



# CII International Exchange Programme 2007

## COLONIAS DE INMERSION AL IDIOMA

Colonias de Inmersión al Idioma (CII) is an Argentine organisation devoted to running total immersion programmes for language learning. Since 1988, when our first English Immersion Programme was held, over 8,000 participants of all ages and levels of proficiency have come to the various countryside settings to get further training in the language. Students of English from the provinces of Buenos Aires, Córdoba, La Pampa, Neuquén, Río Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz, Entre Ríos, Corrientes, Misiones and Santa Fe – and now also from Brazil and Chile- join the programmes every year as a Project Work supplementary to their formal English courses.



Kate Belohlav & Children at Escuela de la Plaza, June 2005.

## CII INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME.

It has been running since 1994, and university students from English-speaking countries visit us every year for periods ranging from 3 to 12 months, to partake in this scheme that combines work, home-stays, Spanish and optional studies. Exchange Students work as **Culture & Language Facilitators** at schools or language schools in Argentina and Chile.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Colonias de Inmersión al Idioma is responsible for all the stages of the programme: We recruit the candidates, assist them online throughout the process, host them when they arrive in the host country, provide orientation, TEFL training, Spanish Immersion Programme, placement and coordination throughout. We provide all services directly, through no intermediary.
- CII International Exchange Programme offers a self-contained placement. You get all you need at just one go!
- Valuable TEFL training and experience both in formal and non-formal settings.
- Spanish Immersion Programme + Spanish Coaching throughout + Homestays to enhance your command of Spanish.
- Opportunities to travel around the country with the English Immersion Programmes.
- CII has 17 years of experience in the design of exchange programmes. Over 250 students and graduates from English-speaking countries have joined our programme in Argentina, Chile, and Spain. *References available upon request both from former participants and universities.*
- **Students and graduates applying through co-operating universities get a 20% discount off the placement fee.**

## CII-International Exchange Programme STUDY, WORK AND LIVE IN ARGENTINA & CHILE

### Description:

An invitation to take part in a unique experience of cultural exchange, in which exchange students and graduates share their language and culture with Argentine and Chilean students of English in their role of **Culture & Language Facilitators** at schools or language schools, become involved in a Spanish-speaking community while staying with a family, and learn the language in an intensive **Spanish Immersion Programme** (optional) and through further **Spanish Coaching**.

### Open to:

- university students or graduates from English-speaking countries.
- ages: 19 to 26 years old.
- have English as their mother tongue,
- raised in an English-speaking country,
- communicative, imaginative, fit, team-minded people who are highly aware of their own culture.
- **Due to the nature of the programme, only students complying with the requirements stated above are encouraged to apply.**



# CII International Exchange Programme 2007

*Exceptions to the requirements -especially with the age limit- can be made in some cases for certain placements. Before you apply, please contact us explaining your case.*

**Programme Duration:** 3 to 12 months (adjustments can be made according to the academic calendar of the candidates country of origin).

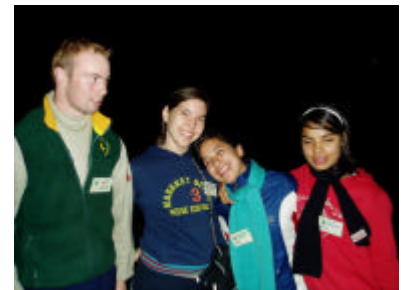
**Start Dates:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> July. Contact us about alternative start dates.

**Deadlines for Registration:** Applications are accepted up to one month prior to the start date of the programme. However, due to the increasing number of applicants and to the fact that there is a limited number of placements available –roughly between 20 and 40 per semester- we encourage early application, which also entitles applicants to fee discounts.

