



Middlebury

Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation for the 2008-2009 Academic Year/Spring Semester

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad. Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 5 inclusive.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

With which program did you study?

Middlebury School in China

Middlebury School in France

Middlebury School in Germany

Middlebury School in Italy

Middlebury School in Latin America

Middlebury School in Middle East

Middlebury School in Russia

Middlebury School in Spain

At which site did you study?

- Alexandria
- Beijing (not J-term)
- Belo Horizonte
- Berlin
- Bordeaux
- Buenos Aires
- Concepcion
- Cordoba
- Ferrara
- Florence
- Florianopolis
- Getafe
- Guadalajara
- Hangzhou
- Irkutsk
- Kunming
- La Serena
- Logrono
- Madrid
- Mainz
- Montevideo
- Moscow
- Niteroi
- Pairs
- Poitiers
- Santiago
- Temuco
- Tucuman
- Valdivia
- Valparaiso
- Xalapa

At which university did you primarily conduct your studies?

- IN CHINA ---
- Zhejiang University of Technology
- IN FRANCE --
- Universite Bordeaux 3 - Michel de Montaigne
- Universite Bordeaux 4 -Montesquieu
- Sciences Po - Bordeaux
- Universite de Poitiers
- Centre Madeleine
- Universite de Paris 1 - Pantheon Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle
- Universite de Paris 4 - Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 5 - Descartes
- Insitut Catholique
- Ecole Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot
- Ecole Speciale d'Architecture
- Sciences Po - Paris
- IN GERMANY ---
- Freie Universitat
- Johannes Guttenberg Universitat
- IN ITALY ---
- Universita degli Studi di Ferrara
- Middlebury College School in Italy - Sede
- Universita degli Studi di Firenze
- IN LATIN AMERICA ---
- ARGENTINA-
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- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Filosofia y Letras
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- BRAZIL-

Pontifica Universidade Catolica de Minas Gerais

Universidade Federal Fluminense

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

-CHILE-

Universidad de Chile

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Universidad de la Serena

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Universidad de la Frontera

Universidad Austral de Chile

Universidad de Playa Ancha

Universidad de Valparaiso

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Universidad ORT

--- IN THE MIDDLE EAST --

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--- IN RUSSIA ---

Irkutsk State University

The Russian State University for the Humanities

Yaroslavl Pedagogical University

--- IN SPAIN ---

Universidad de Cordoba

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Universidad de la Rioja

Middlebury College School in Spain - Sede Prim

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

I adjusted very quickly to my university's educational environment. My classes didn't require me to do too much actual thinking. Consequently, much of what I did was regurgitation of cold hard facts learned in class. I tried to bring more analysis into my work, and my efforts were well received by my professors. This different academic environment made me much better at sitting down, slogging through, and memorizing a huge quantity of information. Inside the classroom, I had to pay more attention than usual, primarily because of the language barrier. My language skills benefited tremendously from studying in a different academic environment, not to mention that I was forced to adapt to an entirely new situation, which is always a useful skill.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

Argentina is a much more relaxed country, but that isn't necessarily a good thing. Nothing gets done on time, nor are things typically done in a satisfactory manner. Before going to Argentina I thought the bureaucracy at the DMV was bad, but after dealing with Argentine bureaucrats I realize how easy it is to access information and affect change in the US. Argentines', and especially porteños', paranoia about personal security is astounding and reasonable. Also, prejudice is rampant and deeply rooted in Argentina.

Other than those differences, much of Argentine culture is quite similar to American culture. A gigantic percentage of Argentines are descended from European immigrant, so many aspects of the national culture are similar to what is found in the US. Native peoples are much more visible and vocal in Argentina.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

My study abroad experience gave me a better understanding of why the US is so prosperous and powerful. We work extremely hard, live in a society that is obsessively organized, and are often driven by the bottom line. This is a double edged sword, as I also now understand why much of Latin America is suspicious of Americans and our foreign policy.

As for my understanding of my host culture (sorry this is in the opposite order of the question), practically everything I know about Argentine culture I learned while in BA. I understand so much about Argentina it's hard to convey in this survey. Through my classes, conversations with my host family and other Argentines, reading the newspaper, watching TV, and just absorbing pieces of information, I began to comprehend the complex web that is Argentine history and culture.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Study abroad has made me more confident and forced me to know myself. Being in such a different environment required me to believe in my abilities, while at the same time adapting to unfamiliar or uncontrollable circumstances. Finding myself in a situation in which much of what I love and know was missing made me realize how much I value certain aspects of my life in the US and how that life can be improved by importing aspects of Argentine culture.

I think my most useful personal characteristics were being organized, being flexible, taking the initiative, and trying to laugh at all the absurd things I encountered on a daily basis.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Living in a huge city that has grown in fits and starts increased my interest in certain academic areas. That interest has become so strong that I'm now considering going to grad school to continue my studies with the ultimate goal of working in a related field. I don't think I would have stumbled upon this interest so quickly, nor would my fascination have been so strong, if I hadn't gone abroad.

As for my personal goals, after having achieved a high level of proficiency in a foreign language, I am committed to keeping that skill.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I loved my host family and learned a ton from them. But, I did feel quite isolated. Given that universities in Argentina often do not have campuses comparable, or even vaguely similar, to those in the US, homestays may not be the best option for promoting the integration of students into the host culture. When not in class, local students do not spend much time together in the universities. This, combined with the fact that students don't live together in dorms, makes it next to impossible for foreigners to make friends. Since proximity is the most important factor in making friends - and friends from the host culture are key to integrating into that culture - perhaps dorms would be a better option.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

			Somewhat helpful		
	Not helpful				Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

My internship was with a community organization called Centro Conviven. I taught two English classes twice a week to two different groups of kids between the ages of 9 and 18. It was a fantastic experience. The kids were great and hard-working, the other volunteers (mostly British women) were really welcoming and helpful, and the entire center felt like a big family. I felt like I got to see a part of Argentine society that I never would have seen otherwise, and I was able to have a lot of contact with Argentines who aren't used to foreigners. I gained an understanding of the Argentine education system, the problems confronting slums in Buenos Aires, the prejudices faced by slum residents and immigrants, and got to witness the academic improvement of my students. My internship was far more than pushing papers around. It was a truly meaningful experience.

