BRITISH COUNCIL

Language Assistants 2026-27 Programme

# ELA in Argentina: The Guide

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Please ensure you have read through this document and carried out research yourself before contacting the Language Assistants team with any questions. Save this document somewhere you can access anytime during your assistantship.

**Disclaimer**: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these notes. However, the British Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors which may exist or for any subsequent changes. This guide should be used as a starting point for your own research.

Date checked: 10/11/2026

# Country Overview

Argentina is the second-largest country in South America after Brazil, the fourth-largest country in the Americas, and the eighth-largest country in the world – but with a population of only 45 million, and with approximately a third of those located in greater Buenos Aires, Argentina is a country of wide-open spaces.

It is also a country with proud historical roots, and national heroes such as Jose de Sant Martin and Manuel Belgrano are revered.

Despite economic prosperity due to enormous natural resources and agriculture in the early 20th century, Argentina has seen a number of severe economic crises since the return of democracy in the early 1980s, with hyperinflation in the late 1980s, a major sovereign default in 2001 and more recently high inflation and devaluation, and a USD$50 billion bailout from the IMF in 2018.

The country has incredible variety both in geography and climate, from the heat and waterfalls in Misiones, to the desert north of Jujuy, and the beauty of Patagonia and the national parks in Tierra del Fuego. The country has something to suit everyone and is well set up for backpackers.

Long distances can be covered by train, bus or plane. Long-distance buses are well equipped with fully reclining chairs and toilets. For very long journeys, flights will be more cost effective.

# 1. Spotlight on Argentina

Did you know that the British Council Language Assistants Programme first began back in 1905 with English masters heading over to France?

You are joining the next generation of Language Assistants, helping to strengthen educational and cultural links between the UK and Argentina through the British Council and our partners at the **Ministerio de Capital Humano de Argentina**.

Here are our key points to consider.

## 1.1 Contacts

### Emergency

Emergency services: **911**

Police: **101**

Medical assistance: call **107**

Fire Brigade: call **100**

Tourist Police (for English assistance in Buenos Aires): call **+54 911 5050 9260** if ringing from a mobile phone or **155 5050 9260/3293** from a local landline (available 24 hours). In Mendoza, contact **+54 (0)261 413 2135.**

General enquiries to the British Embassy: **(011) 4808 2200**

### British Embassy and consulate

For up-to-date British Embassy and consulate contact details in Argentina please refer to the GOV.UK website: Find a British embassy, high commission or consulate. Please take note of the address of the British Embassy in Argentina below in case of emergency or loss of your passport.

**British Embassy Buenos Aires**

Address: Dr. Luis Agote 2412 (1425), Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: +54 11 4808-2200 / +44 (0)1908 51 6666

Email: askinformation.baires@fcdo.gov.uk

## 1.2 Life in Argentina

Some general information around life in Argentina or your region can be found on sites like these:

- Feriados 2026 | Argentina.gob.ar (Argentina government national holidays)
- Public Holidays Calendar
- Rough Guide to Argentina
- Lonely Planet Argentina
- BBC's Argentina Profile

### Personal safety and travel

Your personal safety is of paramount importance while living overseas and we strongly advise that you spend some time looking at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office website: Argentina travel advice – GOV.UK. You can also sign up for email alerts here: Get emails from GOV.UK – GOV.UK.

After arriving in Argentina, we recommend that you speak regularly to your **mentor teacher** and other fellow teachers to get a feel for the locality in terms of safety and risk. Try to travel around with other trusted people as much as possible until you have more of an idea of how safe certain places are.

The most common crimes in Argentina are, as in many countries, crimes like pickpocketing. This is particularly prevalent around the Obelisk in central Buenos Aires, and on public transport. The **normal advice applies**: be aware of where your valuables are, and do not keep anything valuable in rucksack pockets. It is highly recommended to avoid walking in public with your phone or other valuables in your hand.

## 1.3 Local laws and customs

### Laws

As you would in your own country, always abide by the local laws. You should not assume that all laws and punishments will be similar to the UK, so it is important to carry out research in advance.

