

CHILE

Santiago Spring, Fall, and Year 2012 Program Guide





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The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University's student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.



▶ Scan to get this guide on your smart phone.

YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

Local UCEAP Support

Campus EAP Office

The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientation, and academic advising, and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office

The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

Program Advisors communicate program information, both academic and operational, to students and campuses, and coordinate and provide academic and administrative support in all aspects of your participation.

Operations Specialists coordinate the logistics of the program. Document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, placement and acceptance by the host institution, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements are examples of program details the Operations Specialists coordinate.

Academic Specialists advise on academic policies; review and record courses taken abroad for UC credit; process student registrations, petitions, and grades; and document and maintain students' academic records.

Student Finance Accountants assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

Program Advisor

Aysin Berkmen

Phone: (805) 893-4138; E-mail: aberkmen@eap.ucop.edu

Operations Specialist

Kristen Galbreath

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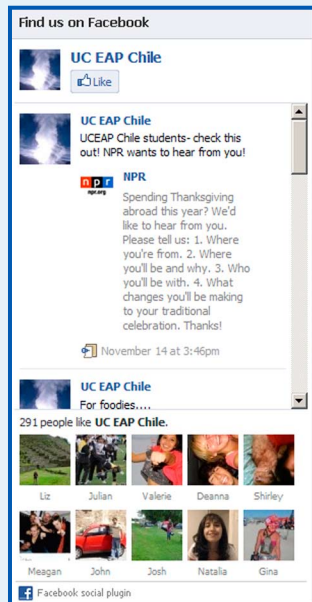
UCEAP Systemwide Office

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Goleta, CA 93117-5823

Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583

► **Join the Conversation!**
Meet fellow Chile participants and alumni.



UCEAP Online

Bookmark your **Participants** program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the **UCEAP Chile page**.

Study Center Abroad

UCEAP in Santiago is administered on site by UC professor Francisco Lomeli, UCSB Spanish and Portuguese, Chicano Studies. Professor Lomeli and the Study Center staff will be available to advise you on academic matters, assist with housing, and provide information on cultural events.

Programa Universidad de California
 PUC-CHILE, Campus Oriente Ave.
 Jaime Guzmán 3300
 Ñuñoa Santiago, Chile

Study Center Phone (calling from Chile): (56-2) 354-5160

Francisco Lomeli's Office Phone: (56-2) 354-5270

E-mail: Lomeli@spanport.ucsb.edu

Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code **011**
(dial this to call from the U.S.)

Chile country code **56**

Santiago city code **2**

Approximate Time Difference

March–October: 3 hours

October–March: 5 hours

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

After studying in Chile, I feel more academically capable because I know more about my field of study. I have also learned to appreciate some of the resources available at my home university.

Professors assign a lot of group projects, which presents a good opportunity to meet new people.

Students don't buy books; instead, they photocopy everything. Also, most teachers don't have office hours.

”

► **Select Host Institutions on the following [program page](#) to learn more about PUC and the University of Chile.**

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

University Information

Pre-registration

You are responsible for submitting specific application forms and documents prior to enrollment (required by both PUC and the University of Chile for international students):

- Follow the instructions for required forms in the UCEAP [Predeparture Checklist](#) and e-mails from your UCEAP Operations Specialist and Program Advisor.
- Complete and return the required host institution documents.
- Failure to submit the necessary documents will jeopardize your admission to the host institution and participation in this program.

Both universities have an online registration system in which you will pre-register, as part of the application process, for your courses prior to leaving the U.S. You will, however, have the opportunity to finalize your course selection and final registration after your arrival in Santiago.

Academic Culture

The Chilean system of higher education is organized the way graduate programs are organized in the United States. Most Chilean college students enter directly into a professional program and devote themselves immediately and almost exclusively to their chosen field of study, whether it is agronomy, literature, medicine, law, or business. At both Chilean universities, economics and business courses are offered by professional schools. Expect your Chilean classmates to be highly focused.