What was the language of the host country?

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

The progress I made in Spanish was a little bit greater than what I had expected. I had previously lived in France for six months after having studied French for five years, so I was familiar with the process of becoming fluent, but I did not expect my familiarity with that process to be so helpful. I was prepared for the ups and downs of living in a foreign language and had an idea of what the milestones and the periods of "language fatigue" would be like. I also think that the program's language course was fantastic and very helpful. I think improving one's language skills really comes down to respecting the language pledge and trying to think in the target language as much as possible.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Argentine history

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Historia argentina

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One final exam

Please describe the course content:

The history of Argentina from the colony to the end of the dictatorship.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

This was a lecture course with extensive out of class reading, and by lecture I mean lecture. The professor would just talk, for two hours, without notes or a presentation. There was little class discussion.

Other comments about this course:

This is a fantastic course if taken with the right professor.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Psicología de la interacción social y los pequeños grupos

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One final exam

Describe course content

Social and group psychology

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture, discussion, and readings. Presentations, charts, and movies were also used.

Other comments about this course:

Better get the right professor for this course. If you get the wrong one, it'll be a long semester.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Historia de la cultura y del arte americano y argentino 1

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One final exam, one final paper.

Describe course content

Precolumbian art and cultural history. Everything from the Olmecs to the Aztecs and the Mayas is covered.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures with Powerpoints and readings.

Other comments about this course:

This is not like an art history course at Midd. There is much more memorizing of facts and much less analysis of art.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Historia del arte oriental 1

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One final paper

Describe course content

Classical Indian art history

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lectures, slides, some movies.

Other comments about this course:

This is a traditional art history course with lots of slides, readings, and analysis of works.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

Internship

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Centro Conviven

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

N/A

Describe course content

N/A

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

N/A

Other comments about this course:

I taught English to elementary, middle, and high school students. It was a fantastic experience. I felt that I connected with my students and the other volunteers in a very meaningful way.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

I think the only thing to say is try not to be too obviously foreign. Also, if you're a girl, I would recommend toughening up your skin for all the piropos you're undoubtedly going to get. These things don't count a harassment in Argentina, but I think a lot of Americans find them extremely unnerving. It's just part of the culture.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

I say "no" with some reservations. First, the study abroad office has to do a better job of informing students of the differences between the various universities prior to departure. Second, the differences in the grading scales and course loads between the universities must be addressed. Third, if you're thinking of going to BA, you better be sure you really like big cities. Fourth, coming from a relatively efficient society and living in South America can be incredibly trying. It is literally a different world.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Study abroad is a great time to take risks and learn things about yourself. That being said, be sure to weigh the risks you plan on taking. You must be confident that they are the right ones. For example, I went to BA primarily because I wanted to know if I could ever handle living in a large city. I thought a semester abroad would be a perfect time to conduct this experiment because it would be a controlled period of time, after which I could return home. This turned out to be a very informative experiment, but a highly painful one as well. I'm not convinced that the four months of suffering were worth the self knowledge I gained.

Pick a site that you think will be good for you.

Living, studying, and speaking in a different language is tiring. You'll be exhausted at the end of the day, and you'll be frustrated by not being able to fully express your emotions and thoughts. You'll feel lost in a new culture and place. Stick with it. You will improve and feel more comfortable in your target language.

Most importantly, be flexible and laugh at your mistakes and the outrageous circumstance you'll undoubtedly find yourself in. I spent my first two months trying to make Argentina into the US instead of just realizing that "This Is Argentina" and things happen there for no reason. Just go with the flow.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

Spend less time pushing a full year abroad and more time going into the details of the differences between various programs, sites, and universities. I thought the general pre-departure meetings were a waste of time, but I did think that the opportunity to sit down and talk to students who had just returned was very useful.

ALL STUDENTS: Please use this space if you would like to provide additional feedback on your pre-departure information, orientation, or program support.

The orientation in Argentina should have included more group cultural activities. We spent far too much time wandering around the city or sitting on our hands with nothing to do. We should have been spending that time together with the on-site staff learning about the city and culture. That would have made us feel more at home and would have been more useful than the few cultural activities that were scheduled later in the semester.

ALL STUDENTS: Would you like to make an appointment (in person or phone) with International Programs and Off-Campus Study to discuss your study abroad experience?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS ONLY: Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help with pre-departure orientations and/or other study abroad meetings or promotional activities?

Yes

No

ALL STUDENTS: May we use your comments in future publications?

Yes

No

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

Tulane University

With which program did you study?

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- Middlebury School in France
- Middlebury School in Germany
- Middlebury School in Italy
- Middlebury School in Latin America
- Middlebury School in Middle East
- Middlebury School in Russia
- Middlebury School in Spain

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- Guadalajara
- Hangzhou
- Irkutsk
- Kunming
- La Serena
- Logrono
- Madrid
- Mainz
- Montevideo
- Moscow
- Niteroi
- Pairs
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- Santiago
- Temuco
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- Valparaiso
- Xalapa

At which university did you primarily conduct your studies?

