

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales

community health / public health / spanish language



program snapshot

- Enroll in three weeks of public health and Spanish courses, followed by four weeks of public health field work placements; intensive Spanish courses focus on public health terminology
- Study with experts and university researchers in specially designed interdisciplinary courses in public health
- Learn about healthcare in Argentina and Uruguay through hands-on field experience guided by local public health practitioners and academics

what you'll learn

The Community Public Health summer program is designed to help students develop an understanding of Argentina's healthcare system from a social science perspective. Academic coursework allows students to learn about healthcare strategies in Argentina, while fieldwork gives them the opportunity to observe a range of healthcare challenges and the variety of solutions in place. Students compare the differences and similarities between healthcare systems in Argentina and other countries, and learn how to approach common problems.

thoughts from abroad

Buenos Aires, an amazing cosmopolitan city, hosts this intensive summer learning program geared to thoughtful and engaged students interested in public health, health policy, and community development. We welcome your participation as you learn about the healthcare system in Argentina; analyze how healthcare differs in urban, semi-urban, and rural Argentina; and discuss strategies that organizations have used to combat challenges in delivering healthcare. Explore community health issues in diverse parts of the country through field trips and health-related field placements. The goal is for you to be able to transfer what you learn to other areas of healthcare study and future professional work in a range of settings.

— Andrea Rizzotti, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Andrea Rizzotti has worked with CIEE since 1994, and supervises the administrative and academic aspects of the program. She has a summa cum laude B.A. Master's in Sociology from UBA and a Master's from FLACSO in Social Sciences and Public Health. Andrea's academic interests include public health, gender and women, adolescents, and children and family. She has done consulting work and bi-national research between Argentina and Uruguay, focusing on community empowerment and social participation in dengue prevention and mosquito eradication in the region. Since 2008 Andrea is has working as a National Senator counselor in the National Argentine Congress.

About Other CIEE Staff

Raúl Mercer is a pediatrician and public health specialist. He earned a Master's in Epidemiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his medical degree at the National Academy of Medicine in Argentina. Dr. Mercer works as a professor at FLACSO in the Social Sciences and Health Program and is a collaborator on several research projects. He is particularly interested in issues of health that surround gender, human rights, and children and adolescence. Dr. Mercer is a teacher and researcher at some of the host institutions that coordinate the fieldwork component of this program.

Students benefit from a tutor at each of the field sites who are trained to monitor and advise them in both their academic courses and fieldwork. These include Jorge Pepe (Universidad Nacional de Entre Ríos, Concepción del Uruguay); Raúl Pitarque (Universidad del Centro, Olavarría, Provincia de Buenos Aires); Claudia García (Universidad de Cuyo, Provincia de Mendoza); and Raúl Mercer (FLACSO).

about buenos aires

Students spend four weeks in Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina. A vibrant port city with a population of over 13,000,000, Buenos Aires offers its visitors the chance to experience the perpetual cultural intrigue that can only be found in a city of this size and prestige. Buenos Aires is the most visible example of European influence among South American capitals. In addition, each student spends three weeks doing fieldwork in Buenos Aires or in a site outside Buenos Aires: Mendoza, Mendoza Province; Concepción del Uruguay, Entre Ríos Province; Olavarría, Buenos Aires Province; or Montevideo, Uruguay.

academics

Academic Program

Students enroll in three required courses consisting of two components—academic coursework and fieldwork. The academic component prepares students linguistically in Spanish and provides a theoretical framework for understanding the healthcare system in Argentina as compared to healthcare systems in other parts of the world. During their fieldwork, students are placed in small groups to observe and participate in the healthcare system, and are involved in such initiatives as healthcare promotion. Students come to better understand the social inequities that impact health in various parts of Argentina. In addition, students learn from their peers and, after their fieldwork, have a broader vision of healthcare challenges, as well as strategies for meeting those challenges.

The field component is in one of six geographic areas:

Buenos Aires City and Buenos Aires Province (AMBA): The project in this region focuses on a network of maternal-perinatal centers in an urban environment with the objective of improving the quality of prenatal and postnatal services based on a research-action process. AMBA provides an example of a large organization that serves one-third of the country's population.

City of Mendoza (Mendoza Province — 15 hours from Buenos Aires City): This province, bordering Chile, is working on how it manages public health policy through cooperative efforts between the Department of Education and the Department of Health. The project in this region allows students to observe how governmental departments cooperate to provide healthcare services.

Concepción del Uruguay (Entre Ríos Province — 2 hours from Buenos Aires City): This province, which borders Uruguay, has a largely rural population and offers students the opportunity to observe how healthcare services are dispersed in a rural environment.

Olavarría (Buenos Aires Province — 4 hours from Buenos Aires City): A county located in the heart of Buenos Aires Province, Olavarría offers students the opportunity to observe how healthcare services are dispersed in a rural environment.

Montevideo (Uruguay, 3 hours from Buenos Aires by ship or a 30 minute flight): This city is located on the Rio de La Plata and offers students the possibility of learning about youth health programs and inclusive approaches to working with people who have disabilities.

