Argentina Visa Arrangements

Please be aware that Study Abroad Office staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.

Introduction
UK passport holders are not currently required to apply for a student visa before entering Argentina. Instead, you may enter Argentina as a tourist and will then change your immigration status to student (temporary resident) with assistance from your host university after arrival. You can read more about this here: http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesible/indexN.php?nomercosur_temporaria

However, there are various documents you should prepare in advance of leaving the UK to ensure this process goes smoothly.

Paperwork to organise before departure

- Valid passport
- Police certificate, legalised by the FCO (see below).
- Passport photographs taken on a white background
- Return plane ticket
- Print out of information from your host university confirming you apply for your student status with their assistance on arrival (usually to be found in their pre-arrival guide). This is to be carried in hand luggage when travelling, together with your acceptance notification, in case you are questioned by immigration staff on arrival.

Police certificate
Before you leave for Argentina, all students will need to obtain a criminal record certificate from any country that you have lived in for at least one year over the last three years. In the case of the UK, you should request an ACRO certificate. You can apply for this certificate at the following link: https://www.acro.police.uk/police_certificates.aspx

You must arrive in Argentina within 3 months of the date of issue of this document. The document will need to be legalised (see below).
Legalising your documents (obtaining the ‘Apostille’)
You must have your police certificate legalised according to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents, or the Apostille Convention. This allows the Argentine authorities to be confident that your document is official, and not falsified.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is the only UK body legally able to issue an ‘Apostille’. Once you have received your police certificate, you should follow the instructions on the FCO website (below) to submit your certificate to be legalised/receive its ‘Apostille’.

This process is pretty straightforward, and the FCO aim to process applications quickly. It will cost you £30 plus postage. We recommend you use royal mail special delivery to ensure your documents are sent securely and can be tracked. We also recommend you pay postage so that the FCO can return your documents securely.

https://www.gov.uk/get-document-legalised

When you send your document to the FCO, refer the above web page to make sure you have included all necessary documents.

On arrival in Argentina
Your host university’s exchange coordinator or international office will assist you with the process of changing your immigration status to student from tourist. Please ensure you follow their guidelines promptly and thoroughly, so you do not run into any problems with the immigration authorities.

You will be required to have your documents translated into Spanish by an approved translator when you arrive in Buenos Aires. Your host university will advise you on this process.

Expect to pay a fee both for the translation service and for the student residence permit. Your host university will be able to confirm the fees for the current year, and you should contact them for further information.