General education requirements are not typically part of a Chilean student's academic program; thus they are admitted to and take courses in only one *facultad*. This restriction does not apply to you as a UC student; you may take courses from any *facultad* (provided you meet the course requirements). At the University of Chile, each *facultad* may follow a slightly different calendar, which may be confusing if you choose courses from different *facultades*. It is best to review your plans with the UCEAP Study Center after arrival in Santiago.

Chilean students follow strict degree programs in their majors (*carreras*) with few elective courses. Any allowed electives are provided within the student's *facultad*. Thus, Chilean university students tend to have more experience in their major field of study than their UC counterparts. Course work at the third- and fourth-year levels is more advanced than it is in the U.S., and in many cases may also be more specialized. Seek out and follow the advice of the host university advisors and the Study Center staff when you make your final course choices.

In general, most Chilean students attend school full time and do not have outside jobs. Typically, students live with their families and study at the local university. Students who choose to study at a distant location often live in boarding houses, apartments, or rooms in Chilean households.

Host universities in Santiago generally provide course syllabi, but this practice is not always consistent. For most *facultades* at La Católica, a general syllabus is readily available online (see *Course Information* in this chapter) and more detailed information is provided in class.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

Academics are demanding because you're not used to the system, and you can't get the material or read it in Spanish fast enough.

I enjoyed hearing the Chilean perspectives on academic ideas like neoliberalism and the Chilean model.

My choice of classes was crucial. Some students enrolled in classes that were too hard and some went easy. I wanted to challenge myself and still have room to remain flexible and have free time.



Since the supply and use of textbooks is limited, students depend on photocopy services or the library reserve system.

Course Format

Courses at both Santiago universities tend to be more lecture-style with less student participation than at UC, although this can vary according to field. Courses are relatively small, with an average of 30 students. A group of 75 students would be considered a large class.

In Chile, the burden of learning is on the student rather than the instructor. As you prepare for a new academic environment, keep the following tips in mind:

- You will need to communicate with professors before or after class since they are not required to hold office hours.
- One of the greatest challenges you will face is the amount of reading and writing.
- Expect to spend more time doing course reading than you might at UC. Carefully determine which texts on a professor's reading list are required reading and which are recommended. You may need to do extra background reading.
- Speak directly with your professors as well as with other Chilean students about the course requirements.
- If you attend the University of Chile, you may need to spend more time meeting with professors to make sure you understand the assignments and schedule of the course.
- Courses at La Católica are more likely to meet when scheduled, provide clear objectives for the course, and proceed in an organized fashion.
- Grading in most courses is based on a combination of exams and a final paper.
- There are also many courses that require group projects, and some classes may have quizzes or an additional paper assigned.

Intensive Language Program (ILP)

Whether you are headed for the University of Chile or the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC), you will take the ILP at PUC.

ILP classes are provided at multiple levels, and you will be assigned to the appropriate level based on written and oral placement exams. You will take the written exam before you leave the U.S. and the oral section when you arrive in Chile.

The ILP is comprised of classroom instruction as well as cultural activities and field trips that complement classroom topics. You may receive up to 4.5 UC quarter units for the ILP. You may only take the ILP for a letter grade, and attendance is required at all class sessions and related activities. The mandatory three-week ILP serves multiple purposes:

- Focuses on the improvement of your language skills and introducing key aspects of Chile.
- Offers the opportunity to live in prearranged housing so you can get to know the capital city in advance of searching for your own housing.
- Helps prepare you for academic success in regular Chilean university classes.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“I’m glad I decided to take all classes about Chilean culture and history. They helped me to understand and experience the country’s culture.

I took an amazing dance class (mostly salsa) with a famous professor, Prof. Valero. I highly recommend this class! He has a heart of gold and is always laughing and making jokes. He’s full of energy and smiles.

