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Proposal title English in Argentina

Country/ies visited Argentina, Uruguay

Institution(s) visited Various museums, cultural sites, government buildings

Dates of travel May 24-June 21

Number of SDSU student participants 17

Number of non-student participants 0

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum) The idea of the study-abroad program was for our students to be immersed in the Argentine culture for nearly a month and write about that immersion while also reading some of the great pieces of literature from Argentina. The students wrote about both the culture and history of Argentina after visiting historic and cultural sites and also wrote papers about the literature they read.
Overview of intentions/activity

The intention of the program was to immerse the students in the Argentine culture for nearly a month and also have the students learn something about the history and literature of the country.

Our students prepared for the trip for more than a year. They raised money through various activities, they applied for available scholarships, some studied the culture of Argentina before we left and all heard from previous visitors to the country in order to be prepared for the trip.

In preparation for the trip abroad

Once in Argentina the students were given an orientation by ISA officials. Over the next few weeks the students visited various cultural sites including the Museo de Bellas Artes, Plaza de Mayo, Casa Rosada, The Mothers of the Disappeared March, the 30 Years of Democracy Celebration, a gaucho ranch and went on a tour of famous community built on a river. Many of the students also went to Colonia Sacramento in Uruguay, which is a historic village. The students discussed and wrote about many such activities. The students also read four great books of literature concerning Argentina, discussed those books and wrote papers about those books.

Upon arrival/specific activities

I think the students had a wonderful time and learned a lot, particularly after they adjusted to the hectic pace and the ever-present specter of pick-pocketing in Buenos Aires. They also learned a lot from being immersed in the culture, from visit to various historic and cultural sites, from reading books about the history of Argentina, from meeting and talking with people in Argentina, from being out and about in the city and from visiting the historic village in Uruguay. The one thing I would recommend is that the ISA area director and the teacher/staff person actually speak before the program starts. All arrangements were made through channels instead of one-on-one discussions between the principals involved with the program, and that made for some scheduling issues. We worked it out with no real problems, but things would have been smoother had I been able to talk to Guillermo, the ISA director in Buenos Aires, when I was setting up the syllabi/schedules. The students still have to turn in a couple more papers before they get their grades and they are committed to helping SDSU with sharing their experiences and recruiting students for future study-abroad trips at study-abroad fairs and such. ISA also is planning to host the students for a dinner sometime in September.

Conclusion, recommendation, and next steps

Things generally went smoothly and we had no major issues on this trip. The students did the class work and the reading, visited the designated sites and did the designated activities. My only suggestion would be better communication before the actual trip between the teacher/staff member coordinating the program for SDSU and the ISA site director.