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- IN FRANCE --
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- Sciences Po - Bordeaux
- Universite de Poitiers
- Centre Madeleine
- Universite de Paris 1 - Pantheon Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle
- Universite de Paris 4 - Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 5 - Descartes
- Insitut Catholique
- Ecole Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot
- Ecole Speciale d'Architecture
- Sciences Po - Paris
- IN GERMANY ---
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- IN ITALY ---
- Universita degli Studi di Ferrara
- Middlebury College School in Italy - Sede
- Universita degli Studi di Firenze
- IN LATIN AMERICA ---
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- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciencias Sociales
- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Filosofia y Letras
- Universidad del Salvador
- Universidad Torcuato di Tella
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Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

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Universidad de Concepcion

Universidad de la Serena

Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Chile

Universidad de la Frontera

Universidad Austral de Chile

Universidad de Playa Ancha

Universidad de Valparaiso

Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso

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Alexandria University

--- IN RUSSIA ---

Irkutsk State University

The Russian State University for the Humanities

Yaroslavl Pedagogical University

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Universidad de Cordoba

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

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Middlebury College School in Spain - Sede Prim

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

I've studied abroad before and pretty much expected to encounter the typical Latin American educational system, which I did. It requires more independence on the part of the student.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

n/a

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

American culture strives for convenience. Everything is easier in the US than it is abroad.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Independence. Being abroad means that you have to be able to survive on your own and fend for yourself.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

It hasn't.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

My host mom and I were more like roommates than a family.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

LIFE (Luchemos para una Infancia Feliz y con Esperanza)
Everyone at LIFE speaks English. It's just full of foreigners.

What was the language of the host country?

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

No
improvement

Little
improvement

Improved
somewhat

Improved

Very much
improved

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

No
improvement

Little
improvement

Improved
somewhat

Improved

Very much
improved

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

It was less than I had expected. I just didn't get the chance to interact with locals as much as I had liked.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Political Science/International Relations

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Literature

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Historia del arte y cultura argentina y americana 4

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

one final paper

Please describe the course content:

art in Latin America from the 20th century

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

powerpoints and readings

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Literatura iberoamericana

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

one midterm exam

Describe course content

literature from the colonial age in Latin America

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture and readings

Other comments about this course:

disliked the instructor

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Política internacional latinoamericana

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

1 midterm exam, 1 short paper, 1 final paper

Describe course content

Politics between Latin American countries since independence

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture and readings

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Sistemas politicos latinoamericanos comparados

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

1 midterm exam, 1 short paper, 1 final paper

Describe course content

the political systems of various Latin American countries since independence

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture and readings

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Just be sure of your courses and teachers

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Be ready to learn to be on your own in a very big city. Buenos Aires is a challenge and the courses are going to be completely new if you've never studied abroad before. Just be open to new experiences and strong.

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

It was all fine.

ALL STUDENTS: Would you like to make an appointment (in person or phone) with International Programs and Off-Campus Study to discuss your study abroad experience?

- Yes
- No

ALL STUDENTS: May we use your comments in future publications?

- Yes
- No

How did you learn of the Middlebury program? (Check all that apply.)

- searching the web
- a friend who attended a Middlebury program
- a friend (who did not attend a Middlebury program)
- a sibling or other family member
- a faculty member at my college/university
- by attending the Middlebury Language Schools
- a study abroad fair
- a study abroad office/adviser
- a news article

Other

Why did you choose this particular program and site?

I wanted to go to Buenos Aires on a challenging program.

Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad?

- Completely matched
- Was what I expected for the most part
- Was somewhat different from what I expected
- Was vastly different than what I'd expected

Comments

Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion?

- Yes
- No

Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?

Yes

No

Were there particular challenges unique to you as a student from another institution? Please explain.

The Spanish department at Tulane is pretty picky about courses that will count towards the major.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

With which program did you study?

Middlebury School in China

Middlebury School in France

Middlebury School in Germany

Middlebury School in Italy

Middlebury School in Latin America

Middlebury School in Middle East

Middlebury School in Russia

Middlebury School in Spain

At which site did you study?

- Alexandria
- Beijing (not J-term)
- Belo Horizonte
- Berlin
- Bordeaux
- Buenos Aires
- Concepcion
- Cordoba
- Ferrara
- Florence
- Florianopolis
- Getafe
- Guadalajara
- Hangzhou
- Irkutsk
- Kunming
- La Serena
- Logrono
- Madrid
- Mainz
- Montevideo
- Moscow
- Niteroi
- Pairs
- Poitiers
- Santiago
- Temuco
- Tucuman
- Valdivia
- Valparaiso
- Xalapa

At which university did you primarily conduct your studies?

- IN CHINA ---
- Zhejiang University of Technology
- IN FRANCE --
- Universite Bordeaux 3 - Michel de Montaigne
- Universite Bordeaux 4 -Montesquieu
- Sciences Po - Bordeaux
- Universite de Poitiers
- Centre Madeleine
- Universite de Paris 1 - Pantheon Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle
- Universite de Paris 4 - Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 5 - Descartes
- Insitut Catholique
- Ecole Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot
- Ecole Speciale d'Architecture
- Sciences Po - Paris
- IN GERMANY ---
- Freie Universitat
- Johannes Guttenberg Universitat
- IN ITALY ---
- Universita degli Studi di Ferrara
- Middlebury College School in Italy - Sede
- Universita degli Studi di Firenze
- IN LATIN AMERICA ---
- ARGENTINA-
- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciencias Sociales
- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Filosofia y Letras
- Universidad del Salvador
- Universidad Torcuato di Tella
- Universidad Nacional de Tucuman
- BRAZIL-

Pontifica Universidade Catolica de Minas Gerais

Universidade Federal Fluminense

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

-CHILE-

Universidad de Chile

Universidad de Concepcion

Universidad de la Serena

Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Chile

Universidad de la Frontera

Universidad Austral de Chile

Universidad de Playa Ancha

Universidad de Valparaiso

Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso

-MEXICO-

Universidad de Guadalajara

Universidad Veracruzana

-URUGUAY-

Universidad Catolica del Uruguay

Universidad de la Republica

Universidad ORT

--- IN THE MIDDLE EAST --

Alexandria University

--- IN RUSSIA ---

Irkutsk State University

The Russian State University for the Humanities

Yaroslavl Pedagogical University

--- IN SPAIN ---

Universidad de Cordoba

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Universidad de la Rioja

Middlebury College School in Spain - Sede Prim

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

I experienced a somewhat difficult adjustment to the educational environment of my host university in Argentina, USAL. But overall, i believe that it was worth the challenge and that I learned a lot from it. As a academic institution very different from that of Middlebury, I enjoyed the opportunity to live and learn in a foreign academic environment. It pushed me to be a proactive learner and seek opportunities inside and outside of the classroom to connect with my host country. I pursued new academic interests and broadened my academic horizon. That being said, it was a very difficult immersion for me, and I had a significantly more academic semester than social one due to the structure of the Middlebury Program requirements, which is the opposite of what I had wanted out of my semester abroad.