I had amazing professors who were knowledgeable and passionate about their jobs. They were also accommodating to my special needs as a foreign student and were approachable.

”

The Study Center also organizes a team of Chilean students from the two host universities to help you get acquainted with local customs. These “hermanos” may accompany you on some field trips, but mostly they are available to help with such basic tasks as figuring out cell phones, finding housing, and introducing Santiago from the student perspective. Following the ILP, there is a break of at least one week before regular classes begin.

Academic Program

You will be placed at either the University of Chile or La Católica before you depart from the U.S. Placement is based on academic interests stated in your UCEAP application, and host university availability and academic strengths. Wherever you are placed, you will be fully immersed into the regular course work of the university you attend. Chilean semesters offer 16 weeks of instruction and an additional one- to two-week schedule of final exams.

If at any time you have trouble with your studies, contact the Study Center staff. They will be able to refer you to various resources in Santiago for private tutoring.

Course Information

- Explore the [UCEAP Program Search](#) for additional course information (including important details and restrictions), the [PUC website](#), and the [University of Chile website](#).

Finding the right courses is critical for a successful semester. Both universities offer advising assistance and provide lists of courses suitable for international students.

Each *facultad* provides all the courses needed by its own students; for you as a visitor, finding the right courses can require persistence.

Do not limit your search to the particular *facultad* that specializes in your field. For example, history courses may be part of the curriculum for sociology majors, and thus found not only in the Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades—where you would find the history major—but also in the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, which sponsors the sociology major.

Visit the host university websites as you complete your academic planning.

Remember that not all listed courses will be available; consult the Study Center staff for their assessment of all courses before actual enrollment takes place.

Registration

You will register twice: once for UCEAP and once for your host university. In addition to enrolling in host university classes, you must fill out your MyEAP Study List each term. The Study Center staff will assist with both of these procedures.

It is important that you adhere to the established deadlines for adding and dropping courses at your host university and for submitting your MyEAP registration. Be sure to review your MyEAP Study List carefully; the course information listed—subject area, title, and units—is what will appear on your UC transcript.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...



It was sometimes difficult being the only American and the only female in engineering classes.

Never expect anything to be handed to you like in the States (what to read, what will be on the test, etc.). Don't be scared to talk to professors. Even if they look stern, most will be glad to give advice.



Requirements

You must take a full-time course of study on UCEAP and enroll in a minimum of 18 UC quarter units each semester. If you are from a semester campus (i.e., Berkeley and Merced), consider keeping your study list between 19.5 and 22.5 UC quarter units, which is equivalent to 13 to 15 UC semester units.

Most classes at both universities range from 5 to 7 units and students usually take about four courses to meet the minimum unit requirement. Unit values will be noted in MyEAP if the course is currently listed in the catalog.

Internships/Community Service

The Study Center in Santiago is particularly active in arranging internships and independent study opportunities for qualified students; it has one of the most extensive and well organized internship programs in Santiago, making internship placements possible in a wide variety of fields and activities. Internships and other special studies enable you to become better integrated in Chilean society while developing Spanish language skills in practical settings.

UCEAP students have been placed in a wide variety of institutions including government ministries, research foundations, banks and business, human rights and women's rights groups, AIDS prevention and public health programs, and indigenous rights and ecology programs. Students have also participated in projects and conducted research in the fields of education, the arts, business and economics, environmental resource preservation, gender studies, and the documentation and preservation of local cultures.

If you have a special interest, approach the Study Center staff after arrival with a proposed project plan to see if placement is possible. In all cases, you must consult with the Study Center Director to shape your projects and determine assessment requirements and number of units.

EXTENDING UCEAP PARTICIPATION

- ▶ If you are admitted for the year program, you are expected to complete the academic year in Chile. A request to shorten the stay will be treated as a withdrawal from UCEAP and an administrative fee will be charged.

