



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 7 inclusive.

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

Pomona College

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.

Although the Argentine public university is very very different from my home liberal arts college, I found that the differences were mainly administrative rather than in the classroom. It was interesting to see how they can achieve so much academic success with limited resources. Also the frequent disruptions in class showed how the university can be a public space.

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

Please Comment:

Although I found some different attitudes about things like time and family, I feel that the US and Argentina are mostly similar because they are both western cultures where we have similar lifestyles and expectations about how people behave.

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

Study abroad has deepened my understanding of many aspects my host culture. What sticks out to me about coming back to the US even during the economic crisis is the amount of wealth, stuff, and materialism.

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

I feel more confident in my ability to move to a new place where I don't really know anyone. I found independence to be useful during my time abroad.

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

At this point I can't say study abroad has influenced my goals but I'm sure I'll notice the influence later.

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.

Some of my expectations about my homestay such as becoming close friends with the host siblings proved unrealistic but overall it was an excellent way to gain insight into the host 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

I felt integrated into the host culture but my relationships with argentine students didn't extent beyond the campus

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 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 took a tango class at Centro Cultural Rojas which was fun and taught me about tango. I tried attending events at the local Hillel but found that they mostly attracted other foreign students. As part of the program I volunteered at Maternidad Sarda. Besides the educational aspects, it was nice socially to get to know the other volunteers and some of the patients.

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

I think what held me back most was being too quiet and not talking enough. I also probably spent too much time online in English. Since it's a gradual process I didn't notice any dramatic changes but by the end I felt quite confident living in Spanish. Living with a host family and doing an internship really helped. I also read the daily newspaper which helped with vocab. Since I was in the advanced writing class which focused on academic writing, the formal program wasn't especially helpful with language learning.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

seminar classes

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

missed class time

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

Problemas Latinoamericanos Contemporaneos

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA-FILO

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

one report, a literature review and a final paper

Please describe the course content:

survey of revolutions in Mexico, Bolivia, Cuba, Chile, and Venezuela

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.

large lecture and smaller discussion section

Other comments about this course:

A relatively well organized and interesting course but I found that I'm just not that interested in history.

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 #2

Seminario: Conflictiva Ambiente-Sociedad

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA-FILO

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

short homework, class participation (short presentations), and final paper

Describe course content

an investigation of the relationship between society and the environment with a focus on 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.

class time was part lecture and part discussion, readings were books and articles provided by the instructor as well as individual internet research

Other comments about this course:

This was an amazing class. There were only six students partly because the prof didn't show up the first day due to miscommunication with the administration. Nevertheless, the class encouraged independent thinking and was in many ways similar to a seminar at a liberal arts college.

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 #3

Internship

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Maternidad Sarda

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

attendance and a final paper

Describe course content

Volunteered at a public maternity hospital

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 didn't find the final paper particularly helpful in my learning. I felt like it was mostly to fulfill the requirement and was necessarily detached from my experience since it was an academic paper.

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 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

writing for cultural and linguistic competency

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Middlebury

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

directed and free choice writing

Describe course content

wrote about my experience in buenos aires

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.

in class sessions focused on academic writing

Other comments about this course:

homework assignments were helpful but classes were somewhat boring and met too infrequently

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"/>

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.

I answered no because I did not see overt discrimination or harassment but I did notice significantly negative attitudes towards Bolivians. Also it's common to hear comments about Blacks, Asians or women that would be unacceptable in the US.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

it as a great immersion experience

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

Five months really isn't that long. Finding friends and activities is a weird combination of being proactive and going with the flow realizing that not everything's going to turn out how you want it.

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?

I didn't find pre-departure booklet very helpful because it was too general. The specific advice that Nicole Chance and Maria Marta sent in emails (certain items to bring, what bank to use) was very helpful.

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 chose this program because it was a Latin American program approved by my home college where I could take classes with local students.

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

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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.

no

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

Pomona College

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)
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- 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
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- 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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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.

Pomona is a small, liberal arts college just like Middlebury. We students are encouraged to pursue a well-rounded educational experience through a variety of classes in a host of fields. Perhaps most shocking to me about the Latin American educational system was the degree to which everything is specialized. I learned from the native students that the norm is to pick a field before beginning your collegiate studies and take the classes that pertain.

