Learn about our American neighbors in Latin America

Brazil
Study in dynamic Brazil, the 5th largest country in the world, a land of intense cultural, economic, and environmental diversity.

Chile
Chile is a long and narrow country, home to some of the most contrasting and beautiful landscapes in the world.

Argentina
Featuring three study abroad options and “the Paris of South America”, Argentina has much to offer to Richmond students.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Tourism and Travel
With its culturally rich cities such as São Paulo and Bahia, its old colonial towns, the natural beauty of its wild areas, and its European, African, Asian and indigenous populations, Brazil is diversity.

Rio de Janeiro (“January River”), the second largest city in Brazil and the most visited city in the Southern Hemisphere, offers students fantastic opportunities to learn about Brazil and its culture. Sugarloaf Mountain and the beaches at Ipanema and Copacabana offer breathtaking natural beauty. The city also features monuments like the Maracanã stadium – famous to soccer fans – and Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado Mountain.

Culture
Brazilians are known for their lively celebrations and generally joyful approach to life. One sees this in the intensity of futebol (soccer) matches, the annual carnaval celebrations, and daily interactions on the streets. The country has made an indelible mark on the world of music with samba, bossa nova and other forms.
Brazil, however, is also a country of deep contradictions. While visitors cherish the country’s beaches, mountains, and forests, they are at the same time being exploited for economic gain. Race is another area of contrast. Brazilians of African descent and indigenous people are significantly underrepresented in the government and represent a large proportion of the country’s poor. There are great disparities in social class, with the very poor and the extremely wealthy often living in close proximity. Brazil’s colonial history continues to shape contemporary politics and culture.

Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)

Academics
The Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro is ranked as one of the best universities in all of South America. This program is ideal for independent students with a high level of proficiency in Spanish or some experience with Portuguese. Students begin the semester with a three-week intensive Portuguese language program, highly recommended by previous participants. Students with Portuguese language skills (or strong Spanish) can take courses taught in Portuguese, but PUC-Rio offers some courses in English too. Of particular note to Richmond students are the university’s offerings in Communications, International Relations, Computer Science, Sciences, Design and Law.

Housing
Students will be placed by in homestays for the semester enabling them to practice Portuguese and learn about Brazilian culture, politics, economics and history.

Unique Attributes
PUC-Rio offers numerous student clubs and activities as well as volunteer opportunities.

Requirements: 3.0 GPA and completion of at least two 300-level Spanish language courses, or the equivalent.
Santiago, Chile

Tourism and Travel
Chile is a long and narrow country, bordered on the east by the Andes and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The capital, Santiago, is a modern and culturally rich city of just over six million inhabitants. The snow-capped Andes are visible from the city, and the coast is just a short drive away. Santiago is the center of Chilean politics, economics and culture.

Travel can be just as much a part of one’s study abroad experience in Latin America as in Europe, and Chile is a good example of this. The country has an extensive and affordable tourism industry. Chile’s biological and cultural diversity offer unique opportunities. In addition to exploring Chile, Richmond students who have studied there have also traveled extensively in Bolivia, Peru, Argentina and Uruguay.

Culture
Home of the poet Pablo Neruda and other famous writers, Chile has a rich cultural heritage. Spain was an important source of immigration, and the European influence is evident in contemporary culture, art and architecture, especially in the larger cities, but the multi-ethnic population also includes people from other European countries, some of Chile’s Latin American neighbors and many people of indigenous heritage. Chile is one of the most stable economies of Latin America. Its people are industrious and proud of their culture and country.

Chilean food is delicious. The country is famous for its fresh and delicious seafood, fruits, vegetables and wines.

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC-Chile)

Academics
The primary benefit of this program is that it truly immerses Richmond students in one of the top universities in South America. Students take classes taught in Spanish with local people; course offerings in English are limited. Participants must take a pre-semester intensive Spanish class (tuition paid by Richmond) unless exempted by the LAIS department. PUC offers a wide range of courses in the Humanities, the Sciences, the Social Sciences and Business.
Past participants report that sports courses (not available for UR academic credit), such as weight training, soccer, basketball, and futsal (a type of indoor soccer) are a fun way to get involved in campus life and to meet local students.

Housing
Students live in privately owned student housing or with host families. Richmond students are advised to choose the homestay option for a deeper cultural and linguistic experience.

Unique Attributes
Santiago is one of the most manageable capital cities in South America. The effective public transportation systems of the capital and of Chile as whole make for easy commuting and smooth cross-country travel. Although Santiago is a fast paced, modern city, Chileans still treasure leisure time with friends and family. The diversity of the country’s landscapes provides students with fantastic opportunities for travel, whether it is to the wilds of Patagonia, the breathtaking vistas of the Andes, or the rugged coast. There is much to explore in this beautiful country.