Plan Ahead to Extend

You may request to extend your time in Chile from the first (spring) semester to the full academic year or from the fall semester to the following spring semester. The UCEAP program in Santiago follows the Chilean academic year, which begins in March. If you extend from the fall to the spring semester, you will have a two- to three-month break between both programs.

Extension Process

- Indicate your intent to extend your studies in Chile by completing a [Departmental/College Preliminary Approval to Extend](#) (DPA) form before you depart.
- Once abroad, if you decide to extend your stay, you must meet with the Study Center Director and fill out a [Request for Final Approval](#) (RFA) form.
- The deadline to submit an RFA is November 1 to extend from the fall to spring semester and May 1 to extend from the spring to year program.
- If you do not submit a DPA prior to traveling to Chile, you may submit a Petition to Extend to the Study Center by the appropriate deadline. Please note that the petition process can take several weeks,
- Requests are considered when there is space at the host institution and when the request is supported by the Study Center Director, the UCEAP Systemwide Office, and your UC campus department head and dean or provost.
- Once your extension is approved, UCEAP will notify your UC campus registrar and Financial Aid Office. For information about the steps you need to take in regards to finances, see the [Extension of Participation](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.
- You are required to leave the country for at least 72 hours between both programs due to visa requirements. The Study Center staff in Chile will provide more information. If you plan to return to the U.S. in between semesters, make sure to ask about this visa process before leaving Chile. If you go back to the U.S. without checking, you may have to repeat the complex visa process from the U.S., which is much more difficult than taking care of it from within Chile.
- If you extend from fall to spring, you will have a substantial break between semesters and may lose insurance coverage. Make sure you consult the Insurance Information tab on the UCEAP [Participants](#) web page and purchase an insurance extension to avoid lack of coverage.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Chile has the beginnings of a democracy. The effects of years under a dictator are obvious in the culture—people are more closed off and silent, and they keep to themselves.

”

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Educate Yourself

Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before departure. Travel guides and travel-related websites such as [Lonely Planet](#) are excellent resources.

Keep up with current events by reading articles in newspapers, magazines, and journals. A couple of Chile’s major newspapers can also be accessed online: [El Mercurio](#) and [La Tercera](#). If you can only read one book prior to departure, it should be *A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet*, by Pamela Constable and Arturo Valenzuela. These authors explain how the major events of recent Chilean history have affected different groups of Chileans and why they continue to shape social, cultural, and political life.

Recommended Reading

Allende, Isabel	<i>La Casa de los Espíritus</i> , New York: HarperLibros, 1995.
Bauer, Arnold	<i>La Sociedad Rural Chilena: Desde la Conquista Española a Nuestros Días</i> , trad. Paulina Matta, Santiago: Editorial Andres Bello, 1994.
Collier, Simon and William F. Sater	<i>A History of Chile, 1808–2002</i> , 2nd edition, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
Constable, Pamela and Arturo Valenzuela	<i>A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet</i> , New York: W.W. Norton, 1993.
Cortínez, Verónica, ed.	<i>Albricia: La Novela Chilena del Fin de Siglo</i> , Santiago: Editorial Cuarto Propio, 2000.
Edwards, Sebastián and Alejandra Cox Edwards	<i>Monetarism and Liberalization: The Chilean Experiment</i> , University of Chicago Press, 1991.
Fuguet, Alberto	<i>Mala Onda</i> , Chile: Punto de Lectura, 2003.
Loveman, Brian	<i>Chile: The Legacy of Hispanic Capitalism</i> , 3rd edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.
Tinsman, Heidi	<i>Partners in Conflict: The Politics of Gender, Sexuality, and Labor in the Chilean Agrarian Reform, 1950–1973</i> , Durham: Duke University Press, 2002.
Winn, Peter	<i>Weavers of Revolution: The Yarur Workers and Chile’s Road to Socialism</i> , New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Understand classes without being judgmental. Work to appreciate the culture as different, not better or worse. Definitely take the challenge and live with Chileans. It's hard and lonely sometimes, but why go abroad to just hang out with Americans?

