

Scott Schackmann

Creating a Unique Experience in Argentina - August 2014

My Foreign Language and International Trade program at SIU requires an internship abroad, so I chose Buenos Aires, Argentina. The program I utilized provided day trips, tours and social gatherings out of which I only participated in the weekly drinking of Mate (herbal tea) and the monthly dinners because I wanted an experience that was uniquely my own.

My actual internship consisted of working for a private association, which is similar to our not-for-profit organizations, that helps small- and medium-size businesses export their goods and services to other Latin American countries, albeit entirely in Spanish, English was not permitted. I learned how to track imports and exports of products, conduct market analysis, and I became somewhat of a pro locating potential business partners in countries like Peru and Bolivia.

Outside of my internship, I did as much as I could to experience the local culture and especially the cuisine; so much that the coordinators of my program asked me to write a [guest post for their blog](#) about eating Italian food in Buenos Aires and I was chosen for a [weekly spotlight](#) and now have a YouTube video on their website. I was also fortunate to travel to Montevideo, Uruguay, and to the city of Tigre, Argentina, a river delta town famous for its beauty and hospitality. All in all, the experience was definitely amazing and one that I will never forget - even the 15 hours spent en route!

Scott Schackmann is a senior studying Foreign Languages and International Trade.

