical service that will send a doctor or ambulance whenever there is a problem. If a situation needs the attention of a private doctor, the directors can call one who makes house calls. The British Hospital is an excellent medical facility with some English-speaking physicians, and it is located just a few blocks from Casa ACU. You may also want to refer to the Medical Insurance Coverage brochure that you received during orientation in Abilene.

Academic Matters

While local adjunct professors will usually teach the Spanish language courses, most of your classes are taught by ACU visiting faculty. If you are taking courses at Universidad Católica, please remember that you are representing ACU. You must abide by the rules of Universidad Católica as well as ACU when taking courses there.

Students have full access to ACU's library online, in addition to numerous resources available at Casa ACU.

Students should be able to register online while in Montevideo for the next semester.

It is your responsibility as a student to make sure you do not have a hold on your account. You should work with your advisor before you leave for Uruguay as well as during the semester abroad to make registering while abroad a smooth process.

Contact Information

Please keep in mind that the information in this handout is meant to offer general guidelines only and is subject to change. Additional details will be provided during extensive on-site orientation once you arrive in Montevideo. If you have questions about the materials provided in this packet, please contact the ACU Study Abroad office:

Visit: Admin. Bldg. 124
 Email: study_abroad@acu.edu
 Call: 325.674.2754