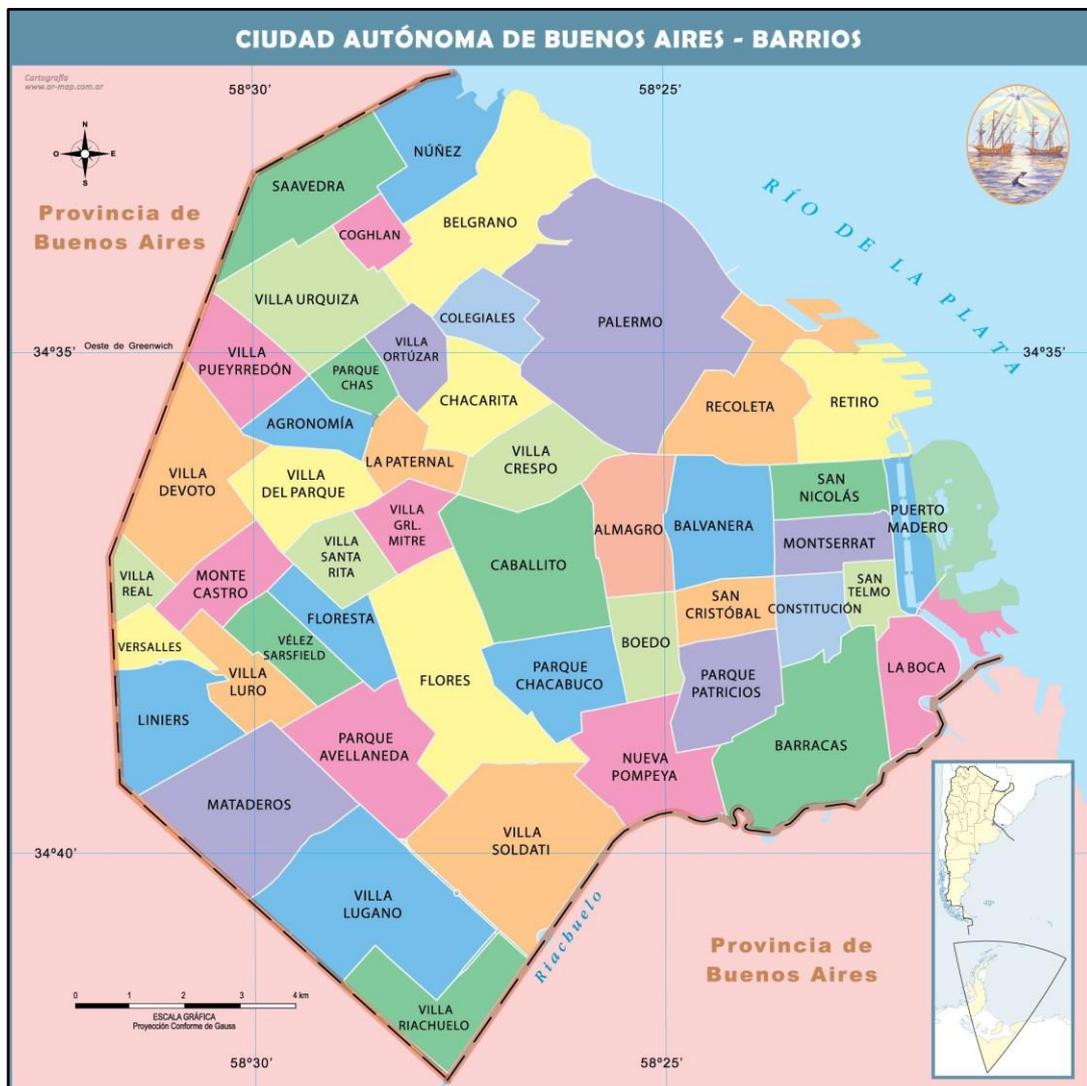


Buenos Aires

When locals say *Buenos Aires* they could be referring to the city of Buenos Aires (Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires-CABA), or to its surrounding areas, also known as the Greater Buenos Aires. There are several neighbourhoods- "*barrios*"- in the city itself, each with a name and different characteristics. The city was founded in the place where Plaza de Mayo stands today. The first neighbourhoods grew towards the South in what is now San Telmo and Montserrat. These are quite historic areas, very picturesque and with a bohemian flavour. The Northern areas of the city developed later, starting with Recoleta where many aristocratic families settled when they escaped a yellow fever plague in the 1870's.



Austral Campuses

Universidad Austral's facilities in the city of Buenos Aires are centrally located in Recoleta (1250 Cerrito St.). Most graduate programs, International Programs and some undergraduate programs are run there. The building is a historic construction from the early 20th century. The location is easily accessible by bus, underground (*subte*), or train.

Universidad Austral's main campus is in Pilar ([1611 Mariano Acosta St.](#))

The University's medical centre, Austral's Tech Park, the IAE Business School and most undergraduate programs are on Pilar campus. Pilar is a suburban area in the North of the city of Buenos Aires, roughly 1 h from downtown Buenos Aires, maybe a bit less if one lives in areas like Palermo, Belgrano... People commute to Pilar campus by bus, train or shuttle.

