

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to the general travel risks outlined in the [Study Abroad Risk Advisory](#), this program **Language and Culture in Mendoza** (hereinafter “Program”) has specific activities which may pose a heightened level of risk for participants. UC Davis Study Abroad provides this information so that students can make an informed decision about consenting to participate in the Program. Participants in the **Language and Culture in Mendoza** program will be expected to participate in the activities below.

If participants do not want to participate in an activity, they must inform the Faculty Leader or Program Coordinator immediately and ask to opt out. In some cases, an activity may be a required in order to participate on the Program (e.g. travel to another site). In these instances, participants wishing to opt out may not be able to participate in the Program at all and may need to choose another program. Study Abroad will try to keep opt out decisions confidential, but due to the group nature of certain activities (such as group travel/tours), it may be impossible for the decision to be kept confidential.

By participating in in a UC Davis Study Abroad Program, participants voluntarily assume these additional associated risks, both known and unknown. If participants do not ask to opt out, UC Davis Study Abroad will assume they consent to the risks associated with participating in the activities.

- **This Program includes non-traditional motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students during free time via
 - Private motorcoach or van-for-hire (similar to a small public bus but may be operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)

This form of transportation is a common form of public transportation in the country abroad but may have limited or no governmental regulation. This means vehicles may or may not be inspected, drivers may or may not be licensed or certified, drivers may or may not have insurance, and safety standards (if they exist) may be significantly lower than those in the U.S.

- **This Program includes non-traditional non-motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students during free time via (select all that apply):
 - Extended walking or hiking of approximately (0-10 miles)
 - Horse or mule – riding in a saddle or within a pulled vehicle

This form of transportation is a common or elective form of public transportation in the country abroad but may have limited or no governmental regulation. This means that equipment or animals may or may not be inspected, that I may be at risk for injury due to contact with animals or their behavior, and that this form of transportation may require my own physical exertion.

- **This Program includes hiking and/or camping.** Hiking and/or camping includes additional risk of injury or death related to physical exertion, accident, or exposure to insects/animals, the

environment or weather. These activities are supervised, travelers will be provided with necessary equipment and will take place in relatively safe locations, but weather and environmental conditions are unpredictable and can change quickly. Travelers may be required to: hike/walk for distances of a few miles; hike/walk over uneven, slippery, inclining/declining, or rocky terrain (which increases risk of falls, accidents); carry or lift gear or supplies; shelter in tents/sleeping bags; share in group cooking/cleaning/camp preparation activities; and tolerate mild but possibly uncomfortable weather conditions (moderately hot or cold temperatures, rain, wind, very high or very low humidity, periods of sun without shade, etc.) While preventative measures are taken, travelers are nevertheless at elevated risk for physical injury, and exposure to water-borne illnesses, disease carrying insects, or poisonous plants or animals.

- **This Program requires the use of public transportation.** Travelers on this Program will be required to utilize public transportation (buses, trains, taxis, etc.) as the primary means of conveyance. Travelers may be provided with transportation passes as part of their Program fees. Public transportation services are regulated by local governments and are typically held to minimum standards of repair, safety, timely service and accessibility. Public transportation is often very safe and, in some areas, is the only means of transportation. However, local regulations may differ or be less than those for public transportation in the U.S. Use of public transportation include the risk of injury from accident (including operator negligence), transit delays, fines or penalties for improper use, impacts or shutdowns related to worker strikes, petty theft and assault, and minimal but elevated risk from terrorist activities.

- **This program includes activities in the vicinity of dangerous and dynamic natural phenomena**

This program includes low-risk activities such as walking which take place around higher-risk geologic activity or natural phenomena that may have fewer public safeguards or warnings as in the United States. There is an elevated risk of injury to travelers who are not aware of their surroundings. For example, travelers may hike near cliffs, crevasses, fissures, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, lagoons, active volcanoes, and hot geysers that have minimal or no public barriers to prevent injury and which could cause substantial risk of bodily injury or death to the individual who is not aware of their surroundings. Warning signs may be minimal or non-existent. The required activities are supervised and precautionary warnings will be provided but students must remain alert, exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Additionally, these geologic phenomena can undergo rapid and unexpected changes at any moment, such as earthquakes or eruptions, which are unpreventable.

- **This Program may include transportation by rudimentary or primitive marine vessels such as canoe (powered or unpowered) or raft.** These vessels may or may not be subject to oversight by marine regulatory bodies of Argentina. At minimum, these vessels should have personal floatation devices but may not have additional forms of safety devices. Travel on these vessels may be subject to marine conditions (e.g. river currents, debris); participants may be expected

to use paddles in some situations. Participants may need to enter the water in order to board the vessel. UC Davis Study Abroad does not certify pilot training or licensure, vessel integrity, or mechanical service. UC Davis Study Abroad cannot anticipate water conditions but where possible will postpone travel or change itineraries under inclement conditions (may not be possible for public conveyance). All travelers should ensure appropriate life-saving/personal floatation devices are available before boarding, review and understand all safety procedures, and ask questions about the use of safety devices.

- **This Program may include water-based recreational activities on kayaks.**

These kayaks may or may not be subject to oversight by marine regulatory bodies of Australia. As with all water sports and activities, kayaking includes elevated risk of injury or death due to weather or water conditions (currents, riptides, storms, lightning, etc.), drowning, hypothermia, equipment failure, contact with a water-borne bacteria or virus, as well as other water-based injuries. Travelers who elect to use kayaks must be strong, confident swimmers, able to self-rescue in open water, and must use personal floatation devices at all times. A lifeguard may not be present at the activity site. Marine conditions (e.g. river currents, tides, debris) can dramatically affect safe boating conditions and participants must use cautious discretion when deciding whether to use kayaks. Participants should ensure that the kayak, paddle and any other parts are in sound functioning order. Those who are not comfortable swimming in open water or who are uncertain about their ability to paddle a kayak should not participate in this activity.

- **This Program may include rappelling.** Rappelling includes additional risk of injury or death related to anchor failure, rope-connecting knot becoming untied, hair or clothing getting stuck in rappel device, rope getting cut on a sharp edge, equipment failure, among others. Travelers who participate in this activity must be comfortable with heights, and must wear a helmet. Travelers assume additional responsibility for assessing their own comfort and risk tolerance related to heights and equipment on site. Students are not required to rappel and may choose not to participate in this activity. Students who opt out of this activity must notify the program leader in advance.