I must say that it was a welcome surprise to have a more independent semester. Pomona's great, don't get me wrong, but sometimes there's just a little too much attention, a little too much involvement in student affairs. The Universidad de Buenos Aires is an enormous institution with more than 200,000 students enrolled. As chaotic, disorganized, and untidy as it was, my semester there was quite an experience.

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:

Buenos Aires is an urban metropolis with millions of inhabitants. Thus, the same diversions present in the United States exist there: movie theatres, opera houses, malls, parks, museums, etc. Similarly, many of the corporate chains present in the States (Starbucks, McDonald's, Burger King, etc.) have found their way to Buenos Aires. There are undoubtedly cultural differences between here and there - like the dynamic between men and women - but it wasn't a semester in a desolate village in the Himalayas...

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

Many people in Latin America are not the biggest fans of the United States. While being in the States, it's easy to desensitize oneself to the impact our culture has on a global level. Being on the other side, however, made me exceedingly aware of the ramifications that follow from United States' intervention/involvement in other cultures.

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

I've always worked well with others. In a situation such as my semester abroad, I was glad to be able to reach out and relate to others.

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?

	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	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<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 homestay was small and set apart from the the downtown area of Buenos Aires. For that reason, coupled with the fact that my host requested the low-level rent option that excludes meals, I was rarely at home for anything but to sleep. I would leave in the mornings and stay out for the entirety of the day for convenience purposes. That said, my homestay wasn't the best portal into Argentine 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

.....

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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 participated in an internship with ProyectArte, a non-profit school that offers art institution to roughly 20 students annually selected to study on scholarship. In short, my experience was horrible. My bosses, the volunteer coordinators, were cold and vastly unavailable. Multiple times over the course of the semester I found myself in hot water with my program directors over issues out of my hands. The program directors called me irresponsible and belittled me, when the true source of the problem was ProyectArte and the fact that they wouldn't return my phone calls and emails. I wouldn't recommend the internship to a future participant.

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
	<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 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?

In truth, the vast majority of my improvement came not from within the classroom. Rather, the daily interactions with a flower salesman or a cab driver proved most useful.

For the Buenos Aires program, if one chooses to attend UBA, he must decide between option A) two academic classes, an internship, and the program language course or option B) three academic classes and the program language course. In my opinion, this is rather useless. I honestly think it would be better for each participant to take three academic classes, that's it. No internship, no program language course. The internships are made-up positions just to give the students something to do. Liria, the woman who teaches the language course, is a gem. She's sweet and caring, but the course was a waste of time. Three academic classes at UBA constitutes sufficient credit for the students' home institutions. Without the time constraints of an internship and language class, three classes would be very manageable.

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:

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

Problemas de Literatura Latinoamericana

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA-Filosofia y Letras

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

3 papers, the last of which was a 15-page monografía

Please describe the course content:

Survey of prominent literature from all of Latin America. One country was addressed per lecture.

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.

Large lecture meets twice a week. Smaller groups (each student must enroll himself in one of the four choices at the beginning of the semester) meet once a week.

Other comments about this course:

Very interesting, but perhaps too broad a topic.

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

Buenos Aires arte y arquitectura durante los años 1920

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA - Filosofia y Letras

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

1 final investigative monografia

Describe course content

A study of the modernization and urbanization of Buenos Aires during the 20's decade.

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 twice a week.

Other comments about this course:

Professor was rather dull. His lectures suggested no thought was given prior. The class had no syllabus and no sense of arrangement.

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"/>

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

Girls can expect to hear a fair share of "cat calls" from the Latin men. It's just something that happens.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

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

Absolutely study abroad, it's an invaluable experience. It's an exciting adventure that entails freedom, adaptation, assimilation, personal growth, and more. I would absolutely recommend Buenos Aires to anybody. It's a beautiful city with a lot going on. I would also recommend UBA. Yes, it's a mess, but it's certainly unlike anything a student from the United States has seen before. I'm not sure if I would recommend this program to a future study abroad participant for the reasons I've detailed above. I found the language course and the internship to be unnecessary, and I found that the on-site directors detracted much more from my experience than they added.

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?

I think it's just fine as is.