I was not prepared for the academic courseload with the 4 classes at USAL, Midd escritura class, and internship. I was not told that the USAL requirements had increased from 3 to 4 classes until I arrived at the site. I thought this lack of communication was poorly managed and relayed (but has been lowered to 3 due to our feedback for this current semester fall 2009).

Overall, I had a positive experience at USAL, and I learned the importance of seeking a balance between one's social life and academic life in one's academic environment, whether it is abroad, at Middlebury or whatever environment.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

I have seen and lived stark differences between the democratic and bureaucratic systems of the United States and Argentina respectively. I've experienced such differences in the academic, political, occupational, family system, etc. While, many consider Buenos Aires, Argentina modeled after Europe, I would also consider the two cultures and environments to be significantly different.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

My study abroad experience has made me become very appreciative of the American culture in terms of its democratic system, its effectiveness and its organization.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I became more independent and more open to new experiences during my study abroad experience. I found my willingness to separate myself from the students on the program/other foreigners and my independent nature to facilitate my personal growth and foster a genuine immersion in the Argentine culture. I also dedicated myself wholeheartedly to new opportunities and pursuits I could only find abroad, such as my internship working for an argentine non-profit organization.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

I became more goal orientated by studying abroad and thought more about my academic and career goals. While my time abroad made me think about it more, being exposed to older peers, it did not necessarily give me more direction. If anything, I was given the advice to take a year off or two, travel and just not focus and limit myself on one track.

Unfortunately, my time abroad also made me change my academic plans at Middlebury and pushed me to lighten my load and perhaps not write a senior thesis. Therefore, my abroad time has changed my priorities tremendously in terms of my academic and social life.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I believe that living in a homestay really implemented the full language immersion that the program seeks to foster, and it helped me tremendously in this respect. As I lived with three younger brothers and a single mother, it was a great opportunity to immerse myself in the Argentine culture. I was very close to my family but it came at a disadvantage. Overall, in terms of my housing, I was not pleased with the lack of accommodations. I did not have an adequate desk or chair to study in my room, nor did I receive breakfast and some dinners as the meal plan I had been paying for entailed. Therefore, this was not the ideal homestay, and I would recommend for students to look for housing on their own if they are very particular in terms of what they want out of their housing and if they are not pleased with their housing placements. Many who did so, and who moved out of their homestays, were much happier in the end.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

It made me feel like one of them as an argentine student.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

			Somewhat helpful		
	Not helpful				Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I interned at L.I.F.E. Argentina, a non-profit organization that provides school support and after school activities for children living under the poverty line in slums outside of the city. I worked as a coordinator, not a volunteer, which gave me more responsibilities and more involvement with my internship. With my coordinator position, I became very involved with the organization and am one of few who had a positive internship experience that was integral to my experience abroad.

Many students did not attend their internships and lost out on the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture in the occupational sector. It was crucial to my study abroad experience and exposed me to the slums of argentina and a different socio-economic class from the one I had been living and going to school with. In this respect, I saw more to Argentina through my internship I would highly recommend the internship option over a class, but only if you are willing to dedicate yourself to it. The internship is more work because it is the total time commitment of all your classes combined, but as I said, it was integral to my abroad experience.

What was the language of the host country?

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I'm very pleased with the progress I made in improving my language skills but more so in my speaking/reading/listening comprehension skills than in my writing skills.

My classes helped improve my language competencies, but it was the interaction of everyday life—homestay, friends, co-workers—that strengthened my Spanish.

My coursework helped my reading and writing ability. Yet I do not think the escritura course facilitated my writing skills as it was structured to do so. I was disappointed especially because I had to take this Middlebury requirement as a fifth class.

A homestay that respects the honor code is crucial to the language immersion. Most of all, I would say the best advice would be to limit the time spent with other foreigners and students on the Middlebury Program. It makes all the difference in the world.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

I was the first of the program to enroll in Facultad de Medicina to take classes in the Music Therapy department, which is a department that is not offered at Middlebury. I would recommend it to those who have an interest in Music/Psychology and who don't want to take classes with other foreigners.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

There are a handful of courses in different departments that many students were very dissatisfied with.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Historia del Arte y de la Cultura Americana y Argentina I (intro)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

one exam/ one final 20 page paper

Please describe the course content:

prehistoric art of indigenous areas of Mesoamerica

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

2 hour course, taught like an art history course with powerpoint/slides lecture format but its content was more pertinent to ethnography and archaeology than art.

Other comments about this course:

Not particularly interesting, I would recommend this class in its 3rd of 4th year with its modern latin american art content

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Musicoterapia I (intro)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

final 15-20 page paper, homework/participation

Describe course content

Introduction to Music Therapy

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

2 hour practica (music) / 1 hour lecture

Other comments about this course:

No other foreigners, a bit isolating and the professor treated me differently

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Music Therapy IV: Salud Mental (upper/ 4th year seminar)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

homework / one exam/ final 15-20 page paper

Describe course content

Music therapy seminar regarding the applications of music therapy in psychosis (dementia, trauma, etc)

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

3 hour seminar. taught between two professors 1 1/2 hours each, not an effective teaching style

Other comments about this course:

A lot of work

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Music Therapy IV: Alteraciones del Desarrollo (upper/ 4th year seminar)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

homework- 4 written reports

Describe course content

Music therapy seminar regarding the applications of music therapy in cases of developmental delay (down syndrome, etc.)

