

## CHILE

### HOST UNIVERSITY

Pontificia Universidad Católica (PUC), Santiago

### WORLD WIDE WEB

<http://www.puc.cl/>

<http://dsrd.uc.cl/alumnos-uc/cursos/descripcion-de-cursos>

### SUBJECTS AVAILABLE

Virtually all university disciplines are offered at the PUC, making this IP program strong for students from every academic discipline who have a strong interest in Latin America. CSU students cannot take courses offered in the School of Medicine or the School of Law.

### ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The Pontificia Universidad Católica is the premier university in Chile. Academic work can be tough. This is a program for serious students.

Students attend regular courses at the PUC and all instruction is in Spanish. Students find it helpful to get involved in study groups outside of class.

All IP students take at least one Spanish language course EACH semester in addition to their other academic coursework.

Along with their other coursework, all IP students take a five-week interdisciplinary course during the fall semester on Chilean Culture designed for visiting international students covering history, literature, politics, and social issues. When this class ends, students will have additional time to devote to their other courses.

For course information, visit this PUC website: <http://dsrd.uc.cl/alumnos-uc/cursos/descripcion-de-cursos>

Undergraduate students are required to carry a minimum academic courseload of 15 units per term and a total of 30 semester, or 45 quarter units for the overseas academic year. Any units earned during a pre-session or preparatory language program are not counted in meeting this courseload requirement.

Graduate students must carry a minimum of 12 units per term on condition that at least 6 of those units are taken at the graduate level; otherwise, graduate students must carry a courseload on the same basis as undergraduates as described above. Post baccalaureate students pursuing credentials or second undergraduate degrees are required to carry the same courseload as undergraduates as described above.

Graduate students should work closely with their CSU advisors to determine credit equivalencies. See FAQ's under "Prospective Students" on the IP website. ("Can graduate students study abroad?")

### ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

Students will make their own travel arrangements for Chile. After they have been accepted, students will be sent specific instructions about when to arrive and where to go. Temporary housing will be arranged for IP students at a hotel in Santiago where they will stay for five days.

IP students attend an orientation program specifically for IP students, as well as the orientation program organized by the Office of Academic Exchange and International Affairs at the PUC. Orientation will acquaint students with the university and academic requirements as well as day-to-day life in Santiago.

## CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

When meeting someone for the first time, or greeting someone already known, it is customary for two women or a woman and a man to kiss on the right cheek, sometimes shaking hands simultaneously. Those older than you should be addressed by Señor or Señora + their last name.

Lunch is the major meal of the day, and is usually served around 1-2 pm (13:00-14:00 on the 24-hour clock), while dinner, a small meal, is generally eaten rather late 9-10 pm (21:00-22:00). Teatime (onces) takes place around 6-7 PM (18:00-19:00).

It is common to drop in for a visit without calling beforehand.

Rules of promptness are less rigid in Chile than in the United States. However, this is not the case with university schedules. Be on time for your classes!

The pace of life is slower in Chile than in most northern-hemisphere countries.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

There is no CSU faculty Resident Director, but there is a part-time “program assistant.” Students need to be independent enough to make the academic and cultural adjustments necessary participate in the program in Santiago. The program assistant will be available to help students with academic and personal matters, but mature and self-reliant students are best suited for this program. The program assistant will conduct a brief orientation to acquaint students with the PUC and the Santiago area and will be available throughout the year to assist students.

Chile is an affordable place for U.S. students.

As Chile is in the Southern Hemisphere, its seasons are the reverse of those in the United States. In other words, August in Santiago is similar to February in San Francisco. Santiago does not generally experience extremes of temperature.

Santiago's Mediterranean climate tends to be sunny throughout most of the year. In the winter (June-September), daytime temperatures may drop to 0°C. In the summer (December-March), temperatures may soar to 34°C. The rainy season is from May to August.

If you live with a host family they may not have a computer at home, so you should not count on having internet access at home. You will probably do most of your work on the computer at the university where you will find large computer labs for students. If you have a laptop, bring it.

All applicants should apply for a passport at the same time they apply to the IP Program.

The visa application process is cumbersome and all students will need to apply for an FBI Background Check in early April as part of the process.

## HOUSING

Upon arrival, housing is arranged in a hotel for five days. Students will have some time to explore Santiago and to locate permanent housing. During orientation, students receive specific information about housing options in Santiago, including information about host families, residence halls, and apartments.

Most visiting exchange students live with host families or in apartments. The residence halls are also nice and give students an opportunity to meet other university students, usually Chilean students who are not from Santiago. Leasing an apartment in Santiago is a very cumbersome process and high rents make it the least desirable form of housing among exchange students.

Over the past few years, it has become very common for CSU students to search for apartments to share on the Web. They have used the following web pages to find roommates who would like to share their apartments:

[www.homechile.cl](http://www.homechile.cl)

[www.compartodepto.cl](http://www.compartodepto.cl)

[www.santiago.es.craigslist.org](http://www.santiago.es.craigslist.org)

In general, this option works fine for CSU students and they have found affordable apartments.

**CALENDAR (*APPROXIMATE DATES*)**

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Application deadline       | February 1                 |
| Notification of acceptance | Early-April                |
| Program Start              | Early-July                 |
| Program End                | Mid-July of following year |