Regardless of your own politics, we would recommend avoiding all local political disputes or activities. As a visitor, you are unlikely to understand the full scope of local issues and you don't know what level of punishment will occur for participating. Street protests in Buenos Aires are very common, and normally nothing to be concerned about, however, these can occasionally turn violent, and you should avoid them where possible.

Do not take other people's word/advice as an indication of laws/punishments. Do not be encouraged into things you are not fully aware of. It is always best to be cautious and use your own common sense, backed up with research.

### LGBTQ+

We recommend carrying out some research into local customs and laws around LGBTQ+ issues before travelling. Following Argentina's transition to a democracy in 1983, its laws have become more inclusive and accepting of LGBTQ+ people, as has public opinion.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights in Argentina rank among the highest in the world. Upon legalising same-sex marriage on 15 July 2010, Argentina became the first country in Latin America, the second in the Americas, and the tenth in the world to do so.

However, the country does tend to become more conservative and perhaps less open the further you get from the capital.

Argentina also has one of the world's most comprehensive transgender rights laws – its Gender Identity Law, passed in 2012, allows people to change their legal gender relatively easily.

In 2015, the World Health Organization cited Argentina as an exemplary country for providing transgender rights.

FCDO guide for LGBT travellers

## 1.4 The British Council office in Argentina

**Please note:** The British Council in Argentina is not responsible for the administration of the Language Assistants Programme in Argentina – this is the role of the **Ministerio de Capital Humano**. The British Council in Argentina has a different team to the UK British Council team and belong to a different department. We will notify the Country Director of the British Council in Argentina of your arrival before the programme begins, but the team has little involvement in the running of the programme.

The British Council develops and participates in many different projects themed around society, science, education, so you may want to see if it has other programmes which you can get involved in via its website and get in touch with the team:

British Council in Argentina

# Language Assistants Programme Overview

## 2. Programme organisations

### 2.1 UK British Council Language Assistants team

The Language Assistants Programme has a dedicated team to provide support during the application and pre-departure process for each destination. Please note the British Council is not the employer of participants of the Language Assistants Programme while abroad.

### 2.2 Overseas partner organisation

The **Ministerio de Capital Humano** administers the Language Assistants Programme in Argentina. Our partners provide placements and allocate applicants to host institutions. Your host institution will contact you before the placement begins with key information and will also provide an initial induction on arrival before work begins. The Ministerio de Capital Humano will remain a key contact throughout the year.

### 2.3 Host institutions

Following the departure procedures and inductions, the host institution will be responsible for your contract. Your host institution is your employers during your assistantship and any changes to your contract should be liaised with them, and you should inform the Ministerio de Capital Humano and the British Council of any changes.

### 2.4 Mentor teacher

Your host school should identify a mentor teacher for you on or before arrival. This mentor should provide pastoral care and support during your time in Argentina. It is in your interest to establish and build a good relationship as soon as you are introduced. The exact dynamics/responsibilities of this role may differ from institution to institution, so it is good to establish early on what support you can expect to receive. You will still be required to communicate independently with HR and school administration on certain matters.

***'Foster a good relationship with your referentes'*** – Advice from a former ELA in Argentina 2024-25, British Council Language Assistants End-of-year survey

If a mentor teacher is not identified at the start of your placement, you should enquire with the institution or the Ministerio de Capital Humano.

- **Application**
- **Allocation**
- **Pre-Departure**
- **Arrival**
- **Assistantship**
- **In School**

**Sending organisation: British Council**

**Louise**, Consultant; **Suzy**, Assistant Consultant

languageassistants.uk@britishcouncil.org

Responsible for: application and pre-departure processes

**Partner organisation: Ministerio de Capital Humano de Argentina**

**Débora Szulman** debora.szulman@educacion.gob.ar

**Alejandra Sánchez** marcelaalejandra.sanchez@educacion.gob.ar

Responsible for: arrival and assistantship; relationship with host institutions

**Employer: Host institution**

Responsible for: assistantship in school

**Support: Referente (mentor teacher)**

Responsible for: in-school support and first contact

# 3. The English Language Assistant role

As a Language Assistant, please remember that you are a paid member of staff with the responsibilities and required professionalism that this entails.