Buenos Aires City, Pasteur Institute: This institution belongs to the government of Buenos Aires and is in charge of developing primary care programs and services related to urban zoonosis (disease transmission between humans and animals). The purpose of this experience is to understand the contribution of veterinary public health in large urban settings as an expression of the quality of the environment and quality of life for its population.

Academic Culture

At FLACSO, courses are organized and evaluated on a system very similar to that in the U.S., with each professor following a syllabus provided to students, and assessments made based on a range of assignments that include papers, exams, and final presentations. Academic tutorials are offered for each course. With CIEE support and supervision, students meet with tutors who help them maximize their classroom experience.

Nature of Classes

Participants take classes with other CIEE students only, both at FLACSO and during their fieldwork.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Spanish, Resident Staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Spanish language proficiency and understanding of Argentine society.

Grading System

Students are normally graded on the basis of quizzes, exams, papers, fieldwork observations, projects, and class participation, much like in the United States. Letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F are given (without pluses or minuses) and are converted from the Argentine system.

where you'll study

FLACSO sponsors Latin America's largest and most prestigious postgraduate teaching and research program in the social sciences. FLACSO-Argentina was established in 1974, and its faculty is associated with several local universities. Students take specially designed CIEE courses at FLACSO. In addition, students are hosted by one of three provincial universities—the Universidad Nacional del Cuyo (Mendoza), Universidad Nacional de Entre Ríos (Uruguay), or the Universidad del Centro Municipio del Centro (Buenos Aires)—depending upon their offsite placement.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing and two meals per day are included in the program fee. Students live with host families for the duration of the program, both in Buenos Aires and during their field placement. Students who decide to stay in Buenos Aires for their field site will remain with the same family. Local housing coordinators in the field sites outside of Buenos Aires place students in local homestays.

Orientation

A three-day orientation session at the beginning of the program introduces students to the city of Buenos Aires and Argentina in general. Students participate in sessions on safety, banking, and transportation. They also receive an overview of the academic program, meet their instructors, and take a Spanish language placement exam.

Internet

Participants have an email account at FLACSO, where there are numerous computers provided for the exclusive use of CIEE participants. Students are encouraged to bring laptops with a wireless connection as there is wireless access at the CIEE Study Center, at a study lounge for CIEE participants, and at the FLACSO library. In addition, the program has an Intranet to better facilitate communication between staff and students.

costs

CIEE Fees

Summer 2011: \$6,650

Summer 2012: available 12/15/11

The CIEE program fees for 2012 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing and two meals per day, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2011)

Transportation	\$ 1,200
(round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	
Personal Expenses	\$ 600
Additional Meals	\$ 450
Books and Supplies	\$ 100
Local Transportation	\$ 200
Argentina Entrance Fee	\$ 140
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 2,690

Check our website for current fees.



duration

8 weeks: mid-May–mid-July

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

This program includes guided visits to sites of historic and cultural importance in Buenos Aires and other cities in Argentina. There is a weekend trip scheduled outside Buenos Aires. The program also involves field placements for all students in the program.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 5 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent
- College-level coursework in public health recommended
- College-level coursework in history or politics of Argentina or Latin America recommended



coursework

Program Requirements

All students are required to take the three required program courses, which take place both in Buenos Aires and at the fieldwork sites.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the summer program is 9 semester/13.5 quarter hours.

Course contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours unless otherwise indicated.

Language of Instruction

Spanish

Faculty

All courses are taught by professors at FLASCO and participating host universities. CIEE courses at FLASCO are designed in the team-taught approach prevalent in the health studies degree program. CIEE uses this same model for the courses that have been specifically developed for this program. The instructors of the courses have teaching experience at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. The instructors are also practitioners in the field, conducting research on a wide range of fields related to social determinants of health; epidemiology; qualitative and quantitative methodology; childhood and teen health; gender; social and health public policy; rights and health; bioethics; and health promotion.

courses

Required CIEE Courses

PUBH 3001 APHU

Dimensions of Healthcare: Theory and Practice

This course introduces students to local healthcare realities through a theoretical and fieldwork component. Through observation and participation, students learn about the challenges and local constituents, and the approaches they create to overcome challenges in different contexts. Students discuss their experiences with on-site tutors and through a weekly virtual forum with their peers and Resident Staff. A final project is developed as part of the field experience. Main activities include investigation, evaluation, observation, site visits, and community education. Contact hours: 60 (15 theoretical, 45 fieldwork).

PUBH 3002 APHU

Public Health Studies: Argentina Case Study

This course addresses scientific and social problems of health as a social construction. For this purpose, the course focuses on social health determinants, the health situation in Argentina, and organization of the health system. Concepts of public health are covered, including essential functions in public health, population health analysis (utilization of basic epidemiologic tools and indicators and qualitative methodologies), policies, and quality of care. The course also introduces issues of gender and human rights into the healthcare delivery model. Students are also required to consider the impact of different stakeholders, including policy makers, health providers, and community members. The course also explores the relationship between national health and international health paradigms regarding global health issues and cooperation.

SPAN 3001 APHU

Advanced Spanish Conversation and Grammar

This is an advanced Spanish language course, focusing on grammar, reading, and oral expression. It is designed to improve both active command of the language by means of readings and discussion, as well as increase students' mastery of Spanish grammar in communication contexts and in writing. Special attention is given to medical terminology.