**The Programme Includes:**

- Orientation upon Arrival
- Online TEFL Course and 2-day TEFL Workshop (mandatory for all applicants and optional for those with TEFL Certification) and TEFL assistance throughout. *Additional fee applies.*
- Supervision by CII during all the programme
- 1-Week Spanish Immersion Programme (optional). *Additional fee applies.*
- Spanish Coaching
- Work Placements at schools and language schools.
- Home-stays with full board
- Monthly Stipend



*Bobby Keyes & participants at an English Immersion Programme, May 2005.*

## PLACEMENTS

### Work Experience - Cultural Experience

The exchange student will work as a **Culture & Language Facilitator** by assisting in the English Department of a School (primary or secondary level) or at private English Institutes teaching "living" English, bringing into the classroom all living aspects of their culture (number of hours of work per week: up to 25)

**Placement Locations:**

- Argentina: various locations around the country. E.g.: Villa María (CBA), Viedma (RN), General Vilegas (BA), Ameghino (BA), El Dorado (MSN), Santo Tomé (SFE), Villa Cañas (SFE), Catriel (RN), Comodoro Rivadavia (CH), San Luis (SL), Salta (SA), San Lorenzo (SFE), Ushuaia (TF), San Pedro (BA), Pico Truncado (SC). Also in Buenos Aires city and in Greater Buenos Aires.
- Chile: Rancagua and Concepción.

Students are eligible to work as **Camp Counsellors** in our English Immersion Programmes that last for 5 to 7 days (in January/February and July/August) and are held in various countryside venues. These programmes re-enact life at an English-language community where groups of students of all ages and levels of proficiency practise the target language through a series of activities. These programmes are designed as is a theatrical production, with a plot -a cultural theme-, and the participants playing the main roles. It is a full immersion in the real world of an English speaking community. *Further information in our website: [www.coloniasdeinmersionalidioma.com](http://www.coloniasdeinmersionalidioma.com)*

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXCHANGE STUDENTS

1. Bring between U\$D 50 and U\$D 100 per month for personal expenses.
2. Pay for round trip ticket.
3. Have an International Medical Insurance valid for the period of the assignment.

### Conditions for Enrolment:

1. Students must submit the complete application form given by CII. *Downloadable from our website.*
2. Write a personal letter of application, stating the reasons for applying.
3. Get two reference letters. One at least must be written by a teacher. Additional reference letters are encouraged.

[www.e-colonias.com](http://www.e-colonias.com)

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4. Include a smiling photograph
5. Submit all the material by e-mail to [info@coloniasdeinmersionalidioma.com](mailto:info@coloniasdeinmersionalidioma.com) or by post to Fernando Damián Carro, Casilla de Correo 044, Sucursal Plaza Italia, (1425) Capital, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
6. Money transfer of 50% of the total fee (or the equivalent in the currency of your country) once you have been accepted into the programme. CII will inform you when we have received your application and will check that you are a suitable candidate. CII will only start working on your placement once the downpayment has been placed. *Please inform us of any money transfers you do.* The balance is due 45 days prior to the programme start.

**Transfer details:**

Fernando Damian Carro  
 Current Account: 25558158  
 NSC: 904579  
 Bank of Ireland  
 Branch: University of Limerick  
 IBAN Number: IE96 BOFI 9043 0925 5581  
 SWIFT/BIC Number: BOFIE2D

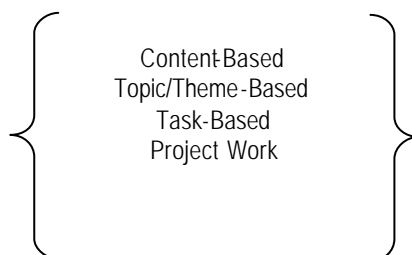
## TEFL WORKSHOP

### Chart



What and how can the Culture and Language Facilitator contribute?  
 What are the most effective approaches that can guarantee these conditions?

Integration of language and content.  
 Language is not an end in itself but a means to an end - communication



- Planning:
- Integration of skills: Interactive approaches to comprehension
  - Variety and balance
  - Richness of resources and materials (language payoff): games, videos, songs, readers, stories, poems, hands-on activities, etc.



# CII International Exchange Programme 2007

The **TEFL Course** includes: tuition, materials, accommodation with full board.

## SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAMME

Upon arrival in Argentina, the group is hosted for one week in a countryside venue (locations vary every year), where an intensive Spanish immersion takes place. This educational adventure is a unique opportunity for language students to enhance their command of the language by partaking in an event that combines a series of key factors in the process of language learning:

- Intensive round-the-clock training;
- Task-based curricula
- Tailor-made design, developed from a thorough analysis of the students' needs
- Full-time immersion in the real world and First-hand cultural training: students will arrive in a Spanish-speaking community, where Spanish is the official tongue, hosted by qualified native speakers, and pursuing a training scheme within a culturally rich atmosphere. Our Counsellors lead the participants on a journey of initiation into the roots of our native culture. A finely designed plot of cultural events provides an unusual atmosphere where meaningful communication blossoms;
- A well-designed Package introducing the project: the learning challenge begins 2 to 4 weeks prior to the event at the preparation stage;
- Intensive practice of social Spanish;
- A relaxed atmosphere where students can focus on their learning while enjoying themselves.

The programme includes: tuition, materials, accommodation with full board.

### **School Calendar in South America VERY IMPORTANT**

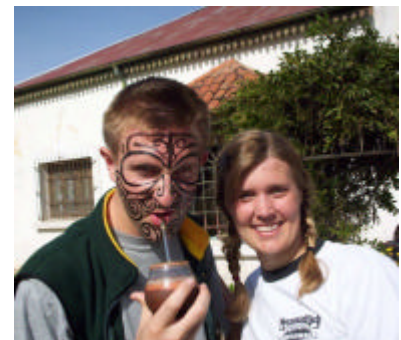
In Argentina and Chile the School Calendar runs from early March until the first week of December

Winter Vacations: 2 weeks during the month of July

Summer Vacations: second week of December through the first week of March.

So be prepared to not teach during these periods.

For those students that will be in Argentina or Chile during holiday periods, CII will organise volunteer work projects. You are also eligible to work as a Camp Counsellor in our English Immersion Programmes. During Summer time you are free to take time off.



Eric Boularg & Virginia Alexander. Moko (traditional Maori tattoo) & Mate (traditional South American drink), April 2005.

### **Comments from schools and exchange students**

*We have been glad to work with Language & Culture Facilitators twice at our school, which have been incredible positive learning experiences for our students. The exposure to the English language being spoken by a native speaker has helped our students develop effective power of communication, stimulated their thoughts and broadened their minds by learning about other cultures and aspects of everyday life in an English Speaking country. The activities were creative, motivating and well-structured to improve the students' skills which are required for success in later academic work. We do believe that L&C Facilitators benefit students in many ways and teachers find pleasure in working with them.*

Fany Simó, Teacher. Head of Step Forward Language School. Despeñaderos, Province of Córdoba, Argentina.

*Having Culture and Language Facilitators around has always been an enriching experience.*

*Students have got highly motivated to express themselves in English as a way to learn about other young people's culture as well as showing the facilitators around our area and telling them about our history and way of life. Students become aware of the importance of managing the language. They feel that learning English is no longer a "duty" adults, that is parents and teachers, make them fulfill, but a useful and rewarding "tool" relevant to their own interests.*

Elma and Laura Arizcuren, Heads of St Thomas More School. Viedma, Province of Rio Negro, Argentina.



My experience here so far has been absolutely amazing! I got really lucky and am living with a wonderful family! I am not sure if I get to stay with them the entire time but it has been an experience I will cherish forever. My placement in the school has also been great and I don't think I could be happier. I am also thoroughly enjoying exploring the city of Buenos Aires and I look forward to traveling around the country more. So far, no complaints! Thank you for a wonderful experience!

Jennie Konsella-Roth, Exchange Student from the United States, University of California @ Davis. Doing her placement at a primary school in the northern suburbs of Buenos Aires.