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

Orientation was too long. Some days we were there from 9 am to 5 pm. The days were spent mostly in desks, listening to our program directors day after day tell us that we weren't in the United States and thus shouldn't expect our daily lives to be the same. Getting such a message is important, clearly, but hearing it repeatedly was just patronizing. Also, we had a few guest speakers come in during orientation to tackle a broad and ambitious topic, such as Peronism, in an hour. I appreciate the gesture, but it was more or less useless, confirmed by 80% of the students nodding off.

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?

My academic adviser is absolutely in love with Buenos Aires. For that reason, and the fact that I've been to Spain several times, it was an easy choice. Pomona has always gone through the Middlebury program for Buenos Aires.

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

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 would argue that the academic environment was the sphere in which I learned most and grew the most as an individual. The public Latin American university system is incredibly different the higher education system in the states. It amazes me the high level of pedagogy given the embarrassing lack of resources. The public university gives anyone the opportunity to study and as a result, those who come to late night lectures after a full day's work, are truly dedicated to learning and are there as a result of their own drive.

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:

as mentioned above.

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

We are spoiled in many ways in America, but at the same time, we, just like Latin Americans, arrive at our world view as a result of our personal experience; it is difficult to step out of that and truly adopt a non-biased world-view.

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

I worked harder abroad than I have at Middlebury College and it was due to my own drive in conjunction with the demanding course load of the university. Being practically entirely alone in a foreign setting could not be more challenging.

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

It set my academic and career goals in motion in a way that Middlebury hadn't done for me before.

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.

This was my third time in BUenos Aires. It's like a second home and I stayed with the family with whom I'd stayed on previous trips. Quite frankly, I believe this is a unique situation and that in general, the idea of homestay is no longer as successful as it purports to be.

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

Even though I had been to Buenos Aires twice before, and for extended periods of time, the university was a difficult place to meet people; contrary to what one might think.

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

It is difficult integrating in local culture period. It takes a long time to finally figure out where are the right places to frequent in order to meet the kind of people you'd want to meet. My internship was in a senior center and though I enjoyed my time there, I did not feel I played an integral role in a specific part of this society.

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

AS mentioned previously, my prior trips to Argentina aided me in my oral language abilities. the time at the university advanced my reading and writing skills.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The UBA offers the kind of rigorous education that more resembles the European system than our American system. There is an assumed foundation of knowledge and thus, expectations are unappologetically high.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

There is practically no personal guidance at this public university. Be prepared. Nor is there any organization.

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

Literary Theory and Analysis I

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA FILO

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

1 paper, 2 take home midterm exams, final exam. Hours of reading.

Please describe the course content:

An intensive introduction to the major literary theorists of 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.

8 hours of lecture a week. I was one of about 600 students.

Other comments about this course:

Incredibly rigorous, looking back on it, probably more equivalent to American graduate level 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 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

Federico García Lorca Poetry (Seminar)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA FILO

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

One final paper of about 20 pages.

Describe course content

Overview of Lorca's major poetic works

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.

small seminar in which we read/discussed Lorca's poetry with the professor

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 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 #3

Internship with the senior center at the AMIA

At which institution/university did you take this course?

AMIA

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

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:

I basically observed and participated in the activities at the senior center for four months and used this experience for my ethnographic final paper.

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

Studying abroad, one inherently has to defend one's views, personal background, own country etc. It may not be blatant discrimination per say, but one should be prepared to engage in these kinds of conversations.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Though the Middlebury Program itself needs work, the University of BUenos Aires facilitates an incredible learning experience.

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

Keep an open mind. Abandon your expectations.

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?

It was helpful to speak with returning students about their 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

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

Barnard College

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

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Universidad de Guadalajara

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--- IN THE MIDDLE EAST --

Alexandria University

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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.

Overall I felt incredibly lucky to take classes at UBA-FILO. I took time choosing classes, took recommended professors, and ended up having a very positive experience. Many students were bothered by the lack of professionalism/ organization/ formality at UBA, and while I can validate their anxiety, I do not agree that it outweighed the superb academic environment at UBA. There was a lot less written work and a lot more reading. During parciales and exams the work was a little overwhelming, but I found that the study habits I developed in my liberal arts college environment in the States prepared me for that work. By the end of my experience I had no doubt in my ability to write lengthy and coherent papers in Spanish, which has done wonders for my academic confidence in general.