Please refer to our website for more information on your role as an English Language Assistant: Responsibilities of an English Language Assistant | British Council.

As a Language Assistant, you are also an ambassador for the UK and your actions will influence how those around you view the UK. Your behaviour will also impact the experiences of future assistants who go to work in the same communities.

## 3.1 Posting information

Post allocation for Argentina is usually carried out in **November/December 2026**. The Ministerio de Capital Humano will issue a formal letter of invite with details on your host institution. You should contact your host institution as soon as you receive these details and introduce yourself. It may be useful to find out specifics such as the age range of pupils, average class size, the facilities available and if you should prepare any specific materials in advance. It is also important to enquire about the dress code for teachers and the school code of conduct.

## 3.2 Period of appointment

The period of appointment for UK Language Assistants in Argentina will be from **1 April 2027 to 31 August 2027.** Assistants are expected to work 18 hours a week, which includes 15 hours of class teaching and 3 hours of lesson preparation. You can request information regarding how your timetable will be arranged from the head of your host institution, however this information will most likely not be available until you arrive in Argentina.

## 3.3 Holidays and sick leave

Assistants are entitled to the same school holidays as regular staff. Argentina's Government website has further details regarding the school calendar: Educación | Argentina.gob.ar. You should not be absent on other occasions without prior, written permission. The induction course is not part of your work hours and does not give assistants the right to take leave at a later date.

# 4. Preparation before you go

## 4.1 Costs to prepare

**Pre-departure (November to March):**

- International Child Protection Certificate (£103)
- Visa application including administrative fees (USD150, payable in GBP depending on the exchange rate on the day – subject to change)
- Travel to nearest Argentine Embassy for visa appointment (London if based in UK)
- Flights to Argentina (£1,000–£1,500 return)
- Travel costs to placement location (£160–£300)

**In placement (before receiving first payment):**

- Accommodation costs, including initial temporary accommodation and deposit for permanent accommodation in Argentina
- Residency permit costs on arrival (to be confirmed by partner organisation)
- Costs for initial few months – you may not receive your first payment until June, so you will need sufficient funds for this time. Previous assistants have recommended budgeting for at least two months without pay (£1,500–£2,500).

## 4.2 Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) advice

During a crisis, official advice for British nationals will be published on the travel advice website and regularly updated: Argentina travel advice – GOV.UK. For your safety and to stay well-informed, we **strongly recommend** you subscribe to receive FCDO email updates for Argentina so that you are immediately notified of any important changes to the FCDO's advice: Get emails from GOV.UK – GOV.UK.

The FCDO have published a comprehensive guide for living in Argentina: Living in Argentina | GOV.UK. The guide sets out essential information for British nationals residing in Argentina, including advice on health, education, residence requirements and more. We recommend you read this guide thoroughly.

You can also contact the British Embassy for advice in event of an emergency, the details for which you can find earlier, in **Section 1.1.2**.

## 4.3 Passports and visas

You must meet the passport requirements for Argentina before leaving the UK – instructions will be sent to you directly by the Ministerio de Capital Humano during the departure process.

Those who are not in possession of a passport, or need a new one, should complete the application procedure as soon as possible, either through a regional Passport Office or online: Passports – GOV.UK.

Assistants are expected to cover the costs of this, which can include sourcing documentation, attending visa appointments and paying service fees as required.

## 4.4 Travel to and around Argentina

You are responsible for the upfront cost of your own travel and any travel to and from your place of appointment during the year. The British Council strongly advises against booking your travel until you have received your visa and are certain that you will be able to travel on your chosen date. The British Council is not responsible for arranging or reimbursing your travel.

Past assistants have advised that you check the baggage allowance for both outbound and return journeys when travelling by plane.

## 4.5 Travel insurance

The British Council is unable to advise on insurance packages. It is recommended that you seek professional advice or check whether you are covered by any existing family policy. You should secure insurance before undertaking any travel.

Undergraduate assistants should consult with their university to check what cover is provided. It is important to check the small print of your policy.