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

3 hour seminar, taught on a rotation between 3 professors, somewhat disorganized

Other comments about this course:

Less work than other seminars

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

Internship with L.I.F.E. Argentina

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

final 20 page paper

Describe course content

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Other comments about this course:

10-13 hours per week

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #6

Escritura

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury Language Center

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

6 mini essays, weekly blog entries, and final project or paper

Describe course content

Course structured to help writing skills and castellano

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Not much grammatical overview as it was structured to include

Other comments about this course:

Loved the professor but not a very helpful course requirement, very time consuming for the minimal progress in language acquisition. Overall language acquisition is attributed to language exposure and practice, not this writing course.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

You may receive some form of discrimination from your professors. Be sure to pick your classes based on the classroom environment and the professors. Many professors are accustomed to having foreigners in their classes, while others are not and often single them out. Find what classroom environment is most comfortable with you.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Yes, I have grown tremendously by living in the big city life and integrating myself into such a vibrant, rich culture. Yet, the program's demanding requirements of 4 classes (USAL), the escritura class, and the internship (10-13 hrs per week) took away from my social life and my ability to explore the city. I would recommend the program if the USAL requirements are permanently lowered to 3 classes and definitely if the escritura class were to be removed from the program.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

While the requirements of the Middlebury program within the Buenos Aires site is exceptionally rigorous, I would advocate a Middlebury program over a SIT program, non-middlebury program because if the goals that it seeks to accomplish with the ultimate language immersion. While I see the benefits of other programs, I do not think one can receive as high quality of an education nor the language immersion under SIT/other programs because they are built upon the constant interaction of other foreigners in an assimilated "academic" program/institution (like the Midd program in Spain). In this sense, the Middlebury program will provide a genuine immersion in host countries while others do not, and this is the feedback I received from many friends on non-midd and SIT programs.

Also, the buenos aires site is a STUDY abroad program, unlike many other non-midd programs in BA, which do not have rigorous academic standards or requirements. I would say that this is not the place to go to slack off, if you are not willing to keep up with the Middlebury standards of academics. Of the Latin American sites, Buenos Aires offers some of the highest quality institutions among the rest in Chile, etc.

I would recommend this program to those who are willing to live out of their comfort zones and are willing to work through the struggles of everyday life in argentina. I would not recommend coming with a close friend or significant other, I believe this really takes away from your personal experience and I would even recommend spending minimal time with those on the program.

Overall, to any individual considering study abroad, I would say, do it, it's worth it, the struggle, the adventure, all of it. And you gain far more out of one semester abroad than one in Middlebury. Look for a program outside your comfort zone, and the further you go outside your comfort zone, the more you'll take away from the abroad experience as a whole.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

All the information should be up-to-date. This is no fault of the coordinators at Midd, probably more so of the directors in BA but I was very displeased with lack of communication from the program to their students. I can offer many examples in my own personal study abroad experience such as the following:

- the lack of communication that the requirements for USAL increased from 3 to 4 classes. I picked USAL over UBA considering USAL would only require 1 class more.
- the lack of communication that the program and USAL created a new policy for the Middlebury students to take finals before their argentine peers. Not knowing that we would have to finish early, many of us did not apply for jobs back home and even turned down offers.

I found the meeting with the student who had been on site the semester prior to be the most helpful of all the meetings. It would be great in the introductory/pre-departure meeting to have a panel of numerous students from the site, as many as possible, to hear a diverse range of experiences instead of judging one's decision upon one person's individual experience.

ALL STUDENTS: Please use this space if you would like to provide additional feedback on your pre-departure information, orientation, or program support.

In terms of the orientation, the orientation was somewhat helpful but unreasonably too long. It should have included actual tours of the city instead of just spending the entire day inside the Language center. I do think we had enough information regarding safety and housing issues but we weren't given enough academic information, in particular with USAL.

I also struggled finding my way around the city when I first arrived because no one clearly explained the transportation systems to me. This kind of information and information on a smaller scale (locutorios, fotocopiadoras) would have been helpful in the orientation.

ALL STUDENTS: Would you like to make an appointment (in person or phone) with International Programs and Off-Campus Study to discuss your study abroad experience?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS ONLY: Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help with pre-departure orientations and/or other study abroad meetings or promotional activities?

- Yes
- No

ALL STUDENTS: May we use your comments in future publications?

- Yes
- No

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

With which program did you study?

- Middlebury School in China
- Middlebury School in France
- Middlebury School in Germany
- Middlebury School in Italy
- Middlebury School in Latin America
- Middlebury School in Middle East
- Middlebury School in Russia
- Middlebury School in Spain

At which site did you study?

- Alexandria
- Beijing (not J-term)
- Belo Horizonte
- Berlin
- Bordeaux
- Buenos Aires
- Concepcion
- Cordoba
- Ferrara
- Florence
- Florianopolis
- Getafe
- Guadalajara
- Hangzhou
- Irkutsk
- Kunming
- La Serena
- Logrono
- Madrid
- Mainz
- Montevideo
- Moscow
- Niteroi
- Pairs
- Poitiers
- Santiago
- Temuco
- Tucuman
- Valdivia
- Valparaiso
- Xalapa

At which university did you primarily conduct your studies?