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:

At first our cultures seemed incredibly similar, but the longer I stayed the more subtle differences emerged. The aggregation of these small differences lead to an incredibly distinct everyday life experience, in my opinion.

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

I reached a greater understanding of the culture in Argentina when I spoke to the older generations there, who have really been through the ringer. There defensiveness and assertion of some portenos can be seen as a need for solidarity and a desire to rebuild and unify a nation which has had a tumultuous and at times horrific last 40 some years. It is best to not take offense to prejudices which are expressed about americans and try to understand the Argentine history to the best of one's ability. I am not sure it has changed my perception of American culture in any way, but I would say that I felt very lucky to be able to study abroad, since it is much more difficult for them to come to our country than for us to come to theirs.

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

I do feel more confident in general. I built a network apart from my family and friends at home where I felt both supported and content. Buenos Aires was a dangerous city and I learned how to safely and effectively maneuver. I was somewhat paranoid about being robbed on the street, and while I experienced several attempts, I never was. It pays to be alert.

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

I'm sure is common to respond to this by saying that my desire to be bilingual has increased tenfold. I also feel more confident that it is possible. There is no reason that even someone like me, who does not have a brilliant mind for foreign language, should not be able to speak several languages besides their own.

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

Please comment on your response to the question above.

it was very helpful to live with an older Argentinian woman, both for my language skills and cultural adjustment. I would stay that after 3 months I wished I had my own apartment and was buying/ making my own food. It became odd to be so reliant on someone for my meals, etc.

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

My most meaningful friendships were with students in my seminar

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 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 worked with el archivo for Las Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, where I cataloged old newspapers, magazines, and articles. I read story after story which pertained to the dictatorship and the disappeared. It was an unbelievable experience. I learned all about the 30+ year struggle for human rights and worked with some of the most heroic and driven people I have ever met.

I must say that I sought this internship out on my own after being assigned an internship that I was very unhappy with. I found that

I also took salsa classes at La Salsera, which was a blast and good exercise.

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 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 gained great confidence in my spanish speaking ability when I was abroad, and I improved huge amounts. I realize now that true fluency will take a life-long commitment. It is true that the people who made the most progress in our program were the people who spoke the most Spanish and spent the most time with locals and Spanish speakers. I am more comfortable speaking than I would have imagined, but I am not fluent.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Middlebury is generally smaller than other institutions and really tries its best to encourage students to follow the language pledge.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Some staff members have too much to worry about (programs in other countries etc.) and do not have enough time to coordinate. Also internships were not well organized. There are a on of organizations to work for, and students do not know what is available to them

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

La historia del teatro universal

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA-FILO

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

midterm, monografia, oral final

Please describe the course content:

An overview of theatrehistory, theory and texts statring with Ibsen and ending with Beckett

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.

Long lectures, a lot of theoretical reading, not as much written work

Other comments about this course:

Professor (Jorge Dubatti) was fantastic, a truely engaging course, challenging yet manageable

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

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

Beckett Seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA-FILO

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

two play reviews, 15 page term paper

Describe course content

Acting and Directing Beckett, his earlier works and later short plays

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.

A lot of theory/ discussion. We watched a lot of films in class. Very much like an American seminar

Other comments about this course:

Laura Cerrato a brilliant mind in British Literature and Drama!

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

Clase de Escritura

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Through Middlebury

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

Blog entries, 6 written assignments, a final paper

Describe course content

Discussions of common language problems: pronouns, imperfect, preterite, subjunctive, paper writing

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 class was helpful in that we simply discussed what we were having trouble with and sometimes got off topic by simply discussing Argentine history

Other comments about this course:

The professor was wonderful but overextended

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

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.

A gay friend was verbally harassed and physically threatened on the train. I would say it is always best to keep calm and avoid conversations with irrational people.

Also travel in groups

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

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

Seek out your own internship before you come. Make friends in your classes! enjoy your time there. You can expect disorganization, but a solid academic experience

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?

I think it would have been more helpful to know the internship opportunities available to us, or if not to be repeatedly encouraged to seek out our own.