Personal accident travel insurance is recommended to cover medical expenses, air ambulance, repatriation, personal accident & civil liability, luggage & valuable items, and cancellation in extreme cases.

Personal accident travel policies are readily available on price comparison websites, or by searching 'travel insurance' in a search engine. The UK FCDO Office website offers additional advice on taking out travel insurance: Foreign travel insurance – GOV.UK.

# 5. Health and wellbeing

## 5.1 Before you go

### Planning

In advance of your trip, check the latest Argentina-specific health advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website: NaTHNaC – Country List.

Guidance is also available from NHS (Scotland) on the FitForTravel website: Destinations – FitForTravel.

General information on travel vaccinations and a travel health checklist is available on the NHS website.

Make sure you have **comprehensive travel and medical insurance** covering healthcare and medical evacuation and repatriation for the duration of your stay.

### Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in the UK can be different in Argentina. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines: NaTHNaC – Medicines and travel. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of Argentina or territory you're travelling to.

If you're on prescription medication, make sure you either bring enough with you or have access to a supply once in Argentina. Certain medicines may not be available in Argentina (including major brands readily available in the UK), and you may be prohibited from bringing some medicines into Argentina. For more information and advice, check with your GP and the Embassy of Argentina before travelling.

## 5.2 In country

### Medication

If your medicine is available from suppliers in Argentina, doctors may first want to conduct their own diagnosis before repeating a prescription issued elsewhere. It is also important to find out where your nearest doctor, dentist and hospital are as soon as you arrive. You should ask your school for information about the facilities in your area and advise staff and your landlord of any medical conditions.

Non-over-the-counter medication can be quite expensive in Argentina. It is possible to buy most medication over the counter, but without a prescription, or insurance, costs can be high. Most medicines are easily available, and simple over-the-counter medicines that you would find available in the UK are also available here.

It is also important to note that some products that are available in shops in the UK (for example CBD oil) are not legal here. You should spend time researching this area.

Useful information is available here: NaTHNaC – Argentina.

## 5.3 Argentina health service

We recommend that you carry out some research on the Argentinian health system in advance of your stay. In general, the quality of service can vary based on location, so be sure to investigate your local services as well as the national service. The FCDO website is a good place to start: Health – Argentina travel advice – GOV.UK.

If you require urgent medical attention in Argentina, dial 107 to ask for assistance in Spanish.

## 5.4 Mental health

Although working abroad can be enjoyable, it can also be challenging. Moving away from support networks, adapting to new routines, language barriers, culture shock and unexpected situations can intensify stress levels.

It is important to remember that culture shock affects everyone. There is no shame in admitting that you are having a difficult time. Argentina is a very culturally distinct place. If you do feel homesick or frustrated, please talk to your mentor teacher and consider reaching out to fellow ELAs in Argentina.

### Resources

- Mental health abroad – GOV.UK
- Mental Health and Travel – Fit for Travel
- NHS website for England
- International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers

# 6. Arrival and settling in

## 6.1 Accommodation

### General Advice

Booking accommodation is not the responsibility of the British Council, the overseas partner organisation or the host institution. This responsibility lies with the Language Assistant, and you will be required to carry out independent research and make a booking.

When contacted by your host institution, it is worth asking them if they have any suggestions. In some cases, the school may be able to offer you a place, or a guest room if another teacher offers to host you, although this should not be expected. Ask them to recommend areas of the city or town you will be in. Finding a temporary short-term solution is often advisable so that you can take a little time to get to know the area and avoid getting stuck in the same place for the whole placement if it turns out to be unsuitable. You may find some of the links below a useful place to start:

www.hihostels.com

www.airbnb.com

www.hostelworld.com

### Before signing an agreement

- Always ask about additional fees, such as agency charges.
- Landlords may ask for 1 month's rent as a deposit and 1 month's rent paid in advance.
- Get any agreements in writing, and obtain receipts for any transaction, keeping them secure.
- Confirm the notice period you must give to move out – there will usually be a legal minimum requirement in the host country. You may also have to give this notice in writing.
- Enquire about the possibility of including a 'diplomatic clause' in the rental agreement to allow for a shorter notice period in case of early termination of your placement.
- Take photos capturing the condition of your room and the flat before moving in to prevent unfairly losing any of your security deposit.
- Check health and safety issues (temporary and long term) such as fire alarms and exits, gas leaks, electrics, water etc.