Where is it best to live?



Most international students prefer to live in Buenos Aires city to take advantage of the many things the city has to offer. There are many neighbourhoods to pick from. We recommend those we consider safer: Recoleta, Barrio Norte, Palermo, Las Cañitas, Belgrano.

Access is a relevant variable too. This is related to where most of your classes will take place. A long avenue cuts through the neighbourhoods mentioned above. Its name is Santa Fe Ave (the name changes to Cabildo Ave in Belgrano). Several bus lines run along it, and the metro underneath (line D).

Being close to Santa Fe Ave, within seven or eight blocks toward Cordoba Ave or down to Libertador Ave, would be a good choice: these are safe areas and they are very accessible too.

If you have classes in Pilar often, it might be better to live towards the North of the city: Palermo, Las Cañitas, and Belgrano. Nevertheless, this will depend on how you decide to commute to campus.

If you can manage to arrange your class schedule so that you only have to go to Pilar twice a week, you might want to stay one night in Pilar, thus reducing the commute and making it easier to enjoy the activities available on campus.

What to take into account when looking for a place to live

1. See where the apartment/residence is exactly located; make sure it is a safe area and that it will work well for you logistics wise.
2. Request a copy of the contract (typically for apartment rental) prior to your arrival, ask any doubts you have, and indicate if something important has been omitted or there is some clause that it not reasonable. Pay special attention to the owner's rights and responsibilities, and your own as well. Find out what you are allowed or not to do in the apartment/room (e.g. hosting a friend or family member overnight) or building (gatherings, parties, etc.). Confirm the services and utilities the place has (water, electricity, gas, cable TV, internet, etc.). Look at the duration and termination clauses. See what the deposit policies are (when and how they should be returned).
3. If you choose to live in a hall of residence or to do homestay, ask about the rules and policies.
4. At homestays in particular, ask about the use of common areas (including the kitchen, laundry, etc.), if you can have your meals saved for later, etc.
5. Consult about the currency and method/s of payment.
6. Ask how to go about in case there is some sort of problem (for instance, if internet is down): who to call, how to reach that person, etc. Ideally there should be someone you could reach 24/7.
7. Check what is included in the price and what is not. If you are renting an apartment for several months, try to negotiate (if the apartment is rented for short periods too and that's how the price is quoted, a longer contract might give you a better price).
8. Upon arrival double-check that everything is as stipulated and inform any pre-existing damage, difference or missing item as soon as you notice it.

What kind of housing should I consider?

There are many different options and picking the most suitable one depends on what makes you feel more comfortable. We strongly recommend that you arrange a homestay for the first weeks, so that you make your choice having lived the city and the campuses yourself. You will then be able to decide according to your own experience, and better immersed in the Argentine culture.

An apartment has the advantage of allowing for more independence. Many furnished apartments can be rented from a week to whole year. Renting a place with more bedrooms and sharing it with other students is likely to make it cheaper. There is the challenge of finding roommates and then agreeing on practical matters. There is also the downside of having to do the cleaning and cooking.

Halls of residence are another good option if you are looking for a student kind of environment and some services provided for. There is usually a front desk to assist the guests. These places have rules and in many of them there are 'curfews', meaning you may need to be back by a certain time. This is important information to find out.

A hostel could be an option provided there is private room with bathroom you can have for the whole semester but it might not be the best environment for a longer period. It will depend on the hostel: the layout, the environment, the services and spaces available... It might not be as cheap if you stay long. It definitely a reasonable alternative when you first arrive in town while you are still looking for a permanent place to stay if you have not found one already.

Hotels are a good option when staying for a few days or a couple of weeks. The big plus is that everything is taken care of, there is a 24/7 front desk, etc. Since you will not be able to cook, your options are eating out or having food delivered. There will be a lot of privacy but will be no daily interaction with other people unless you are with someone else.

Housing in Buenos Aires

Even though a quick Internet search will yield several results in Buenos Aires that you will find useful, we invite you to check with us about the location you are choosing, to make sure the distances and the neighbourhoods will suit you.

We recommend you begin your stay in Argentina at a homestay. Sharing your first month with a local family will guarantee that the housing choice you make for the rest of the semester is the best one for you. Additionally, you can focus on adjusting to the different language and the educational system with all the basic domestic issues solved, for the same price. Finally yet importantly, you will have an excellent opportunity for the cultural immersion you are travelling to acquire.

The organizations we recommend below are people we have interviewed, receiving their information to make sure they are a suitable option, sometimes even to negotiate a preferential rate. Nevertheless, there is no business relation, nor is there any profit,

commission or benefit for the university other than facilitating the logistics of students, staff and faculty coming to Austral.

- [HomestayBA](#): Patricia Sardo
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- [ExSpanish](#): Murphy Scott <murphy@insituprograms.org>