



## My exchange semester in Buenos Aires

August – December 2018

Looking back at this very intense semester full of challenges, sorrows, inspirations and development, I can say, going to Buenos Aires was the best decision I could have made for my exchange semester. I had such a hard time and could not enjoy all of the semester but the parts I enjoyed were incredible and I grew extremely with all the challenges.

### Living:

The university is public and they have a lot of political discussions of the financing it. Because it is public it is for free and a lot of poor people from the provinces are visiting this university. Therefore, they do not offer a dormitory or any other help with living. I found really easily through Facebook a lot of flat offers with other international students. I was living in Palermo which is a really save and good neighborhood.

### University:

Unfortunately, I need to say that this machine of University with its 10.000 students was the most negative experience in Buenos Aires. The first day I came there, without any knowledge of this totally different system, I was lost. Nothing was somehow marked to know where the offices and furthermore the right building is. After asking myself though the whole university I found the International Office. There I have to say they were unfriendly and unhelpful. After asking them for help how the inscription of the subjects works, they just refer me to the homepage. Totally lost and alone, I fought to find help through other students. Somehow, I managed to find a “diseño” and subjects after writing directly to the professors and explaining them my situation. Everything in my very basic Spanish, because everybody was saying that they cannot speak English. With the subjects it went well although it was really challenging to be the only exchange student in the class. With my design studio I had a lot of trouble because the professor had something against me after he found out that I went for a travel over the weekend because he was of the opinion that we need to work all our weekends 100%. The situation went worse and worse although I worked really hard, he always value my project negatively and the arguments were that there is missing something, but when I asked what it was, he was saying I don't know what, but there is missing something. So, I went to the coordinator and got luckily some help. Anyway, until the end I flighted really hard in this subject faced the topic of discrimination, with a professor who had some problems with Europeans and wanted to show his power. Therefore, in the international part there is a lack of development and you cannot expect them to understand your situation and get help. To clarify the negative image of the university I need to say is that through other Internationals who I met in the Spanish course, I found out, that there exist also other types of professors who are interested in other cultures and can give constructive critics.

## Buenos Aires:

Buenos Aires is a city that never sleeps. There is always a concert, an event, a party and you can easily find everything you need. If you once own a Sube card you can take the buses and subways in all direction. Furthermore, the taxis are really cheap for European conditions. Although I was here now 5 months, I still feel like that I haven't seen everything. Buenos Aires offers so many good restaurants, cultural events, bars, tours, parks and museums. I came here in August and it was winter which means around 10 degrees and a lot of coldness during the night in the uninsulated houses. In contrast the summer is really hot and with 25 degrees in Buenos Aires you feel like 33 in Liechtenstein. The river (how they are calling the sea) is totally separated form the city and somehow the city overslept the integration of it in the urban planning. Anyway, you cannot go for a swim in the brown colored water. In the point of safeness, I need to say that I never had a situation where I felt unconfutable. If you follow some rules and avoid some places during the night there should not be any problem. The only thing are the mobiles and credit cards. The phones and credit cards from some friends were stolen and all the Argentinians are telling always to take care about such things.

## Culture:

I really love the Argentinians. They are never in a hurry and they are really friendly and helpful. Although like in every culture there are exceptions like the professor, they are really respectful, interested and full of love. You are always invited without invitation, you will always find a place to sit although it is in our eyes completely overcrowded, they are really respectful to old people and to women. There doesn't exist stress, because you can never be too late in Argentina, never and not in any situation. Although they don't have money and the whole economical crisis and the inflation is a really negative part in their lives, they seem really happy. I really enjoyed this culture with all the incredible meat, the music the relaxed metropolis.