When you have found somewhere to live, even if it has been arranged for you, do not sign any agreement you are not comfortable with and make sure there is a notice period written in the contract to avoid problems, should you decide to change your accommodation during the year.

## 6.2 Induction

The Ministerio de Capital Humano will likely run an induction for English language assistants in the week before placements are due to begin. Induction meetings can be held either virtually or in-person.

The purpose of the induction is to provide you with useful details about your placement directly from the Ministerio de Capital Humano, advice on adapting to local life and important information about the education system. It is also a great chance for you to meet other assistants in the region. **Attendance is expected depending on travel arrangements. If you are unable to attend, we recommend contacting fellow ELAs to catch up on what you missed.**

## 6.3 Observation period

When you first arrive at your school(s) you should ask for a period of observation of 1–2 weeks. It may not be offered to you automatically. An observation period will allow you to familiarise yourself with the school environment, experience classroom management techniques, and get to know the names, faces and personalities of your pupils and gauge their level of English. Try to note the following:

- How the teacher starts and ends the lesson.
- How the teacher speaks to pupils.
- How the teacher involves all pupils, including shy ones, in the class activity.
- What the teacher's attitude is to pupil errors and error correction.
- How the teacher controls disruptive behaviour, lateness and lack of effort.

This can also be a valuable opportunity to discuss the following with your mentor teacher:

- How you are finding your experience and settling in.
- If you have any additional requirements which may facilitate your placement.

## 6.4 Settling into school life

**You can hear tips from former assistants in our settling in podcast.**

Starting any new job can be a daunting experience, no matter how confident a person you are. It's completely normal to be unsure of where to go, what to do or who to talk to at the beginning.

Remember – it is not good practice to correct another teacher in front of students.

In addition to your work in the classroom, you may be able to attend other classes in subjects that interest you. You will find that you become much more integrated into school life and gain considerably more from your stay if you become involved in activities organised by the school, such as sports days, theatre or music productions or modern language societies. Attending school open days or parent evenings are also a good way of meeting people.

Teachers who are proactive and take the initiative often settle into school life much faster. Being a self-starter is a great way to make a strong first impression. Teachers are often very busy and will certainly appreciate your efforts to help and try to make an impact.

***'The British Council website has some useful, formal resources… I also found that the English language can also be taught very effectively through music, television and videos, because each student has a different way of learning… For example, if instances of the if clauses appear in various songs… this can make classes more interesting and dynamic. Mix it up!.'*** – Advice on teaching resources from a former ELA in Argentina 2024-25, British Council Language Assistants End-of-year survey

## 6.5 Absence from school

Please remember that you are a member of staff and must therefore adhere to the holiday dates set by the school. If you cannot work because of illness, you should inform your school(s) and the Ministerio de Capital Humano (if applicable) immediately and within 48 hours by telephone.

Any prolonged absence on account of illness should be reported as soon as possible to the Ministerio de Capital Humano and to the British Council. Requests for leave of absence for any other reason should be made in advance to the head of the school(s), who is within their right to refuse it. You are reminded that if you are absent from school without prior authorisation, your allowance will be discontinued from the first day of your absence.

If it becomes necessary to resign from your post, you must give sufficient prior notice in writing of your intended departure to the school, the Ministerio de Capital Humano and the British Council, setting out your reasons in full. If you are an undergraduate, you must also inform your university/college in the UK.

## 6.6 Social media

You should be very careful about how you use social networking sites while you are working as a teacher. Keep your profile private so that it can only be seen by people you intend to see it. If you invite other teachers to be 'friends', remember to remain professional in what you post and be careful what you say about your employer.

You should not exchange personal contact details with students, invite them to be 'friends' or accept similar invitations from them. Check with teachers about the school's internet policy, particularly regarding any online communication involving students either in or outside school. It is exceptionally important that you understand issues around child protection, both to protect the students and to protect you from any damaging and potentially serious accusations.

