M.Ed. In TESL Program
Country Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Country: Argentina
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Education in Argentina

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TESL 539
Where in the world…

- Argentina is located in South America
- It borders the South Atlantic ocean between Chile and Uruguay
- It is the 2nd largest country in South America
- It is the 8th largest nation in the world
- It is one of the most literate lands in Latin America
The Demographics of Argentina

- **Spanish** is the official language spoken and taught in schools.
- Italian, English, German, French, indigenous (Mapudungun, Quechua) are other languages are spoken throughout the country.
- The **population** is 41,660,417 (2013)
- 97% of the population is white (Spanish and Italian)
- **Literacy Rate**: females = 98.1% males = 98%
- 3% mestizo (mixed white and Amerindian ancestry), Amerindian, or other non-white groups
- 92% Roman Catholic (less than 20% practicing)
- 2% Protestant
- 2% Jewish
- 4% Other
Ongoing Troubles in Argentina

- **Poverty:** 26.9% of people are living below the international poverty level
  - 8.7% is below the extreme poverty line

- **Unemployment:** 7.9% or 1 out of 5 people are unemployed

- In 1999 there was a decrease of real Gross Domestic Product, this caused:
  - Fall of the government
  - Default on the country's foreign debt
  - Widespread unemployment
  - Riots
  - The rise of alternative currencies
  - The end of the peso's fixed exchange rate to the US dollar

- In 2001, protests over the government’s handling of the economic crisis left many dead because so many people were outraged

  [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/1720607.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/1720607.stm)
School Facts about Argentina

- Tuition-free public education for youth and adults
- In the morning students raise the flag and sing the national anthem
- Schools accept students of any race, creed or national origin
- In the younger grades students get three breaks of 10 minute recess
- Students in younger grades go to school from 8am-12pm or 1pm-5pm.
- Students are required to wear uniforms
- Other students attend school usually from 8am-4:30pm
- Students attend school for 200 days
- Until the age of 9 a child must study English for two hours per week
- Children attend school from March, which is Fall until late November.
- University candidates must attend secondary school for 5 years and take the Baccalaureate exam
- Summer vacation is during December, January and February which are the hottest months in South America
- School teachers are trained through a teacher college, although no timeline was given for how long this training is
School Facts about Argentina

- Students have a 5-day week
- 6 years of primary school
- 3 years of middle school
- 3 years of secondary school
- 4,914,441 children are enrolled in the primary level of education (2002)
- 3,976,213 children are enrolled in the secondary level of education (2002)
- There are three types of secondary schools:
  - Academic
  - Commercial
  - Technical
Some people in Argentina ended up in severe poverty, leaving a large percentage of children with poor living conditions and educational support.

Upper Secondary Schools in Argentina

**Academic**
The goal in these schools is to prepare students for university entrance.

**Commercial**
The basic cycle curriculum is like academic schools, but 40% of the curriculum is focused on commercial subjects such as:
- Accountancy
- Technology of Trade
- Mathematics
- Foreign Language
- Stenography
- Typing
- Geography
- Literature
- Law
- Commercial Law

Three types of Secondary Schools

**Technical**
Private institutions that help students to enter the university Engineering Faculties and higher technical institutes.
The Breakdown of Schools in Argentina

- **Preprimary Schools:** Kindergarten
  Children 3-5 can attend governmental or private nurseries and kindergartens; not compulsory

- **Primary Schools:** Elementary
  Children 6-12 attend grades 1-6; compulsory

- They are taught
  - Spanish
  - Arithmetic
  - Music
  - Poetry
  - Drawing
  - Storytelling
  - Rhythmic exercise

- They are taught
  - Mathematics
  - Language
  - Natural Sciences
  - Basics of Technology
  - Social Studies
  - Musical Education
  - P.E.
  - Foreign Language
  - Optional Activities
  - Visual Arts

- Play
- Hobbies
- Cleanliness
- Health
- Personal grooming
The Breakdown of Schools in Argentina

- **Lower Secondary**: Children 12-14 attend grades 7-9 this is mandatory
  - They are taught
    - Spanish
    - Mathematics
    - History
    - Foreign Language (French/English)
    - Geography
    - P.E.
    - Biological Sciences
    - Democratic Education
    - Drawing
    - Music
    - Physics/Chemistry

- **Upper Secondary**: Children 15-17 attend grades 10-12 this is not mandatory
  - They are taught
    - Foreign Language
    - History
    - Literature
    - Chemistry
    - Physics
    - Philosophy
    - Biological Sciences
    - Geography
    - P.E.
    - Civic Instruction
    - Democratic Education
    - Music
### Argentina

- **Argentina has been known as a country of immigration**
- **Many people from Spain and Italy migrated to Argentina in the beginning of the 20th century**
- **Since the economic collapse in 2000, 300,000 people have left Argentina**
- **Argentina has a high demand for unskilled, low wage labor which makes it a popular place for people to migrate**

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*Source: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2004, Table 3*
Culture and Values

- Personal relationships are valued highly.
- Reserved and avoid calling attention to themselves.
- Individuality and candor are important.
- Strong work ethic.
- Appropriate greeting is a firm handshake as it shows strength and confidence.
English in Argentina

- English is a part of the population’s everyday lives

- The first Argentine newspaper to be published in English was from 1861 – 1959

- The *Buenos Aires Herald* was first published in 1876 and served mainly as a newspaper for the English speaking community, and is still published today
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English in Argentina

- English has increased in the areas of Business and Education greatly.

- The Federal Law of Education has made the teaching of a foreign language compulsory beginning at age 9 during primary education.

- 14 out of 23 provinces have opted for English as the only foreign language to be taught.

- When students in Argentina have finished their education they will have a total of 658 hours of English learning:
  - 430 hours in primary
  - 228 hours in secondary
References

Books:

Articles:

Websites:
References


References

Websites:


Images:


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