Requirements: 3.0 GPA and completion of at least two 300-level LAIS language courses (numbered 301-309) unless student is a fluent or native speaker of Spanish

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tourism and Travel
Known as the Paris of South America, Buenos Aires is a culturally and socially energetic city that reminds many visitors of Europe. It is an enormous city of 13 million people and offers as many different environments and attractions as New York City. Also like New York, Buenos Aires is a “city that never sleeps”.

Buenos Aires offers elegant residential neighborhoods, beautiful parks and plazas as well as an abundance of museums, historical buildings and cultural events. It is a fantastic city for walking, filled with wonderful architecture that is both old, new, and restored.

The city has an incredible arts scene, with some of the best modern art museums in Latin America, as well as bookstores, cafés, restaurants, and theaters. Students will not be a loss for things to do here.

Argentina offers an abundance of travel opportunities. In the northern part of the country one can explore the city of Salta, famous for its well-preserved colonial architecture, or travel to the beautiful Iguazú Falls bordering Brazil. To the west of Buenos Aires is the city of Mendoza in the heart of Argentine Malbec wine country. Finally, at the southern tip of the country, shared with Chile, visitors can explore the world famous Patagonia.

Culture
Immigration from Latin countries across the Atlantic, like Spain and Italy, has infused Argentine culture with the warm, stylish and laid-back aspects of European culture. Family, friends, and conversation are of primary importance. Dinner starts no earlier than 9pm and is a time for family and friends to gather and connect. Argentines treasure time spent with family and friends.

Housing (for both Buenos Aires programs)
Richmond works with a local company, Visiting Buenos Aires, to place program participants with Argentine families who enjoy interacting with U.S. college students. The hosts provide two meals per day and often include their guest students in family activities, while also leaving them the freedom to travel or go out with friends.
“I like to describe Rio as a mixture of New York City and Paris, placed on a beautiful beach, surrounded by mountains. For me, it doesn’t get any better. The opportunities are pretty much endless here. We have beaches, great hiking and rock climbing, a vibrant city/night life, and a culture that is truly unique to the city itself.”  
— Alex McDilda, PUC-Rio, Fall 2012

Unique Attributes

Although Argentine cuisine has been influenced greatly by Italian and Spanish styles of cooking, students will also enjoy the Argentine asado (barbecue), delicious steaks, yerba mate (the national drink, a sort of herbal tea), empanadas and the famous dulce de leche.

Past participants have enjoyed taking tango lessons and trying their newly learned skills in the city’s famous milongas (dance halls). Sport lovers will be at home in a country that plays field hockey, polo, tennis, golf and rugby, and is wildly enthusiastic about soccer.

Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA)

UCA’s campus is located in Puerto Madero, a renovated district of Buenos Aires close to downtown featuring movie theatres, luxury restaurants, hotels, and the headquarters of many multinational corporations.

Academics

Participants must take a pre-semester intensive Spanish class (tuition paid by Richmond) unless exempted by the LAIS department. This helps students get acclimated to being in Argentina and to Spanish as it is spoken there.

Richmond students take some regular university classes with local students, and some classes meant for international students. Disciplines include Spanish Literature, Philosophy, Economics, Business, Journalism & Media Communications, Advertising, and Political Science. Science and Computer Science classes are available through UCA’s engineering departments.

UCA offers an active campus life, including an annual Olympiad sport competition held each September. The university closes and students, faculty and staff participate in friendly competitions all day.

UCA’s volunteer program offers Richmond students an opportunity to gain unique insight into Argentine society and to be integrated into local communities.

UCA has an active cultural life on campus through El Centro Cultural, which offers art exhibitions, films and tango lessons, among other options.

Students can participate in sports as well, ranging from swimming to golf, tennis and more.

Requirements: All applicants must have completed a minimum of two 300-level Spanish language courses or the equivalent. A 3.0 GPA is also preferred. LAIS students must also have a minimum 3.0 in LAIS.
Travel in South America

“Traveling in South America, although more time-consuming perhaps than in Europe due to the sheer distances, was much easier than expected. I could have literally just shown up at one of the many bus stations in Santiago on any given day and traveled to any city for a reasonable price... Honestly, armed with a Lonely Planet guidebook nowhere in South America was too far out of reach. During the semester I made it to almost every region of Chile (the northernmost city of Arica, the Atacama Desert, the Elqui Valley, the Greater Santiago Metropolitan Region, the Lakes District, the Island of Chiloe, and even all the way down to Patagonia). In addition, I took a weeklong whirlwind trip to Peru where I saw Machu Picchu as well as Lake Titicaca and a few small towns in between. So travel was a HUGE part of my experience abroad!”

