

Major: Nursing & Spanish

Program Provider: ISA (International Studies Abroad)

Gilman Scholarship recipient



Why did you choose Argentina ?

My research from high school made me want to go to Argentina when I had the chance to study abroad. Spain seems very modernized, and I felt that in Central and South America the culture is still in touch with its roots and authentic.

Housing: The house itself was really tall with four floors, with an amazing balcony on the fourth floor, and I had my own room and private bathroom. My host mom Maria hosted a lot of people, but she used to be a psychiatrist. She did a lot of service with another doctor by going to the slums, and I accompanied her to volunteer in the *favelas*.

*“Study abroad ~ Do it!
You have to want to explore.
It’s all about taking the initiative!”*

Academics: I took Tango, Argentine culture, Intermediate Spanish, and Conversational Spanish. Their books were more affordable, which I appreciated. The class style was basically the same — lecture style and homework, papers periodically, and a final exam. Two of my professors were Argentine, but had attended prestigious American universities, such as Princeton.



Yolanda in downtown Buenos Aires after a show in the famous Teatro Colon.

Biggest Cultural Difference: People in Argentina don’t eat publicly on the street, and I’m an on-the-go girl so it was different. They are very strong in their opinions and voice them without Hesitation, unlike North Americans who are more concerned not to offend others. Argentines are really family-oriented, consequently, breakfast and dinner are usually family events.

Benefits of a full semester abroad: I feel like you get a better understanding of the world because you gain a better sense of your own identity. You learn a lot from study abroad that you don’t even notice, such as learning how to manage the business of going to school and the pleasure of exploring a new country.