”

Improve Your Language Skills

The more Spanish you know before departure, the easier your time abroad will be. Imagine any paper you have due right now; now imagine writing it in Spanish.

Prior to departure, spend 45 minutes a day or at least five sessions a week improving your Spanish. The following are effective methods:

- Read aloud in Spanish for 20 minutes at a time. Strive for correct pronunciation; read progressively faster, maintaining correct pronunciation.
- Read publications written in Spanish using an all-Spanish dictionary. Using the dictionary may require a certain amount of discipline, but it will prove beneficial once abroad.
- Read at least one book in Spanish in your major.
- Watch movies in Spanish, listen to music in Spanish, and seek out Spanish speakers.
- Keep a diary in Spanish.
- Keep a journal of Spanish phrases, expressions, whole sentences, and structures for vocabulary building.
- Try to organize a weekly conversation group, including UCEAP alumni and a Chilean or Spanish-speaking foreign student, if possible.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

The culture is a bit closed. I wasn't warned about the racism I encountered, but learned later that other students faced some of the same problems.

Most important in Chile is family. Chile is an extremely Catholic and conservative country—short skirts are noticed!

”

Cultural Differences

Social Interactions

Chilean culture is very family-oriented with large extended family networks. Extended family life is an important component of Chilean society.

UCEAP students report having difficulty making Chilean friends, as many locals have known each other for years. Although meeting new people can be intimidating, most students agree that it is best for you to make the first effort as it is uncommon for Chilean students to do so.

Meeting students in classes, participating in extracurricular activities, and living either with a Chilean family or with Chilean students are all great ways to make friends and become more familiar with the culture.

In your conversations with Chileans, avoid issues that can potentially create conflict. Chileans are open people, but they can get serious with particular issues. Two such issues include: Pinochet (learn some Chilean history before you go so you are aware of the many facets of the “Pinochet Years”); and soccer teams and the Chilean national team (how good or bad the players are).

The Catholic Church is an important influence, and many Chileans are practicing Catholics.

Relationships

Dating may seem somewhat different. Chilean students often go out in groups of friends, although they also pair off (*pololear*). The relationship between *pololos* can be intense and may lead to marriage. Moreover, Chilean cultural cues and expectations are different, particularly with regard to sexual relationships. Although it is changing slowly, Chile remains a country ruled by *machismo* and sexual relations generally reflect a double standard. This means that some Chilean males may view foreign women as promiscuous, while some Chilean women may be insulted by sexual expectations of foreign men.

Relationships abroad can progress at different rates than at home. Therefore, it is important to carefully consider what you want in a relationship before finding yourself in an uncomfortable situation or one with unfortunate consequences.

View of Alcohol and Drugs

Chilean students like to socialize as much as Americans do, but there are some cultural differences. Because the drinking age in Chile is 18, Americans will find themselves in a situation of unaccustomed freedom with respect to alcohol. It is important to know that Chileans are accustomed to drinking with meals and at parties, but it is not socially acceptable to get drunk. Students may also encounter marijuana and other drugs at parties, but drugs are illegal in Chile and international students caught with drugs are likely to be expelled from the country.

- Additional information about passports, visas, and other required documents is provided in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and Predeparture Checklist.
- Always keep copies of important documents (passport, ticket, etc.) in a separate location from the originals.

ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Predeparture Orientation

You are required to attend a predeparture orientation provided by your UC campus. The Campus UCEAP Office will provide dates and details about orientation when they are available.

Travel Documents

You need a passport and visa to participate in the Chile program. If you do not already have a passport, apply for one immediately. The Study Center submits a copy of your passport page to the host university to officially register you as an international student.

- Applying for a Chilean visa can be a complex process. Follow directions carefully, budget your time, and start the process early.