- IN CHINA ---
- Zhejiang University of Technology
- IN FRANCE --
- Universite Bordeaux 3 - Michel de Montaigne
- Universite Bordeaux 4 -Montesquieu
- Sciences Po - Bordeaux
- Universite de Poitiers
- Centre Madeleine
- Universite de Paris 1 - Pantheon Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle
- Universite de Paris 4 - Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 5 - Descartes
- Insitut Catholique
- Ecole Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot
- Ecole Speciale d'Architecture
- Sciences Po - Paris
- IN GERMANY ---
- Freie Universitat
- Johannes Guttenberg Universitat
- IN ITALY ---
- Universita degli Studi di Ferrara
- Middlebury College School in Italy - Sede
- Universita degli Studi di Firenze
- IN LATIN AMERICA ---
- ARGENTINA-
- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciencias Sociales
- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Filosofia y Letras
- Universidad del Salvador
- Universidad Torcuato di Tella
- Universidad Nacional de Tucuman
- BRAZIL-

Pontifica Universidade Catolica de Minas Gerais

Universidade Federal Fluminense

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

-CHILE-

Universidad de Chile

Universidad de Concepcion

Universidad de la Serena

Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Chile

Universidad de la Frontera

Universidad Austral de Chile

Universidad de Playa Ancha

Universidad de Valparaiso

Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso

-MEXICO-

Universidad de Guadalajara

Universidad Veracruzana

-URUGUAY-

Universidad Catolica del Uruguay

Universidad de la Republica

Universidad ORT

--- IN THE MIDDLE EAST --

Alexandria University

--- IN RUSSIA ---

Irkutsk State University

The Russian State University for the Humanities

Yaroslavl Pedagogical University

--- IN SPAIN ---

Universidad de Cordoba

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Universidad de la Rioja

Middlebury College School in Spain - Sede Prim

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

Argentina's educational system puts a lot of responsibility on the student, which is beneficial and detrimental. It was valuable for me to learn how to be more self-sufficient in my learning, but at the same time, it was difficult to adjust to being very detached from the professors.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

Argentine culture is much more laid back than American, but with strong traditional ties that are clearly manifested in daily life, like eating, music, and holidays. They also are much more involved in national issues (i.e. political manifestations are very common). However, the bureaucracy is outrageously inefficient, which is easily seen in the many failures and shortcomings in their political and economic systems. The people themselves, however, are very welcoming and open and willing to tell you anything you ask about them, and do not worry about being politically correct.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

Living in a Latin American country--though a highly "Europeanized" one--and living amongst the citizens and talking with them about global, and even national or local issues, definitely gave me a new perspective on how to look at life and how to go about thinking about certain things and even how to go about changing them.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Going to college in general has made me highly independent, but living in a large, foreign city gave me the know-how to go about "real life". Being confident in your ability to speak a foreign language--even if you mess up occasionally, and will never be perfect--shows outwardly that you are confident in yourself, and people around you can see that and will be more than willing to listen to you.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Academically, I greatly improved my Spanish skills and it has motivated me to continue and maintain them to possibly be useful in a career.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I think living in a homestay/apartment creates isolation, especially for American students used to living amongst their peers. A dorm would be more appropriate for college students, I think, because you make friends easier and have people to socialize with that are your peers, rather than a family who may be hard for a college student to relate to/do activities with.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

They paid more attention to exchange students if there was only one, and/or if you asserted yourself in the class, which was nice, especially since classes are mostly just lectures and very little actual personal interaction amongst students.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I did an internship with an NGO, which didn't give me much interaction with people. I would try to promote person-to-person internships, like teaching English or doing activities with a children's program.

What was the language of the host country?

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

It was somewhat less than I expected because I felt very isolated because of my academic workload and not living with my peers.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The finals schedule at USAL for exchange students assures that you are done by the last day of class with all final work, so you do not have to worry about scheduling a final exam and waiting around to take a final weeks after the semester ends.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

.....

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Hlstory of art and culture of latin american and argentina I

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

midterm exam; final paper

Please describe the course content:

covered Meso- and southamerican culture before colonization/arrival of Europeans

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture with powerpoints

Other comments about this course:

Terrible teacher.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Turistic Geography III (of Argentina)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

covered the different regions of Argentina and their physical geography, their history and why they have become tourist destinations

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture

Other comments about this course:

Interesting way to learn about Argentina

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

History of Argentina I (for non-history majors)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exam

Describe course content

History of Argentina--political and economic history, social history, settlement history and impacts

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture

Other comments about this course:

Amazing professor, really makes the topic interesting and fun to learn (Roberto Alvaro Nunez)

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Geopolitics

At which institution/university did you take this course?

USAL

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper/presentation

Describe course content

global geopolitics (US, CHina, RUssia, Europe, Latin America, separately and how they are interconnected, and Argentina's role in the global political spectrum

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture, discussion, student presentations

Other comments about this course:

great course, interesting, interactive, good way to learn/understand Argentine perspective on issues and think about how America is perceived and conveyed to others

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

I think the Middlebury program puts too much emphasis on the academic aspect, which greatly detracts from the cultural experience and immersion. I found myself studying so much that I missed out on a lot of great opportunities that would have enhanced my overall experience. It is NOT possible to recreate the Middlebury atmosphere outside of Middlebury, and to try is taking away the real focus of a study abroad, which is to live the culture, not spend all your time studying.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

If academics is your goal, Middlebury is probably a good program, but if you want to do more cultural activities and really experience the place, do another program that doesn't put so much focus on academics.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

talking with previous SA students was helpful to navigate getting settled, but a lot of info was left out.

ALL STUDENTS: Please use this space if you would like to provide additional feedback on your pre-departure information, orientation, or program support.

We arrived way too early before classes started and had nothing to do after the first week of orientation. We didn't know the city yet, we didn't have friends yet, and we were overwhelmed by our new situation, and wasted a lot of valuable time that could have been put into something else.

ALL STUDENTS: Would you like to make an appointment (in person or phone) with International Programs and Off-Campus Study to discuss your study abroad experience?

Yes

No

MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS ONLY: Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help with pre-departure orientations and/or other study abroad meetings or promotional activities?