## 6.7 Support networks

Give yourself some time to adjust – in the beginning, you will have a lot of administrative matters to deal with. While your programme peers can provide a very good support network, former assistants have recommended that you don't spend all your free time with other programme participants, as you will not be able to integrate into your community and new surroundings.

Here are some other ways to meet people within the area:

- Enrol in an evening class or join a sports club, music group, choir etc.
- Join or set up a language exchange
- Join the local Erasmus society through the ESN network
- Enquire about joining the local university and attending lectures
- Get involved in the local culture and join clubs that you couldn't join in the UK
- Volunteer for a charity, society, festival etc.

***'If you have any hobbies or practise any sport, there will definitely be groups of people that share your passion and will hopefully be open to a foreigner joining their group'*** – Advice on settling in from a former ELA in Argentina 2024-25, British Council Language Assistants End-of-year survey

### Start at school

- Show that you are enthusiastic to get to know staff and your mentor.
- Accept invites to social occasions or team meetings.
- If you hear about something happening which interests you, ask if you can become involved. Don't wait to be invited as people may assume that you're not interested.

***'Go to local shows and fairs. Follow the city's community Instagram for activities in the neighbourhood.'*** – Advice from a former ELA in Argentina 2024-25, British Council Language Assistants End-of-year survey

### Rural posts

Past assistants based in rural or remote areas have had very positive experiences. While it can be more challenging to adapt, it can be a very enriching experience on a personal development level and a real immersion in culture and language. You may also receive much more support from your school and integrate into the community quicker, which can help with settling into life in Argentina.

## 6.8 Concerns and queries

You may hear from past assistants that their assistantship was the best year of their life, not reflecting the reality that they had to work at it until the rewarding experiences could be appreciated. Be careful to set reasonable expectations and do not be worried if you find your experience initially more challenging than you thought it would be.

The assistantship year is a wonderful opportunity to absorb the local language and culture, and you will gain much in life experience and transferable skills. However, it is perfectly understandable that when abroad in a completely different environment there may be times when you feel homesick, have trouble with pupils or colleagues, or with your living situation and so on.

Meeting regularly with your mentor provides an opportunity for them to give you feedback about your performance and for you to raise any concerns or issues. Do tell people if you have problems or if you need information, as otherwise they may assume everything is fine.

The British Council has a zero-tolerance policy approach to discrimination of any kind. If a serious incident occurs and the who-to-contact sheet is not appropriate, please contact us.

# 7. Money matters

Argentina is a highly complex country with high inflation and several ‘official’ and ‘unofficial’ exchange rates. You are advised to research this thoroughly before you leave the UK.

For example, the government has recently implemented a new policy, where spend on foreign credit cards is charged at a more favourable rate. The ‘official’ exchange rate is 200 pesos to the dollar, but the overseas credit card rate is about 350. It is also possible to get this significantly improved rate by sending transfers through third party websites (Western Union).

The most sought-after overseas currency is the US dollar.

The local currency is volatile and devalues constantly. As has been stated, your monthly stipend will not increase in line with inflation, so please ensure you are prepared financially.

## 7.1 Bank account

It is **not** essential that you open a local bank account to receive your payments, as you will withdraw your stipend in cash each month. We recommend that you wait until you arrive in your town of appointment, allowing you to research all the local options, seek recommendations and receive help from your school regarding whether to open a bank account, and if so, which one.

Things to consider:

- Assistants are usually entitled to open a standard account which provides a cheque book and cash card; some banks also offer a ‘student account’.
- Do not open a savings account.
- Check with local banks in advance to find out what kind of documents will be required.

## 7.2 Tax

Assistants often ask our team questions around tax issues, but unfortunately we are unable to assist in this area. We do not have the authority or sufficient knowledge of tax systems in the various countries we work with to answer any questions.

Enquiries regarding UK income tax should be addressed to a local Inspector of Taxes. Please check the HMRC website: HM Revenue and Customs – GOV.UK for information about who to contact.

