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# Law Internship in Argentina

**Trip Name:** Law Internship in Argentina **Trip Code:** ARIL **Duration:**

## Key Facts

We are partnered with the FMDC, a legal company based in the heart of the business district of Buenos Aires, Argentina. FMDC are consistently ranked amongst the very best legal firms in Buenos Aires and advise local and international clients in a wide range of practice areas. Interns will be involved in a wide variety of roles to ensure you get the best experience possible during your time in Argentina.

The role is perfect for university students, graduates and postgraduates with a keen interest in Law. The demonstration of previous academic strength is a requirement to be accepted onto our internship program. The programme is designed to give you experience and understanding of;

• How legal business is conducted in Argentina & Latin America
• The challenges facing Argentina as its economy emerges
• The workings of a top tier legal firm in Argentina
• How to conduct oneself in a high level office environment, in the context of a different culture & language - a skill much sought after by employers worldwide!
• A thorough overview of the Latin American legal world

## Overview

**Experience/ Qualifications required:** Undergraduate or graduate in any subject with a keen interest in Law or International Law and strong academic record.
**Nationalities:** This programme is open to all nationalities (subject to visa requirements.)
**Typical Hours:** Monday-Friday; approximately 40 hours per week. Occasional work at weekends but usually free for personal time and travel.
**Remuneration:** Unpaid position

## Destination Info

Buenos Aires is the largest city in Argentina, and the second largest metropolitan area in South America after Sao Paulo (Brazil). It is located on the western shore of the estuary of Rio de la Plata, on the South-Eastern coast of South America. Greater Buenos Aires conurbation, which also includes several Buenos Aires suburbs, has a population of more than 13 million.

There are a large amount of tourists - domestic, regional and international - making it one of Latin America's most eclectic and visited hotspots. It is famous for its European-style architecture and rich cultural life (night & day).
We have very distinct seasons around the year.The warmest month is January, with an average temperature of 25 °C (77 °F). Most days see temperatures in the 28 to 31 °C range (82 to 88 °F) with nights between 16 to 21 °C (61 to 70 °F). Humidity is moderately high (64–70%) in the summer. Spring (September to November) and autumn (March to May) are generally mild and volatile, with averages temperatures of around 17 °C (63 °F) and frequent thunderstorms, especially during the spring. Winters are temperate with July the coolest month, holding an average temperature of 11 °C (52 °F).

Capital Federal (the centre of the city, known locally as just 'Capital') is home to many football teams. And as you may have heard, football is religion in Argentina. Teams may be better in Europe, but the passion is felt all around the city. And with Boca Juniors' and River Plate's stadiums in the city, just to name a couple of them, you most certainly will have lots of football to watch. Enough to make all your friends very jealous!

To say the least, there are many activities in Buenos Aires which will contribute to making your stay here dynamic and full of fun!

## Itinerary

FMDC are one of the biggest Legal firms in Argentina and have a strong reputation nationally and internationally for being one of the top legal firms in the Americas. Their current list of clients include; Lloyds TSB Banking Group, LG Electronics, Inversor Global and MSU Agro.

As an intern you will be able to choose which area(s) of the business you work in depending on the are of expertise you wish to focus on. Choose from one or more of the following areas;

• General Corporate / Mergers & Acquisitions / Private Equity
• Financings, Banking & Debt Restructuring
• Real Estate & Agribusiness

• Litigation & Arbitration
• Labour Law
• Administrative & Regulatory Law
• Tax Law

This role is a fantastic opportunity for students and graduates who are looking for a high profile internship programme with a top law firm. Candidates should have excellent communication skills, be well spoken, flexible, willing to learn and must be able to work as part of a team. A good command of the English language and great negotiation skills is essential.

Click here to view the FMDC website.

Below is a brief overview of the types of aspects you will be involved with during your internship with FMDC. The experience will of course vary depending on your area of specialism.

• **Research:** related to business or judicial decisions

• **Legal Memos:** Interns may be required to write memos related to the research they conduct and present the information to a supervising attorney or judge.

• **Trial and Meeting Attendance:** Legal interns may attend court proceedings, settlement or mediation meetings and other client interactions to learn what legal work entails.

• **Administrative Tasks:** These assignments may include copying and filing case documents, running errands for a supervisor or other staff member or writing content for an organization's newsletter or website. As a temporary employee, it is expected that a legal intern be willing to perform all tasks as assigned to build experience and contribute to the mission of the organization.