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

It would have been nice to have the option of moving to student housing or a non-homestay option halfway through one's time there. I found that the homestay experience became a little bit limiting and strange for me. Many homestays become tense situations, and it would have been nice to have an easy way out and other options.

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 study abroad in Latin America to work on my Spanish, and I am very taken with big cities. Also I knew I would have coursework in both of my major areas, anthropology and theatre

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

How would you recommend that we improve in this area?

It would be nice to know what type of orientation activities to expect as well as what kind of group trip or activity might happen during the semester

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

Applying for credit at Barnard is quite the process, but I do not think there is anything you all can do to change that.

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.

Going to UBA FILO gave me a better understanding of young people in Buenos Aires and their attitudes about life. My film class also helped me to understand argentine history more in depth. But I was really struck by the difference in the methodology behind their education. UBA is infamous for their Marxist perspective, but this was mostly present in my history class.

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 think that both places value different things.

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

I learned a lot about Argentina in a way a tourist wouldn't. It hasn't really influenced my perceptions of American culture. Except I think that I have taken a lot of the good things I saw in the way people carried their lives.

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

In Buenos Aires, people operate with a greater sense of calmness that I think has influenced my everyday thinking a lot. I don't think I can stress about things, whether they be academic or personal, in the same way that I did before.

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

I definitely would like to return to Buenos Aires, and improve my command of Spanish.

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

Please comment on your response to the question above.

Lula was absolutely amazing. She and I became really good friends and I hope that we remain in contact. But I would like to have moved out much sooner than I did simply because living on my own would have been more economical and rewarding after having settled in.

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

But it takes more than just one semester to become friends with people at the local university.

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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 think LIFE is a terrible organization to volunteer while studying abroad. Although it's wonderful to work with children, all of the volunteers are foreigners who mostly speak English all the time. Volunteering with LIFE was the biggest waste of time.

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 checked="" 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 am a native Spanish speaker, but going to Buenos Aires helped me refined and understand it at a deeper level.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

All kinds of people go to UBA filo, and they have great professors.

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

It is a bit chaotic, but that's the beauty of going to UBA.

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

Cine argentino y latinoamericano

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA Filo

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

Lots of readings and films to watch, one midterm, one group midterm, and one final group research project.

Please describe the course content:

We studied the history of the film industry in Argentina, starting with Tango films in the 20s. In our discussion sections, we covered melodramas from the 50s from mostly Mexico and Cuba.

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 class was incredibly rewarding, but expect to work hard. I must have watched over 50 films, if not more. We also had to read a lot of texts. I really enjoyed this course with Maria Valdez as my discussion professor because we studied how sex and gender were conveyed in the Mexican melodramas we watched. It was absolutely fascinating but a lot of work. Aside from that, the group research project is actual research that depending on how good it is will probably go towards further research in Argentina.

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 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

Problemas Contemporaneos Latinoamericanos

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA Filo

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

Readings, un trabajo practico, un estado de la cuestion, y un papel final.

Describe course content

We studied the revolution of Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Bolivia, and Venezuela.

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 course covered a lot of material and moved too quickly. It reviewed the history of each country during their respective revolutions. In my opinion the class had a very different framework from what I am used to. The assignments are also in very specific formats.

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 checked="" type="radio"/>	<input 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 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 #3

LIFE

At which institution/university did you take this course?

internship

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

volunteering

Describe course content

We would go into Villas in la Ciudad Oculta and spend about two hours with kids who lived there.

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:

It was not as good as it sounds.

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

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

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Because it's a lot of fun trying to figure out the system.

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

Take classes in which you are the only foreigner in your program. Try something different than you would normally take at Midd.

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?

Everything was good. I just wish there would be more flexibility with housing options. Also I think that orientation should have some introduction to the framework of thought popular in UBA Filo.

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

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 chose this because I think it's a great thing that middlebury allows you to study at the local university. This is what makes Middlebury better than most study abroad programs.

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

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 was actually quite impressed by the public educational system in Buenos Aires. Taking classes at Universidad de Buenos Aires was certainly a bit taxing at first, but once I figured out how it worked, I think it was pretty beneficial. However, I must admit that I was pretty lucky in choosing classes and had two (very) easy classes at UBA. While I'm not sure how it affected my learning specifically, I do think it (among many other things) made me appreciate the richness of the many intricacies of life in Buenos Aires.