Taylor Black, PUC-Chile, Fall 2012

(Carried on)

**Universidad Torcuato di Tella (UTDT)**

Universidad Torcuato di Tella is a small, highly selective university with a focus on the social sciences. It is known for small classes and academic rigor. Richmond students can take classes here in Economics, Business Administration, Political Science, International Studies, History and Law. UTDT is located in Belgrano, an upper middle class neighborhood of Buenos Aires about 25 minutes by subway from the city center.

**Academics**

Participants must take a pre-semester intensive Spanish class (tuition paid by Richmond) unless exempted by the LAIS department. This helps students get acclimated to being in Argentina and to Spanish as it is spoken there.

UTDT is highly regarded for its outstanding faculty, hailing from some of the best institutions around the world. Students take courses in Spanish, alongside Argentine and international students.

**Unique Attributes**

UTDT’s student activities office organizes opportunities such as drama workshops, singing, and music dictation lessons. They also offer film screenings and debate, led by experts in the field. The office also organizes sports such as soccer, field hockey, swimming, volleyball and running. UTDT also offers opportunities for visiting students to volunteer in local communities.

**Requirements:** All applicants must have completed a minimum of two 300-level Spanish language courses or the equivalent. A 3.0 GPA is also required. LAIS students must also have a minimum 3.0 in LAIS.

**Córdoba, Argentina**

**Tourism and Travel**

Approximately 10 hours by bus from Buenos Aires, Córdoba is Argentina’s second largest city, situated in the foothills of the Sierras Chicas on the Suquía River. Many find Córdoba to be a more manageable city than Buenos Aires as its population is about one-third smaller. The city also features well-preserved Spanish colonial architecture and is the site of Argentina’s oldest university. It is also the location of the 17th century *Manzana Jesuítica*, an experimental Jesuit educational and agricultural complex, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Córdoba serves as the I.T. center for Argentina and is also home to the country’s automotive, railway, aviation and agribusiness industries.

With the Sierras Chicas so close, outdoor activities like hiking are popular among students at UTDT.

Córdoba is home to many universities, so there are many attractions for college-aged students in and around the city.
“Honestly, studying abroad in Buenos Aires was an incredible experience. I learned a lot and I got a new perspective on life. I also see the United States differently now, having been away from it for so long. The culture in Argentina is so different from ours and yet it is a beautiful one. The people in Buenos Aires were so nice and helpful. They are more relaxed than we are. They don’t stress about the future or about the things they should be doing. Instead, they live in the moment and truly enjoy their lives.”

Shiksha Mahtani, Universidad Católica Argentina, Fall 2012

New cultures, new people, new places. Every year over 350 Richmond students experience those things through a semester or year abroad. They go to all corners of the earth and return having earned credit toward their degree while having had the experience of a lifetime.
**Universidad Blas Pascal (UBP)**

**Academics**
Blas Pascal is a small, private university and is considered to be a leading technical and scientific institution in Latin America. This program is well-suited to students with intermediate- to high levels of Spanish.

Those with high proficiency in Spanish can choose from Blas Pascal’s entire undergraduate curriculum, including its outstanding Computer Science and Communications departments. The Communications program includes, for example, Graphic Design, Public Relations, Radio, Television and more.

Students with intermediate proficiency in Spanish will take courses in the Language and Hispanic Culture Program designed specifically for incoming international students.

**Housing**
Richmond students have the opportunity to live in residence halls on campus or in an Argentine homestay. Each option immerses students in local culture in different ways.

**Unique Attributes**
Past students have appreciated UBP’s dedicated international office. For example, the office has a long-standing "tutor" or buddy program, in which a student tutor from Córdoba works with each exchange student prior to and throughout the semester to help him or her get acclimated to the school and the city.

Richmond students can participate in trips that UBP offers, as well as plan travel through companies that cater to international students who want to travel on weekends.

**Requirements:**

- **LAIS majors** must have completed at least two 300-level language courses (numbered 301-309) in LAIS and have an overall GPA of 3.0 as well as a 3.0 within LAIS courses

- **Non-LAIS majors** must have an intermediate level of Spanish and a minimum GPA of 2.8

"As far as being a unique city: [Córdoba] certainly is. It’s the second largest city in Argentina and as such it has many opportunities for various events, social activities, is easy to travel to and from, as well as having great public transportation. It isn’t nearly as international as Buenos Aires. And that’s both a good and a bad thing depending on what is important to the individual. I wanted a truly authentic South American experience and Córdoba definitely offered that to me.

UBP’s program for study abroad students is wonderful...in many ways the attention you receive there is similar to the way that UR cares for us. Richmond students are used to having individual attention from their professors, and UBP definitely offers this. ... I believe it makes the transition (to living abroad) much smoother not to be lost in the midst of hundreds or thousands of students.”

Chelsea Metivier, Universidad Blas Pascal, Fall 2012