Visa

- The UCEAP Systemwide Office provides information about obtaining a student visa in the UCEAP Predeparture Checklist. You will download the visa instructions and application forms from the UCEAP and consulate websites.
- You are required to obtain a student visa from the Chilean consulate closest to your permanent address (either in Los Angeles or San Francisco) before departure. If your permanent address is outside California, ask the consulate closest to your UC campus about how best to proceed. In some cases, you may be able to have your visa processed in California instead of another state. Begin researching this process early on. Contact the Operations Specialist at (805) 893-4138 with any questions.
- Depending on the consulate, an appointment or mailing your documents several weeks before traveling may be necessary. Budget plenty of time for the visa process and read all instructions carefully.
- You must pick up your visa from the consulate. Another person may not pick up your visa for you. You will be asked to sign documents and your thumbprint will be taken.
- Once in Chile, you must complete the visa process within 30 days. Details about completing this process will be provided during orientation after arrival.
- If you fail to obtain a student visa, you may be withdrawn from the program.

For additional information, call the UCEAP Systemwide Office at (805) 893-4138.

► Travel light. American students are famous for over-packing.

Packing

Essential

- Light clothing (for December–March)
- Coat
- Sweater and other warm clothes that can be layered
- Rain gear (heavy parka, rain boots, etc., for May–August)
- Documents (passport, visa, etc.)
- Prescription medication (for information about taking prescription medication abroad, see the [Health](#) chapter in this guide)

Optional

- Laptop
- Plug adaptor (see *Electrical Items* in this chapter)
- Spanish grammar books
- Spanish dictionary (can also be purchased abroad)
- English-language reference materials on subjects of study (e.g., Chilean history, U.S.-Chile relations, economics, social science theory, etc.)
- Other research materials or books
- Yoga mat (they are very expensive and hard to find in Latin America)
- Lightweight gifts for hosts and new friends (suggestions: CDs; T-shirts with city, state, or campus logos; UC pens or decals; baseball caps; California pistachios or almonds; or California postcards, posters, or scenic calendars)

Weather and Climate

Throughout the program, the weather in Chile will vary significantly, even if you are only there for one semester. Santiago's Mediterranean climate tends to be sunny throughout most of the year, although the smog creates a hazy atmosphere even on the sunniest days.

As you pack, keep the following in mind:

- Spring semester students who arrive in January will experience the Chilean summer (December through March) when temperatures may soar into the 90s; light clothing is advised during this period.
- Fall students and those students staying for the year should be aware that in the winter (June through September) daytime temperatures may drop into the 30s (around 0°C), which is much colder than California. Indoor heating is uneven and sometimes absent.
- The rainy season in the Santiago area is from May to August, and intermittent showers are common during both the fall and spring. Keep in mind that nearly everything available in California is available in Chile, although brands may vary.
- The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad.

Special Consideration

The months of June through October can be cold in Santiago. Most Chilean homes and apartments do not have central heating, so the use of a gas space heater is common. Some people purchase a gas monitor that determines whether there is carbon monoxide in the air and sounds an alarm if there is. These gas monitors are not for sale in Chile. If you are interested in having a carbon monoxide alarm (battery operated), plan to purchase one before departure.

Electrical Items

When packing electrical items, note the following:

- Voltage in Chile is 220. Check the voltage of anything electric from the U.S. **before** plugging it into an outlet. You can buy converters for electrical appliances in Chile.
- Most laptops have their own converters, so you may only need plug adaptors.
- For smaller, less expensive appliances (e.g., hair dryers or electric shavers), it is probably easiest to buy the appliance abroad rather than to purchase an adaptor.
- Customs officials may try to charge an import tax for any electrical items brought into Chile; however, if you indicate that they are personal items, the charge may be waived. Customs officials may list the items in your passport, which requires you to take the same items out of the country when you leave. Therefore, do not ask others to carry any items abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.), and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines may not allow you to take them and customs abroad may charge you a high duty.
- Do not have computers or other electrical devices shipped to you from the U.S. These items will be subject to large import duties.