We have a variety of rewarding roles available in all of the different areas of the firm. We have carefully constructed our internship program so roles are suitable & rewarding for differing levels of expertise. A 1st year university student will therefore have a different role to a postgraduate with 2 years working experience for example.

Throughout the internship you will have an internship supervisor within the law firm who will provide regular feedback and ensure the internship is a rewarding learning experience. All supervisors are experienced in receiving international interns.

# Law Internship in Argentina

Argentina provides a truly hugely diverse range of attractions for visitors from high culture offered by the country's museums, architecture and rich traditional art forms, to an energetic spectrum of activities including some of the best water and snow sports to be found in the world. A land of breath-taking beauty and dramatic vistas, Argentina offers the traveller an experience like no other.

Located on the banks of Rio de la Plata, Portenos, you will be based in Buenos Aires, one of the world's most exciting and cosmopolitan cities in the world. Known as the Paris of South America it is famous for the beauty of its architecture and people. Great culture, food and nightlife add to the mix to create a truly stunning city.

Although it is said to resemble Barcelona, Paris and Rome, the city achieves its own exceptional personality that is composed of bustling outdoor cafes and tango bars that are like something from a film. This city is capable of delivering some of the best nights out you will have anywhere in the world.

The temperature is warm from September to April and mild in the winter months of June to August.
Argentina is three hours behind GMT. The time is always the same throughout the year as the country does not take part in daylight saving.

**Step 1: Application**
To apply for this internship we ask you to either call us or apply online using the link below. When you apply we will request information on your emergency contact details, passport number and your health background and other important information. At this stage a deposit payment is requested, this deposit is non-refundable, unless your application is declined by our team in Argentina. From there we will require;

• Current CV /resume detailing your work and study history

Note: If your internship is part of your university course, and requires accreditation this can easily be arranged. We request a letter from your tutor supporting your application for an internship.

**Step 2: Telephone/Skype interview with our Internship Coordinator**
Once we have your application pack we will contact you to arrange an informal interview with our internship coordinator who will be your main contact before you leave for Argentina.

**Step 3: Accepting the placement**
We will send you a formal offer letter for you to sign, along with a clear summary of the types of roles you will be involved with during your internship.

**Step 4: Interview with your host company**
Your internship coordinator will arrange a date and time for an interview with your host company.

**Step 5: Payment of full program fees and sign placement description and agreement**
At this stage we will help you to organise a suitable visa to enable you to work in Argentina.

In addition to a first class internship and great accommodation, you will receive 24/7 support on the ground from our local, full-time team. This includes thorough pre-trip information, a welcome package on arrival including mobile phone with key support numbers, airport pick-up, safety orientation & ongoing assistance throughout your stay. We also include either a top soccer game (at Boca Juniors stadium) or dinner tango show!

We have a large number of international students at all times in Argentina and we organise regular social & cultural events which gives you an excellent network of friends and contacts from all over the world. We provide

you with free entry and discounts to some of the best bars, restaurants and nightclubs of Buenos Aires. And believe us when we say that the nightlife here is lively!

You will also receive free entry to either, at your choice, one of Buenos Aires' best Tango shows or, season dependent, a ticket to the terraces of a top Argentine soccer club such as Boca Juniors. These are both must have experiences when living in Buenos Aires.

If you wish to travel in Argentina and Latin America, we are on hand to provide you with local know-how to ensure you see the highlights of this fantastic country, and get the best deals. Trips to a local Estancias, visits to Iguazu Falls, skiing in Bariloche, Mendoza wine tasting and a day trip to neighbouring Uruguay are just some of the options on offer.

## Accommodation

On arrival at Buenos Aires International Airport you will be met by one of our coordinators who will take you to your accommodation to settle in.

Accommodation for the duration of your placement is included in the cost of the programme. We try to ensure that students on our programmes stay with or near each other to enhance their social experience.

During the programme you will live in a private bedroom in a student apartment with other international interns. All accommodation options are of high quality & are situated in the nicest and safest areas of Buenos Aires, principally Palermo, San Telmo, Barrio Norte and Recoleta. Towels and sheets, Wifi internet and cleaning is included in the programme as standard.

We take great care to make sure that all our housing options are located within a reasonable commute to your work or Spanish classes by bus, underground or walk.

