Personal Security

Daily Precautions you need to take

In the Streets
Obviously foreigners and tourists are the main targets for street crime. As such, the best precaution is to prevent attention. We recommend taking a very small amount of money with you, and leave the passport at home (is enough to carry a copy of it). If you are confronted on the streets in a robbery situation do not argue nor make any attempt to resist. Your physical and personal safety is always top priority at all times.

Protests and Demonstrations
Buenos Aires suffers social, economic and political problems. As such, while you are in Buenos Aires you will encounter many protests and demonstrations in different parts of the city. The most common concentration areas are: Plaza de Mayo, Congreso (Congress), Education Ministry (100 metres from USAL’s International office) and varied center places. If you find yourself in a place where a protest or a demonstration is taking place we strongly recommend staying away. Sometimes police intervene and take cautionary action.

Robberies and street crimes
In Buenos Aires, as in any big city, robberies in public places, streets, and transports are quite common. It is common the “arrebato” type of robbery in which the thief snatches your bag and runs away with your personal belonging (bag, cell phone, or cameras). Sometimes it is taken to a higher level whereby the offender may go past on a motorbike, snatch a bag/phone out of your hands and make a rapid getaway on the motorbike. At subways or trains do not stand close to the opening doors of the platform as the offender may snatch your bag and then quickly jump on or off the train to make a quick gateway.
Valuable technology items such as iPhones are very expensive and not easily available in Argentina. You need to have special care with them. In public transport such as subways and trains, where many people are together in a small place, be aware of the “carteristas” or “chorros”. If you are going to carry with you your phone make sure that, if it is in your bag, it is held close to your body at all times. If you are using a backpack or a handbag make sure that it is strapped around the front of you and highly visible by you at all times. Do not leave items unattended. People do not leave any of their belongings in public spaces or even at their study or workplaces. Make sure that your wallet is carried in a position where you can see it (for example, in your front pockets). Never carry items behind you.
Always be alert and wary of people who are standing too close to you or ask you questions as this may be the start of a street crime. Two people may be working in unison. For instance, while one person distracts you, their accomplice is undertaking the crime.

Parks and remote areas
We strongly recommend that you avoid passing through parks particularly at night. Moreover, if you are going to a remote area make sure that you consult a trusted local friend or with an USAL Academic Advisor at the International office to ensure that it is recommendable to go to that particular place at that time. This does not mean that it is not possible to freely walk around Buenos Aires but you need to take the necessary precautions.

Buenos Aires Neighbourhoods
In Buenos Aires, the safest areas and the most insecure ones are located close to one another. The safest neighborhoods are Belgrano, Recoleta, Barrio Norte and Palermo.

Taxis
Often tourists can be robbed or assaulted by taxis. Therefore it is not safe to take any taxi that is roaming around the street. We strongly recommend that you use only radio taxis. We also suggest that you make a phone reservation through one of the companies listed below:

- ALO 4855-5555
**ATM – Bank Teller Machines**  
You need to exercise a lot of caution when you withdraw money from an ATM or a bank teller machine as someone may be watching from the outside expecting you to go out and rob you. We strongly recommend that you use the ATM in the street Rodriguez Peña 714.

**Police Stations and Consulates**  
If you have been victim of a felony you may ask for assistance at the Tourist Police Station where police men speak various languages:  
Address: Av. Corrientes 436 CABA Buenos Aires  
Phone number: 011-4346-5748  
If you require any Consular Assistance (if your Passport has been stolen or if you are missing any important document from your home country) do not hesitate to contact your Consulate. If you need to know its address or phone number please check it in:  
http://mrecic.gov.ar/quia_representationeconsulados

**Medical Emergencies**  
Before you depart your home country make sure you are well aware of how your medical insurance works. If you require medical assistance in Buenos Aires we recommend that you go to:  
- **Hospital Alemán** in Avenida Pueyrredón 1640. Phone number: 4827-7000  
- **Instituto Argentino de Diagnóstico y Tratamiento** in Marcelo T. de Alvear 2346. Phone number: 4965-6500

**Life in Buenos Aires**  
**Transport**  
To travel by all means of public transportation in Buenos Aires, you are required to purchase a SUBE card. It cost 20 pesos. We suggest you to charge it with a maximum of 50 pesos as each bus or metro ride costs between 3 and 5 pesos.
You might find detailed information regarding the Centers where you can buy or charge the SUBE in  
http://www.sube.gob.ar/CentrosSUBE.aspx

**Mobile phone**  
If you wish to connect to a mobile phone service in Buenos Aires you can take out a pre-paid plan. The most popular mobile phone service providers are: Movistar, Personal and Claro. Some applications that might be useful for you to have:  
BA Subte; BA EcoBici; Plataforma 10; BA Cultural; BA Wifi  
Please note that, even with a good mobile phone plan, it is difficult to have regular access to Wifi/3G/4G.

**VERY IMPORTANT**  
In case you need our assistance please call:  
- During working hours (from Monday to Friday 9:00-18:00): International Relations Office 4372-3016 or 4372-3034  
- After working hours: Emergency cell phone 155-669-3567

For Emergencies:  
- Police and Firemen: 911  
- Medical emergencies: 107  
- Emergencies in USAL’s buildings: 4323-0423 (Emergencias Sociedad Anónima)

Laws you need to have into consideration:  
There are considered non-excarcelables crimes the followings:  
- Possession, consumption, merchandising and transfer of narcotics.  
- Abortion, for those who execute it as for the one who suffers it.