Travel Tips

- ▶ You are responsible for making all travel arrangements and for reserving and purchasing your tickets (even if you are on full financial aid). Your Financial Aid Office is not responsible for purchasing tickets.

The program begins at a predetermined place, time, and date. Late arrivals are not acceptable. For the Official UCEAP Start Date, see the [program calendar](#).

- Update your contact information in [MyEAP](#) with any changes to your address, e-mail, and telephone number. Check your e-mail regularly for important updates, especially as your departure date draws near.
- Purchase a changeable round-trip airline ticket. Your exams and program end date are always subject to change, so you should have the option to alter your return date if necessary.
- Standby tickets are not appropriate.
- Flights are routinely changed or canceled. Confirm your flight schedule about two weeks before your departure date.
- When traveling, always carry your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money. Never put valuables in checked luggage.
- Identify luggage on the inside and outside with your name, address, and destination. You might also protect luggage with personal property or luggage insurance.
- Never leave luggage unattended.
- Luggage restrictions vary by airline. Check with your airline directly to learn about luggage rules and restrictions.
- Due to increased airport security, you must check directly with your airline or travel agent about any special measures you should take, such as the time you need to arrive at the airport and extra identification that may be required.
- Contact the Chilean consulate or your airline about taking specific items (cameras, computers, etc.) into the country.

Return Travel

You will need to book a round-trip flight in order to be granted a student visa. Some students who are planning on studying for one year may encounter difficulty finding a return flight. Many airlines have regulations that prohibit purchasing a return flight that is more than 12 months from the date of purchase. Research airfares carefully and be sure to purchase a fare with a changeable return date. You may need to purchase a ticket with a return date that will then need to be changed at a later time for a fee.

Financial Aid Students

Your financial aid package is based partly on the student budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare amount in the budget is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Chile. If your independent travel costs are greater than the program budget airfare estimate, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither UCEAP nor the campus Financial Aid Office can guarantee funding for the additional cost.

Arrival Instructions

- ▶ See detailed arrival information in the UCEAP Predeparture Checklist. Print and take the arrival instructions sheet with you to Santiago.

There is no group flight to Chile. You will be traveling independently and you are required to arrive in Chile before noon on the Official UCEAP Start Date. Specific Arrival Instructions will be included in your Predeparture Checklist. Make sure to print and take the Arrival Instructions with you to Chile.

You will fly to Santiago International Airport (airport code SCL). From there, you will take a taxi to PUC Campus Oriente.

Campus Oriente address:

PUC-CHILE, Campus Oriente
Ave. Jaime Guzmán 3300
Ñuñoa
Santiago, Chile

Taxis in Chile are relatively inexpensive. A ride from the airport to Campus Oriente will take about 45 minutes and will cost about U.S. \$40. To take a taxi from the airport, go to the booth inside the airport titled “Taxi Oficial Aeropuerto,” located right outside of customs. You will be asked for your destination, charged according to the distance, and given a receipt. Tipping the driver later is not necessary.

Early Arrival

If you arrive early and need a place to stay, the Study Center recommends the following local hostel:

Hostelling International Santiago
Cienfuegos 151
Fax: (562) 233-3220
Phone: (562) 671-8532

The hostel is about a \$15–20 taxi ride from the airport and is located within walking distance from the metro station “Los Heroes.” If you choose to travel early to Chile, you are responsible for making your own accommodations. You will still need to arrive at Campus Oriente by the time specified in your Arrival Instructions.

On-Site Orientation

Participation in the on-site orientation activities in Chile is mandatory.

- A two-day retreat takes place during your first weekend in Chile.
- All costs of the orientation are included in UCEAP fees.
- You will return to Santiago early by bus, in time to begin ILP instruction Monday morning.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Traveling in South America is awesome! With each country I visited, I learned more about the previous country. Transportation is cheap, even by air. Go everywhere; it's a good way to perfect your Spanish and you will make lifelong friends.