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:

The difference was enough to be quite noticeable (and fascinating), but not so much that it significantly impeded on my way of life in Buenos Aires. That is not to say there was not an adjustment period; only that it was a relatively short one (as "true" study abroad experiences go).

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

It has enhanced my understanding of Argentine culture significantly. There is much to admire about Argentina's culture and customs, though I, personally, noticed several factors that I think are inherent sociocultural flaws. My perception of American customs did change, as well, but in an interesting way. I think I am now able to see where our own shortcomings are and where other cultures are perhaps overstepping their bounds in their criticism of our culture.

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

Independence. It was great to just rove the city alone. Choosing to go to a city where I at first had no friends was the best choice I made in the whole process. It is liberating and life-changing.

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

It has made me want to be a polyglot. But more than just to learn another language, I want to experience another culture. As many as possible, perhaps.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

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

with two Argentine siblings close to my age

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?

	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	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

It was very helpful... living with two Argentines who lived similar lives to mine facilitated my integration.

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

I wasn't very outgoing in classes...

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

The internship in the Buenos Aires program is the worst part of the program, in my opinion. While the particular success of any internship is determinant upon that internship and the mindset and willingness of the student, the idea of an internship program in Buenos Aires is inherently flawed. I suppose I'll explain my personal experience, then my opinion on why it's a terrible idea. My internship could not be a bigger waste of time. I was told I would be working from home (great for cultural integration, no?), but whenever I tried to contact them, I never once received a response, leaving me high-and-dry and very reluctant to complain because it had already taken Juan (who is a stand-up guy, regardless of how terrible the internship process is) about two months to actually get me an internship.

My opinion of the concept, generally: Middlebury is basically paying Juan Hurtado to go around to different NGOs and explain to them a foreign sociocultural custom that effectively does not exist in Argentine culture, offering to pay them money (which should be told in full-disclosure to the students, by the way) to take on Middlebury students to "work" for them (if I may use the word loosely). Now, that process does not foster a positive relationship between students and "employers" (again, loosely): the employer expects either very little or a great deal (either way, begrudgingly) of the student, because he is basically being paid to take on a private school brat from the US (could that sound any worse?); and the student is naive and ultimately disappointed once he realizes the flaw. Now, I'm not saying that there are never instances where students enjoy and get a lot out of their internship; only that the times that it doesn't work far outnumber the times when it does.

Intentions are good, but the concept is flawed: that a student should be able to experience another side of Argentine culture by doing an internship is impossible because, in trying to provide such a situation, Middlebury is coercing these NGOs into adopting an entirely foreign cultural custom. For a program that is particularly devoted to social and cultural immersion, I'd say the internship is an abortive brainchild. Unfortunately, to add to that, taking an internship is the norm, and students (like me) come knowing that taking another course at the university is an option, but thinking that the internship is the better option--when it generally is not.

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

My reading, writing, and listening were already very proficient before going to Buenos Aires, so I can say that those only improved somewhat; however, listening and understanding the particular dialect and accent in Argentina certainly improved a bit more. Regardless, my speaking ability increased a great deal; once one is finally able to get out of a classroom--where non-native speakers are talking to each other, making the same mistakes, and only improving to a certain point--the ability to speak increases immensely.

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

- Yes
 No

Please explain:

Disappointed by Middlebury's program in Buenos Aires; I understand that this was a kind of rebuilding year for the program, but I must say I benefited very little from the program and would rather have gone to Buenos Aires independent of any program if it were possible (unfortunately, Middlebury's got quite the monopoly over their students).

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Writing class, internship.

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

Geomorfología (upper level)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA

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

one midterm, weekly homework (kind of like lab write-ups), final exam

Please describe the course content:

geomorphology

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.

typical lecture/lab set up

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 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

Poesía de Federico García Lorca (seminar)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA

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

final paper

Describe course content

lots of poetry reading

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.

typical lecture style; little discussion

Other comments about this course:

awesome class

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"/>

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

University, but not program, for the reasons already detailed.

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

Unfortunately, it would be to not do the Middlebury program.

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?

Nothing

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

N/A

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

-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.