## Meals

Meals are not included in the programme price. We recommend you budget between USD$50 and $100 each week for meals, however you can comfortably get by on less than this by cooking meals in the accommodation provided.

Tap water in Buenos Aires is completely safe to drink.

## What's Included

- Law Internship with optional Spanish course
- Quality accommodation
- Airport pick up
- Academic credit through our partner university
- 24/7 emergency assistance from on-ground staff
- Written pre-trip welcome pack
- Welcome orientation
- Free access to top bars & nightclubs
- Choice of top soccer game or Tango-Dinner show
- Mobile phone with key contact numbers
- Visa assistance

## What's Not Included

- Flights
- Travel insurance (we can help with this)
- Transport to your workplace
- Visas
- Vaccinations
- Soft drinks and Alcohol
- Meals

## Is This Trip For You?

This internship is ideal for those who are keen to learn and expand thier knowledge and experience within their industry. This is a practical programme that is designed to give you the best experience possible.

As an intern you will need to be flexible and proactive to get the most of your placement. Our placement consultants will guide you through the placement and continuously monitor your progress to ensure your learning goals are met.

## Additional Information

**Dress**

Regarding wardrobe, there's a marked difference between the "Porteños" (slang for locals from inside the centre of the city: Capital Federal), the people from the suburbs of the city and people from other provinces. Generally people from within the city are more sophisticated and chic in their dressing up. And the rest typically just use jeans and converse sneakers. There's a place for everything. But generally its never over the top, nor too casual.

To get into clubs generally you must dress nicely; the classic havaiana flip flops are not recommended for two reasons. Some clubs are fussy about how people dress. And in most clubs they sell drinks in glasses, so the dance floor may have glass on it.
We would never recommend using trainers (sports sneakers) to go out dancing. Generally, better shoes are recommended for clubs. For bars, smarter trainers are OK.

**Getting around Buenos Aires**

There are plenty of taxis in Buenos Aires and they are easy to take, but during the day it is preferable to use alternative ways of transportation due to traffic. Buses and the Metro are more efficient than taxis during the day. Although on a hot day the metro system could feel like a Sauna.

The rate for a cab is 7.30 pesos to get in and 0.56 cents for every 200 meters (similar to a yard). And a Bus fare is between 1.10 – 1.25 pesos. Just tell the bus driver where you want to get off and he will deal with it.
The Metro ticket is 1.20 pesos for every journey, regardless of distance. There are no day passes nor week ones available.
In general, moving around Buenos Aires is cheap. And you won't be going very long distances during your normal week activities.

In order to get around safely and easily, you will have a card with your address on it & a bus and metro card which you can just add money to on a regular basis. We will provide a street guide called "Guia T" that covers all the streets in the centre and how to get from one point to any other.

## FAQs

1. **Are these Internships paid?**
   Our internship opportunities in Latin America are unpaid due to immigration laws & local norms. Interns will receive academic credit if desired.

2. **Why should I do this programme?**
   This program is an investment in your future and will give you a substantial advantage. International, blue chip work experience will significantly aid you when searching for long term employment. You will have demonstrated the ability to think outside the box and handle another culture and language while working for a highly respected name. Previous interns have also received full time offers of employment from their Latin American host companies on completion of the internship. And the above doesn't even touch on your personal development and the fun you will have!

3. **When is the deadline to apply?**
   We accept applications on a rolling admissions basis throughout the whole year. New interns start every month. Internships with specific companies generally open and fill on an ad-hoc basis but as we have partnerships with a wide range of organisations there are always top opportunities available in your field of interest.

4. **When will I know where I am interning? What is the placement process?**
   You are in complete control of which company you will accept an offer from and be placed.

5. **Can I live at home or a relative's house and take the housing out of the cost?**
   We are generally unable to remove any elements from our all-inclusive programmes. The employers we work with depend and ask for this service, as it guarantees your reliability. However, if you have particular needs please do contact us.

6. **What happens if I don't get the internship I want?**
   All students who are accepted into our program are provided guaranteed placement. This means we promise to place you in an internship, in the industry of your choice, with a company you approve of, by the start of the program or you will receive a full refund. Therefore, you have nothing to lose.

7. **How many hours will I be expected to work?**
   Typically, participants work an average work week of no more than 40 hours. The company at which you are interning will set your work hours but the majority of internships will take place between 9 am and 5 pm.