Yes

No

ALL STUDENTS: May we use your comments in future publications?

Yes

No

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

With which program did you study?

Middlebury School in China

Middlebury School in France

Middlebury School in Germany

Middlebury School in Italy

Middlebury School in Latin America

Middlebury School in Middle East

Middlebury School in Russia

Middlebury School in Spain

At which site did you study?

- Alexandria
- Beijing (not J-term)
- Belo Horizonte
- Berlin
- Bordeaux
- Buenos Aires
- Concepcion
- Cordoba
- Ferrara
- Florence
- Florianopolis
- Getafe
- Guadalajara
- Hangzhou
- Irkutsk
- Kunming
- La Serena
- Logrono
- Madrid
- Mainz
- Montevideo
- Moscow
- Niteroi
- Pairs
- Poitiers
- Santiago
- Temuco
- Tucuman
- Valdivia
- Valparaiso
- Xalapa

At which university did you primarily conduct your studies?

- IN CHINA ---
- Zhejiang University of Technology
- IN FRANCE --
- Universite Bordeaux 3 - Michel de Montaigne
- Universite Bordeaux 4 -Montesquieu
- Sciences Po - Bordeaux
- Universite de Poitiers
- Centre Madeleine
- Universite de Paris 1 - Pantheon Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 3 - Sorbonne Nouvelle
- Universite de Paris 4 - Sorbonne
- Universite de Paris 5 - Descartes
- Insitut Catholique
- Ecole Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot
- Ecole Speciale d'Architecture
- Sciences Po - Paris
- IN GERMANY ---
- Freie Universitat
- Johannes Guttenberg Universitat
- IN ITALY ---
- Universita degli Studi di Ferrara
- Middlebury College School in Italy - Sede
- Universita degli Studi di Firenze
- IN LATIN AMERICA ---
- ARGENTINA-
- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Ciencias Sociales
- Universidad de Buenos Aires, Filosofia y Letras
- Universidad del Salvador
- Universidad Torcuato di Tella
- Universidad Nacional de Tucuman
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Pontifica Universidade Catolica de Minas Gerais

Universidade Federal Fluminense

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

-CHILE-

Universidad de Chile

Universidad de Concepcion

Universidad de la Serena

Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Chile

Universidad de la Frontera

Universidad Austral de Chile

Universidad de Playa Ancha

Universidad de Valparaiso

Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso

-MEXICO-

Universidad de Guadalajara

Universidad Veracruzana

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--- IN SPAIN ---

Universidad de Cordoba

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Universidad de la Rioja

Middlebury College School in Spain - Sede Prim

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

The first difference was that I was required to take five classes opposed to taking four as I am use to at Middlebury, or three as other students attending other universities in Buenos Aires were permitted to take. This was very difficult to manage, in major part because of the other differences that USAL's academic system entailed, including the absence of a finals period for abroad students and the majority or totality of the grade being dependent on the final. Therefore, I had to take five finals within a couple of weeks, while maintaining attendance in classes, reading, and studying. This proved to be an exhausting and horrible time, taking away significantly from my abroad experience. Differences within the classroom mainly revolved around the fact that the professors had little to no focus on students as individuals and were basically inaccessible for questions and concerns outside of class, which creates a different setting within the classroom.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

There were obvious differences such as the tradition and culture that revolves around mate and more use of public plazas. Buenos Aires is a huge city and it was more similar to a big city in the United States than places in the country in the U.S. are to New York or D.C. Therefore, a lot of the differences I might have expected did not prove to be true. Although people there hold many stereotypes of how their culture and people are so different, I for the most part found that was not the case. For example, many portenos would say that Argentinians are more warm and inviting people, but on a day to day basis people walked past each other on the street trying to avoid eye contact and not be bothered just as much as they do in NYC. Also, there is a very large number of immigrants or tourists, which I think molds part of the culture, but again makes it more similar than different to cities in the U.S. There is no doubt that there were some distinct differences, such as people living with their parents for longer periods of time than people in the U.S. These differences also change other aspects of the culture, such as more PDA, arguably because young adults live with their families longer and do not have their own privacy. Overall, many aspects of the culture seemed very similar to the U.S. and lifestyles changed more drastically between economic groups or country versus city dwellers.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I love the United States of America. Before I went abroad I was pretty skeptical about the U.S. being esteemed over other countries, but after being abroad I see that there are a lot of amazing pieces to American culture that are strongly lacking in at least Buenos Aires. One big differentiation is the economic positioning of the two countries and how that changes daily life. Argentina has very little manufacturing of any goods outside the production of mainly raw materials which are primarily shipped to other countries. Therefore, many products that we produce in the United States of America or have cheaply imported are not available or more commonly very expensive in Argentina. This became a big problem for me when on my third day in the country all of my electronics were stolen out of my room, which the Middlebury program had placed me in and I had no choice in picking, and I had to try to replace the primary items out of my own limited budget. Although, I gained many negative influences about Argentina while I was there, there were also many positives. One being that many Argentinians are very active in trying to voice to their country their grievances, through demonstrations and protests. Although this is also true in the culture of the United States of America, it seemed more common there.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I grew through the people that I met, I learned a great deal from my friends while I was abroad. But as one of them once pointed out I could have grown or learned just as much in my own backyard. Acceptance of different lifestyles became a personal characteristic that was most useful during my time abroad.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Before going to Argentina I was considering going into a career where I used Spanish or maybe even would live abroad, but after my time there I do not think this is something that would interest me. Although, I will finish my major in International Studies with my focus on Latin America, I have little interest in pursuing a life abroad in Latin America.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I lived in two apartments, the first with a 22 year old portena and the second with a young Argentinian couple, therefore homestay in part, but was more like a shared apartment. I can not call it a homestay without reservation, because neither was much like a home. The first apartment was organized by the Middlebury program, and as I noted earlier all of my electronics were stolen from my apartment only three days after my arrival. Although this was the most extreme of my grievances with the apartment that was organized for me by Middlebury with none of my true input (filling out the questionnaire prior to ever even stepping foot in the country or knowing any of the neighborhoods is not in my opinion true input), it was by far not my only one. the girl I was placed with was not bad, but spent little time in trying to make me feel comfortable, often criticizing me or my lifestyle more than trying to help my integration process. In general she communicated very little with me and I felt like I was always very much an unwanted paying guest than a host sister or friend. I lived in a shoddy neighborhood, which made me feel extremely isolated, as I was advised even by my own directors to not walk at all after dark (which was at 7:00pm through part of my time there) in my neighborhood. It was surely not an appropriate neighborhood for a female international student to be placed, when there are plenty of nice and much safer neighborhoods in Buenos Aires. I ultimately found an apartment for myself off of Craigslist, because I was so unhappy in my first apartment after the required two months, although this took much more time and effort than I would have liked to have spent on something that Middlebury's program should have provided me in the beginning. My second apartment was much more pleasant and in a very nice neighborhood, but because the couple I was living with had no formal experience with having students from a program live with them, we did not spend much time together and it was much more a business arrangement than a host family opportunity to help my integration into Argentinian culture.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