We recommend looking into the Double Taxation Agreement between the UK and Argentina and you can find out more at the government website, Tax on foreign income: If you're taxed twice – GOV.UK. It is important to note that the agreement only covers teaching jobs.

## 7.3 Monthly salary

The monthly stipend amount was $750,000 Argentine pesos per month for the 2025-26 programme cycle. This equated to approximately £390, based on the exchange rate in early 2026, which is subject to change. The stipend amount is set by our Argentinian partners and will not increase in line with inflation. Language Assistants are also unable to work additional hours with the visa path they must follow, so unfortunately no supplementary income can be made in-country.

As you will be aware, we have highly recommended taking funds to cover your initial costs. You may also want to consider taking a credit card to cover initial costs, and you should be aware that there is often a charge for using your British debit card to withdraw money abroad.

The British Council does not have any budget to help cover any costs or refunds.

***'Travel with funds saved before you arrive in case there are delays to pay.'*** – Advice from a former ELA in Argentina 2023-24, British Council Language Assistants End-of-year survey

## 7.4 Useful documents

Prepare copies and documents prior to leaving and keep them safe and secure when abroad:

- Passport
- Copy of your passport
- Insurance cover
- Certificate of appointment
- Another valid form of photographic ID
- Bank statements from your UK bank
- Birth certificate
- Certificates of qualifications
- Passport-sized photos
- Documents to set up bank account
- Proof of address
- Payslips
- Rental agreement

# 8. Language learning and studies

### For language learning

- BBC- Learn Spanish. Offers a wealth of resources for learning Spanish, including short guides, videos and the BBC World News service in Latin America.
- Memrise. A sophisticated platform for language learning, with a large online community. App also available.
- Duolingo. A simplistic platform for language learning which is very easy to access. Bite-size lessons allow the user to practice for anywhere from 5 minutes a day. App also available.
- Anki: An online platform for learning, focusing on memory-recall. Packs for specific levels of Spanish are available.

# 9. End of your placement

## 9.1 Administrative matters

### Accommodation

Please make sure that you leave a good impression with your landlord – a future assistant may be depending on this:

- Leave a forwarding address with your landlord so that they can forward any mail on to you.
- When you leave your accommodation, remember to cancel any personal contracts, e.g., internet or utilities.
- Discuss with your landlord what you need to do for them to return your deposit and terminate your rental agreement, as well as arranging the return of your belongings if you have already left.
- If you rent your flat through a property agency, they may want to carry out an inspection before returning your deposit. If possible, you should make sure that you are present during the inspection to avoid any potential disagreements at a later date. Alternatively, you may wish to take photos of your accommodation before leaving to document how it was left.

### Reference

If you haven't already done so, please liaise with your host school to ask for a reference.

- This will be invaluable when it comes to an official record of your assistantship and for any future applications to be an ELA. This should be on headed paper, stamped, signed and dated, and it should comment on your performance as an assistant.
- Please note that as the British Council is not the employer, we are unable to provide references for language assistants, only a certificate certifying participation upon request.

## 9.2 Staying a consecutive year

Unfortunately, Language Assistants in Argentina cannot apply for a consecutive year in the same country, although they are welcome to apply to work in a different country: Consecutive and non-consecutive year English Language Assistants | British Council.

This rule is to ensure new applicants can enjoy the same benefits of the programme, since there are limited posts available. If late posts do become available due to withdrawals, we may contact you to offer a consecutive year.

## 9.3 ELA Ambassadors

Ambassadors play an essential active part in promoting the opportunity of being a Language Assistant. By representing a British Council programme, former assistants will be able to develop their creative, organisational and professional skills and network with the future generation of assistants. To have an opportunity to be involved with this, you must have filled out our end-of-year survey, after which you may be invited to take part in the scheme.

## 9.4 Getting into teaching

If you want to take your assistantship to the next level, follow the links below to find out more about how to get into teaching and inspire future linguists:

- England: Get Into Teaching | Get Into Teaching GOV.UK
- Wales: Initial Teacher Education (ITE) | GOV.WALES
- Scotland: Choose a new career path in teaching | Teach in Scotland
- Northern Ireland: Getting into teaching | The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland