

IAP Parent Profile

Buenos Aires, Argentina



John and Carla's daughter, Emily, spent an academic year in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

How did you feel when your daughter first mentioned studying abroad in Argentina?

On one hand we felt very proud of her and knew it was the best way to advance her knowledge of Spanish. On the other hand, we also were apprehensive about Emily going on her own to one of the biggest cities in South America.

Did you have concerns about your daughter studying abroad?

Safety was our major concern. How would she function in a country without a thorough knowledge of its language? Also, a year is a long time to live in another hemisphere. We knew that it would be a life-changing experience and we were somewhat apprehensive about what those changes would be. However, once we learned how to use Skype, seeing Emily over video chat alleviated many of our concerns. She was happy, thriving and adjusted. We were also relieved knowing Emily was living with a homestay family versus living on her own.

What advice do you have for parents of prospective study abroad students?

Establish a regular communication time and vehicle. If possible, plan on visiting your student at least once. Our Christmas in Buenos Aires was a wonderful opportunity to experience first hand what she was experiencing. It allowed us to meet and establish a friendship with her incredibly welcoming host family. We came away with a much higher level of comfort that she was truly thriving in her new home away from home.

How did your daughter change after studying abroad?

Emily's sense of independence and confidence soared. She now thinks nothing of traveling anywhere. Also, she has a much greater sense of curiosity. As evidence, she began guitar lessons, studying Portuguese, and even befriended several of her host family's friends from Brazil. The year abroad truly shaped her into a more mature and vivacious young woman. We've even come to like her "dread-locks" ~ they complement the artist she's become.



Emily's parents and sister visited her in Buenos Aires during her summer break and celebrated *navidad* (Christmas) with her host family.



"Both Emily and we would highly recommend spending the entire year abroad. There is no doubt in our mind that a full year abroad was what gave her the most beneficial educational and life experience."