The students had very different schedules than me and had all of their other classes together, whereas I was only in one class with each group. Although I got along with the students that I did get to interact with there was normally little time for such interaction, because we were in class and they often had class after my classes with them therefore I would be left to go home while they attended other classes. Also. being very use to the dorm system at Middlbury were you live with the people in your college, I felt like there was always a huge disconnect between school and social life at least for international students. I made vitually all my friends outside of the classroom.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

What was the language of the host country?

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

Although I definitely improved in every aspect of the language it was difficult because there was little to no feedback or correction either on a academic or personal level. I had some friends that would correct me if I spoke incorrectly, but for the most part, because they could understand me they did not spend all of our time fixing my grammar. Also, many of my friends did not use perfect grammar themselves and used a good deal of slang, therefore although my listening improved greatly it was hard to convert those skills into my spoken or written work.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

You will be graded on a harder scale than the kids going to the other universities in Buenos Aires that are offered by the Middlebury program and you will be expected to do more work (take more classes). This is the fault of Middlebury's program and not USAL. Also the Middlebury directors are very unsympathetic to this fact and in my opinion unfair in their evaluation of the different universities. For this reason alone I do not suggest attending USAL, because in my experience you will do comparable to more work than your peers from Middlebury at the other universities and your grade scale will be weighed unfavorably for you.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Historia de la Iglesia

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad del Salvador

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Final paper

Please describe the course content:

We studied the creation and centuries of the Catholic church.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The professor lectured and we had readings.

Other comments about this course:

It was a good course, small and intimate and the professor was helpful, understanding and nice.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Historia de America I

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad del Salvador

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Final Paper

Describe course content

We learned about the creation of America.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Through lecture, some class participation, and readings outside of class.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Historia de arte y cultura de America I

At which institution/university did you take this course?

universidad del Salvador

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

A midterm exam and a final paper (overlapping in time for international students)

Describe course content

A history of culture and some artistic expression from different groups mainly before the colonization of America.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lots of outside reading. Lectures by the professor.

Other comments about this course:

Not a very good course unless you happen to be very interested in the subject matter, which is not mainly focused on art.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Historia de Argentina

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad del Salvador

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

final exam

Describe course content

We learned about the history of Argentina.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture from the professor and outside reading.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

Prehistoria y Antropologia

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Universidad del Salvador

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Final exam (we did homework, but I believe it did not count towards our grade)

Describe course content

We learned about the history and close origins of humans. Also, about the earth and environment and the changes these manipulated in humans outcome. We studied some anthropological methods and learned briefly about specific anthropologists.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture by professor with some class participation and outside lots of reading.

Other comments about this course:

Good course and a very nice professor.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"This course helped me to improve my knowledge about the subject."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Although I experienced no major discrimination I thought it worthwhile to share my experiences that I say as discriminatory. Many times when I would walk in a store or even when I was getting papers done for immigrations the people assumed and sometimes insisted that I was from Brazil and not the United States, even in a case where the woman was holding my U.S. passport, because the color of my skin.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

I do not feel like the program is that great I think it puts too much focus on expectations of what study abroad should be like and does not allow for appropriate freedom for the students individual experiences. Also the university I attended was good, but was ruined by the unreasonable number of classes and unfair grade scale required by the program.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Better to stay at Middlebury if you have any doubts about going abroad. Especially if Middlebury is already outside of your normal life experience, there is plenty to learn right in front of you. If you want a change of scene or feel like going abroad is right for you, then you are probably correct and should make the trip. Either way it is an eye-opening experience, whether your eyes are opened to positive or negative, no one can tell you, every experience is unique and most likely there will be both good and bad while abroad. If your Middlebury experience is made up of all good then it will be hard to find anything close anywhere else, but to each his own.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

There needs to be a stress in differences that have been made in the program since the person that talks to the students in the pre-departure meeting have attended the program. I was expecting four classes and was made to take five, which regardless of what anyone may assume is a huge difference when you are already trying to adjust to a new country, language, and life.

ALL STUDENTS: Please use this space if you would like to provide additional feedback on your pre-departure information, orientation, or program support.

Don't but students that choose to go to Buenos Aires in bad neighborhoods, it is unfair to them, you guys know the city and we do not so please be more responsible about your decisions in the future it drastically will change students experiences.

ALL STUDENTS: Would you like to make an appointment (in person or phone) with International Programs and Off-Campus Study to discuss your study abroad experience?

- Yes
- No

MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS ONLY: Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help with pre-departure orientations and/or other study abroad meetings or promotional activities?

- Yes
- No

ALL STUDENTS: May we use your comments in future publications?

- Yes
- No