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Just a quick mail to say all's well here in General Villegas. Although settling in last week was quite tough, this week has been great. Work is going fine, the children in Argentina are crazy!!! but they're very obliging, and would do anything for you. Carla and the other teachers have been great, helping me to prepare the first few lessons, etc., so I think this week I'm finally getting organised work-wise. My house is wonderful. Beba, my 'lady friend', has a heart of gold. It's taking a lot of patience for her to put up with my pigeon Spanish, but she never complains. She cooks like a demon, the food is gorgeous. My Spanish lessons started last week. My teacher is brilliant, and takes her time with me, which is what I need. We are reading a novel, but mostly conversing. I think the reason why I'm so bad at castellano is because in university we did too much writing and not enough talking, so I think it's better for me to concentrate on oral work in my lessons here. I went out over the weekend, and was left with no other choice but to speak castellano both nights. I really think I've improved a little already. I would be very interested in being a camp counsellor at the immersion courses in October. I have a few ideas for themes for the programme s. Well, that's all for now. Glad to report I'm still alive and kicking. Debbie Hurley, *Exchange Student from Ireland, University of Limerick. Doing her placement at an English school in General Villegas, Province of Buenos Aires.*



Only have a minute because I have another class soon so for the sake of time I will write in English. Hopefully it will be the last time. Though I have only been here for 4 days and I don't want to speak prematurely, I want you to know that my situation here, meaning city, family, placement, etc..., is far beyond anything I could have expected. The family welcomed me in with open arms and nothing has changed to date. They are more than I ever could have asked for. Tukey is amazing as well. She is my Spanish coach and has a determined interest in providing the best experience possible. This is only my second day at the school but once again, everything seems perfect. Tobin Sykes. *Exchange student from the United States, University of Texas. Doing his placement at a school in Rafaela, Province of Santa Fe.*



When I got on the plane in July to come to Argentina with a couple gigantic suitcases and the hope that this program was going to be at least half of what I thought it was from reading about it on the internet, there was so much that I didn't know (i.e. the language of the country, or that I would need about one tenth of the amount of stuff I brought...hahah). But out of that very ignorance grew an experience that is changing me. It's challenging me to trust, to do things that I wouldn't have before I came, to take chances, and to embrace the unique culture of a foreign people. I am learning most of all, that each day I am surprised, whether its by the patience of a store clerk with my stumbling and awkward Spanish, the picturesque landscape this country holds, or the capability of my students to surpass my expectations. In every day there is surprise, and thus... purpose and joy. Megan Armstrong, *University of North Carolina, United States.*



I can safely say that my time spent working for Colonias de Inmersión al Idioma in Argentina was the most interesting, and rewarding six months of my life. Not only did I develop a whole variety of skills, abilities and talents from my work, I experienced a lifestyle that very few people have had the opportunity to undertake. I became very close friend with a host people from very different nationalities and backgrounds, and became more knowledgeable, well rounded person in the process. If I had the opportunity to do so, I would return to Argentina in a heartbeat, as it truly has become one of my favourite places on earth, and I can honestly say that throughout the time I spent there, I did not have one unhappy moment, or bad experience (save a bout of food poisoning, but even that wasn't too bad). My Spanish has improved greatly, and I have developed a huge interest in the Spanish language and Latin American culture, and find myself enjoying my Spanish classes more and more. Argentina truly was the experience of a lifetime, and one that I would recommend to anyone considering undergoing the "Colonias experience". My only regret regarding my coop placement was that it ended all too soon. William Rice, *University of Limerick, Ireland*



I am loving my experience in Chile. It has really been wonderful. The Chilean culture is very rich and distinct from the other cultures of South America. The people here are so friendly. I am really enjoying getting to know the people and culture and getting to travel and see Chile. It's an amazing country! Rebecca Spencer, *University of South Carolina, United States.*



## CII International Exchange Programme 2007



My experience in Reconquista and Argentina in general will be one that I will never forget, at least for the memories I remember. This experience is one that has been so incredible, from wonderful families, good friends, and great bosses (of course). Argentina is a place I'm going to miss dearly, but the good meat, Quilmes, la bebida de la vida(mate), and the sweetness of the milk will have to wait till I come back. I think it's a little cliché, but I really believe I had one of those years where I grew a lot and learned a lot about myself, while learning so much about others. I will never forget the time I had in the Tina.....