The educational environment was completely different in 'Puan' (the informal name for the building of Filosofia y Letras) from that which Middlebury College provides. At Middlebury College, an environment is created in order to facilitate studying entirely, while Puan, a former cigarette factory, certainly has quite a different feel. Students going abroad should be prepared to take their studies into their own hands, and be prepared to face challenges in finding a comfortable learning environment. I benefited from the environment in Puan because it forced my studies into the real world--goodbye Middlebury bubble. Students attending Filosofia y Letras cover a large age range, and most if not all have jobs in addition to their classes.

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:

The cultural differences between Argentina and the States are subtle, but all the more present when one lives there. American culture, especially Hollywood, has a large influence--most television channels play American tv shows and movies. There is, however, a very different attitude towards life in general--Argentina resonates with the relaxed and laid back temperament that is often associated with Latin America. There is a notion that things will get done when they get done. Eating and drinking well is highly valued, along with intellectually (and often politically) stimulating conversation. There is a pride in Latin American culture--from authors to artists to playwrights, etc. Soccer also has a huge impact socially.

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

I don't think you really know or understand a culture until you have lived within it. Argentina taught me to appreciate the good things in life, everyday, as well as to stop sweating the small things or things that escape my control. The American culture present in Buenos Aires is everything I never would have missed. It did, however, make me appreciate even more my hometown and the feeling of belonging to a community.

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 helped me to grow up, and I began to understand what it means to live on my own. I became much more independent, and relied on my ability to adapt to situations, and recognize my everyday successes amid my difficulties.

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

The classes I took while abroad gave me a whole new perspective on my concentration. I studied literature not only through its plastic representations (theatre, film, sculpture, etc) but also from a political standpoint--one that is often avoided in typical literature courses in the US.

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?

	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	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

The woman I lived with was absolutely wonderful. She was young and vibrant and encouraging, and acted both as my sister-mother and my friend. I felt welcomed into the culture by her.

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 requires some initiative, but fellow students can be very welcoming.

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 type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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 not like the internship I was originally placed in (LIFE) for multiple reasons: the organization was completely run by foreigners, most people spoke English all the time, and our role in the communities felt more like a tourist activity than something that was helpful to the members of the communities themselves. I attempted to find an alternative internship. I volunteered with Un Techo Para Mi Pais (a Habitat for Humanity type of organization), which was great, but ended up taking 3 courses at the university instead.

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 checked="" 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?

My progress was about what I expected, but probably a little less than I had hoped for. The program as a program made little effort to offer group activities although there was the idea that we would attend multiple cultural events in the city throughout the semester. I recognize that it was my choice to speak in English when I did, and oftentimes it was comforting and necessary to be able to clearly express myself.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

UBA has some really great professors.

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

Problemas de la literatura latinoamericana

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA Filo

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

2 papers and 1 exam

Please describe the course content:

Latin American literature within a historical and political lens from the time of independence to the first centenario.

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.

Two head professors alternated giving the lectures (twice a week), and then another person headed the discussion-type section that held more to the program established by the syllabus.

Other comments about this course:

More reading and material than one would ever be able to cover within one 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 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

La literatura en las artes combinadas I

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA Filo

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

2 exams

Describe course content

Classical literature (Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Boccaccio, etc) and their representations in the plastic arts -- from ancient greek pottery to international films to contemporary Latin American theatre.

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.

Two head professors alternated giving the lectures (one four hour period a week), and then another person led the discussion-type session that reviewed and deepened our understanding of the lectures.

Other comments about this course:

Loved this course; great to meet friends and enjoy the theatre and film that Buenos Aires has to offer.

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

La literatura francesa y el imaginario italiano

At which institution/university did you take this course?

UBA Filo

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

1 paper

Describe course content

Representations of Italy within French Literature: Stendhal, Balzac, Butor, Musset, y mas

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.

a small seminar of roughly 10 students with professor.

Other comments about this course:

Light work load.

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:

It is one of the most highly regarded universities in Latin America. It is so key to take classes with Argentine students; it opens a whole other window into the culture.

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

Keep an open mind and be ready to adapt. Things often go less smoothly than originally hoped for or expected. Take in the entire atmosphere, and while it offers a great contrast to Middlebury College, remember it exists as an completely different system.

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?

It was particularly useful talking to students that had recently studied abroad and hearing their perspectives.

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