8. **Will I receive academic credit?**
   All participants will receive academic credit if desired

9. **When should I apply?**
   You should apply at least six weeks before you wish to begin your internship in South America.

## Police Check

This trip requires a Police Check to be carried out - please contact us for further information on how to do this.

## Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

## Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

## Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

## Money Matters

In Argentina the currency is the PESO ($). There are bills of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 pesos and coins of 1 peso and 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 centavos.

Paper money comes in denominations of two, five, 10, 20, 50 and 100 pesos. One peso equals 100 centavos; coins come in denominations of one (rare), five, 10, 25 and 50 centavos, and one peso.

US dollars are the best other currency to carry and are accepted by many tourist-oriented businesses.

Cajeros automáticos (ATMs) are found in nearly every city and town in Argentina and can also be used for cash advances on major credit cards.

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant $6.63
Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) $2.07
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) $1.06
Water (0.33 litre bottle) $0.94

## Passports and Visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

For stays of up to 90 days, citizens of the European Union and the USA are not required to hold a visa. All other nationalities should consult their nearest Argentina Embassy or High Commission.

Citizens from Australia, Canada and the United States of America will have to pay a ‘Reciprocity Fee’ every time they enter Argentina through the International Airport Ministro Pistarini (Ezeiza). Those who enter through the Jorge Newbery domestic Airport in the city of Buenos Aires or from a border country by bus, car, cruise or train, will be exempted from this fee. The amount of this fee varies depending on the amount charged to Argentinians visiting these countries.

## Cultural Considerations

Argentines tend to be a gregarious people who enjoy social interaction, both with family and friends. Asados and parrillas, communal barbecues, are typical weekend activities and might involve several hours of eating and drinking. Because of the social culture, Argentines are often willing to include foreigners in their daily lives.

When greeting individuals in Argentina, there is a set protocol that states that you should address the eldest, or most important person first. A handshake is sufficient, and maintaining eye contact is considered important. It is considered rude to not greet someone when entering a room, or to not say goodbye when leaving. If you are invited to an Argentine’s home, it is appropriate to give the hostess a small gift. You should arrive around 30 minutes after the stated time as arriving on time is not usual. It is customary to leave some food behind on your plate, as this is considered polite. You should wait for a toast before taking a drink.

### Religion

The predominant religion in Argentina is Roman Catholicism with a large proportion of its population actively practicing. Other denominations of Christianity are to be found, including Evangelical Protestants, which is spreading in poorer areas. Buddhism, Mormonism and Spiritualism also claim some affiliation in this country.

Religion is an important part of the culture in Argentina and you should be respectful at all times in and around

places of worship. Do not be surprised to see individuals crossing themselves when passing any object of religious significance or reciting religious adages at appropriate times.

### Clothing

It is important to remember, especially for female travellers, that the kinds of clothes you feel comfortable wearing in your own country may not be an acceptable form of dress in Latin America. Short skirts for example, will invite unwanted attention. Just use your common sense and adapt your style in accordance with your surroundings. Often in churches you will be required to cover your shoulders and knees. Cover up for your own safety, and in respect of the local culture and customs.

Throughout Argentina, people tend to dress more formally than in the US. While Argentines might wear jeans, they would pair them with leather shoes and a button-up shirt, rather than a t-shirt and tennis shoes. Always bear in mind the activities you will be doing when you are packing, both at the project and socially.

### Smoking and Drinking and Drugs

Smoking and drinking is acceptable in Argentina and readily available. However, please respect other people. Smoking is not permissible in apartments or the host families' homes. Drinking is only permissible in moderation and must not impact on your programme. While we want you to have fun in your free time, anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.

It is absolutely forbidden to bring drugs into Argentina. Always keep an eye on your luggage while travelling. Never bring anyone else's luggage through customs. If you get caught there is little chance that you will walk away without punishment. As in most countries, Argentina has very strict rules when it comes to the possession of drugs. All drugs, including "soft" drugs like marijuana, are ILLEGAL. Please do NOT use any illegal substances whilst travelling – it is not worth the risk and is not acceptable at the programme.

### Tipping

It is customary to leave a 10-15% tip for service in bars and restaurants. Other tipping, such as to hotel staff, taxi drivers etc is at your discretion, depending on your opinion of their service. Bargaining is not usual practice, though may be acceptable if you are paying cash for something.

## Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

## Safety

Unfortunately, tourists are often targets for pickpockets and thieves. Please educate yourself about South America and Argentina in particular, before you leave, so that you can be alert to all types of situations. General travel safety rules are below.

- Avoid travelling alone, especially at night
- Find out where the unsafe areas are and avoid them
- When travelling keep all-important documents and valuables in a safe place, like an inner hidden pocket or money belt
- Carry only as much cash as you think you will need for the day
- Don't wear expensive jewellery or watches
- Be wary of people who seem too friendly too fast
- Keep cameras out of sight. Always keep bags and purses in your sight
- Before swimming, ask how safe the area is

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK, American and Australian customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: www.fco.gov.uk
USA: www.travel.state.gov
Australia: www.smartraveller.gov.au

### ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing traps in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

## Language Guide

The official language of Argentina is Spanish, though the language differs somewhat to European Spanish. Here are a few basic phrases you should find useful in Argentina. We also suggest you obtain a Lonely Planet or language guide for the destination(s) you are travelling to.

Hello - *Hola!*
Good day - *Buenas dias!*
How are you? - *Como estas? ('Como estas usted?' if you need to be extra formal!)*
Goodbye - *Adios*
Please - *Por favour*
Thank you - *Gracias*
I don't understand - *No entiendo*
I don't speak Spanish - *No hablo espanol*
Sorry/excuse me - *Lo siento*

Where is…? - *Donde esta…?*
The bill please - *La cuenta por favour*
Police Station - *La comisaria*
Hospital - *El hospital*
Train Station - *La estacion*

## Food & Drink

The history of immigration in this country has left its mark on the cuisine, which is varied in influence, ranging from Spanish to German and even British. The big story in Argentinean cooking is meat, with beef being the most popular. Barbecues and mixed grills are traditional and are popular ways of preparing these meaty meals, and the offal and organs are often included.

Some typical Argentine foods include empanadas (like little meat dumplings), milanesa (breaded and fried steak), and locro (a beef stew with beans). Vegetarian options are limited, especially in less commercial areas, though salads, pasta dishes and breads are always provided as accompaniments to the meats. Common side dishes include potatoes, French fries, salad and rice.

After a typically light breakfast of breads, preserves and pastries, lunch is the main meal of the day, with shops and offices closing in most areas for a long lunch-break between 12 and 3pm, during which time large meals are consumed. Restaurants usually offer a menú, which includes an appetizer, the dish of the day, dessert or coffee, and a drink. Many people also enjoy going to a café around 5pm for a coffee or tea and perhaps a sandwich or pastry. This is called merienda and is quite common! Dinner is subsequently lighter and late, usually taken after 9pm.

When it comes to drinking, a variety of tea called ‘Mate’ (pronounced mah-tay) is very popular and drunk socially to break the ice. With regards to alcohol, Argentines are in general fairly light drinkers. Beer, wine and gin are common drinks as well as the specialities of cana and ginebra bols. (The region of Mendoza produces some excellent wines! Be sure to try a Malbec!)

Please note: It is a good idea to be cautious with what and where you eat and drink because in some places food isn't always prepared to the same health and safety standards that you may be used to at home.

## Public Holidays

To view a list of the public holidays for Argentina, please see the link below:

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/argentina/

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country. Many schools, government offices, stores and banks are closed on National Holidays. Please note that there may be slight date variations for some of the holidays each year and that the list is not exhaustive and the Argentine Government have been known to introduce new bank holidays or comemorative days at short notice.

## Weather

Argentina is located in the southern hemisphere, where seasons are the opposite of those in the northern hemisphere. In general, summer, with mild temperatures and long days, is the most favourable season to travel across Patagonia and the meridianal Andes. Winter is the recommended season to travel along the north, northeast and northwest areas because rains are less frequent and subtropical temperatures decrease some degrees. Autumn and spring are very favourable in Cuyo, La Rioja and Catamarca pre–cordilleran areas and in Buenos Aires.

## Time

Argentina is three hours behind GMT. The time is always the same throughout the year as the country does not take part in daylight saving.

## Electricity

In Argentina the electric system is 220 Volts and frequency 50 Hertz. If your device does not run on these rates, you'll need a voltage converter.

Outlets in Argentina generally accept one type of plug:

V – shaped flat prongs

## Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

## Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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