*Chad Johnson, University of Colorado – Boulder, United States.*

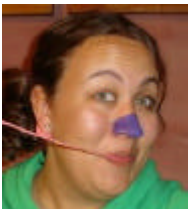


It has been thoroughly enjoyable. Not only have I had a very unique opportunity to improve my Spanish, and visit another country, I have also made friends, and developed as a person. The most difficult aspect of my trip has probably been leaving my family and friends for such a long period of time but I think I have adjusted and am making the most of my time while I'm here. I would really recommend this programme to friends as a great way to see the world. Christopher Comiskey, University of Limerick, Ireland.



Totally different to anything I have experienced, but I'm really glad I am in a smaller town. Every so often I have a reality check and think 'I'm actually in Argentina!' The people in Catriel are really friendly, and I am having a great time with my family. I am loving that I am learning more Spanish. I want to travel to more places before the end, but time is going so fast here!

*Jane Mc Crory, University of Queensland, Australia*



Todo está muy bien. Me encanta el lugar, los trabajos, la familia y mi vida. Mi vida está sonriendo a mi. Recomiendo Rafaela a cualquier persona que quiere hacer un intercambio. Tiene gente de mi edad para ser amigos, son trabajos buenos con oport unidades de usar sus ideas y tener una variedad de clases, lugares de ir de compras y salir, y un ambiente como un pueblo chico en que podés conocer mucha gente. Estoy muy contenta con mi placement aca. Gracias!!!

*Sara Kersbergen, Saint Benedict University, United States.*



I'm sitting here late in Lime House on my last night, in a city that truly never sleeps, feeling kinda melancholic as I reflect on what has been such an amazing experience, personally, culturally, educationally and in every other way possible. It feels odd to think that I won't be returning here in the near future as it has been the axis of my time in the Sud Americas and a place where I've met some of the coolest people. It was definitely an experience that I learned a lot from, in every way, and shall always remember. I'll definitely be returning to Sud America as there's lots that I didn't manage to see and do in the time that I had there. I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work and effort in making my time in Argentina a success. I appreciate it greatly and I do hope that you realise how much we all value everything that CII did for us!, *Ultan Quin, University of Limerick, Ireland.*



The school in Rancagua, Chile, is an experience not to be missed. The people and the buenas ondas are incredible. My only wish is that I could stay for longer. I have made some great friends, not just passing friends but friends that I will keep until I am buried. I have every intention of coming back. Unfortunately I must return to Ireland for a little while but only to complete my studies there. Then I will be coming back. I was given the opportunity to experience new culture, and at the risk of sounding "corny" I have started a new life.

*Stephen Buggy, University of Limerick, Ireland.*



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## Programmes Fees

	<b>Argentina and Chile</b>	<b>Students applying through Co-operating universities</b>
3 to 6-month Placement	€ 900	€ 720
3 to 6-month Placement applying up to 3 months ahead	€ 750	€ 600
3 to 6-month placement applying up to 6 months ahead	€ 600	€ 450
7 to 12-month Placement	€ 1200	€ 960
7 to 12-month Placement applying up to 3 months ahead	€ 1050	€ 840
7 to 12-month Placement applying up to 6 months ahead	€ 900	€ 750
Online TEFL Course & Workshop	€ 350	€ 350
Spanish Immersion Programme	€ 350	€ 350

## IMPORTANT

- Schools and Language Institutes are located in various locations. Decisions on placements are made by the schools –not by CII- and are based on the candidates' profiles, so **candidates should be open to accept any location within the country of their choice.**
- **All applicants find a placement** with us if they comply with the requirements. Placements are processed on a first-come-first-served-basis.
- We have plenty of references that we can provide upon request. Over 350 young people from various English-speaking countries have already taken part in the programme.
- Since you are making a very important decision, we invite you to have someone at your university to contact us for additional information. They can help you decide whether this is a suitable programme for you, and we can provide them with contact details at universities whose students have taken part in the CII International Exchange Programme.
- Most placements last for a whole semester. However, some placements last for one or two months, in which case the exchange student can have a series of consecutive placements at different locations.



Simon Leonard, Shane Keogh, Elaine Powell, Aoife Brennan, Marie O'Meara at a Spanish Immersion Programme, March 2006.