The buses are nice, reliable, and cheap! Chile has a wonderful transportation system. The company Tur-Bus is usually the best option.

It's important to remember that Santiago is a big city. Take taxis at night; they're cheap, especially for groups. Also, go out in groups at night.

Traveling was the best part about living in Chile. The traveling and backpacking is amazing! I felt so spoiled.

”

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Methods of Travel

Travel by bus and metro is available to all parts of the city. A subway runs from east to west and north to south in the city; buses and taxis are also prevalent. Avoid taking buses during rush hour. Use the subway when possible; it covers all the main parts of Santiago and is clean, fast, and reliable. Buses run to any part of the country.

Trains run from Santiago to the south of the country, with a final destination at Chillán. The Main Railway Station is located in Av. L. Bernardo O'Higgins 3322.

Two Chilean airlines, Lan Chile and Sky, run regular daily flights.

Bus Terminal Information

1. Terminal Alameda

Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 3750
(Universidad de Santiago Metro Station, Line 1)
Phone: 02-776-2424

Destinations: North, South, and Coast
Recommended because this terminal has the best two bus lines:

Tur-Bus and **Pullman Bus**

2. Terminal de Buses Santiago

Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 3850
(Universidad de Santiago Metro Station, Line 1)
Phone: 02-376-1750

Web: terminaldebusesantiago.cl

Destinations: Coast, South, and International destinations
(Here you can find a variety of buses and prices)

3. Terrapuerto Los Héroes

Tucapel Jiménez 21, Santiago Centro
(Los Héroes Metro Station, Line 1)
Phone: 02-420-0099

Destinations: North and South

4. Terminal de Buses San Borja

San Borja 184–Estación Central
(Estación Central Metro Station, Line 1)
Phone: 776-0645

Web: terminalsanborja.cl

Destinations: North, South, and International destinations

► It is important that you carefully read all of the information available in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and discuss it with the person who will assist you with your finances while you are abroad.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after UCEAP is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to UCEAP
- UCEAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while on UCEAP (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your home campus Financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. The fees that you owe UCEAP are posted to your account, and you can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). Fees will be applied after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP.

UCEAP Student Budget

Carefully review your [UCEAP Student Budget](#).

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. The fees due to UCEAP will be posted to your MyEAP Student Account after your program predeparture withdrawal date. Program fees are subject to change. View your UCEAP Student Budget frequently.

Instructions

- **Download** and **print** your UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your UCEAP bills. Sign them up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you are on financial aid, see also the [UCEAP Financial Information](#) web page.

► The official currency unit in Chile is the peso (abbreviated Ch\$ or CLP).

Handling Money Abroad

Get acquainted with how to handle your finances abroad before you go; the more you know now, the easier life will be when you get to Chile:

- It is not possible to cash checks from U.S. banks in Chile.
- You are strongly encouraged to engage in online banking when abroad.
- Different university departments are located in different parts of the city, which means that you will use public transportation on a daily basis. Budget at least \$100 per month for transportation.
- Rent is expected to be about \$350 to \$550 per month.
- If you experience financial hardships while in Chile (a delay in financial aid or a lost check) you may be able to obtain a short-term, temporary loan from the Study Center under certain circumstances. Contact the Study Center as soon as you know you have a problem.
- The unit of currency is the Chilean peso (CLP). Notes come in the denominations of 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, and 10,000 pesos. Coins come in the denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, and 500 pesos.
- Take a small amount of money with you to Chile (equivalent to U.S. \$50 to \$100 in Chilean pesos). Besides providing an opportunity to become familiar with the currency, the funds will be needed upon arrival for snacks, transportation, tips, and unexpected purchases. You can arrange for a U.S. bank to purchase Chilean pesos; the process may take a week or more.
- You can exchange money at the airport once abroad; however, exchange rates may be unfavorable and an exchange office may not be open at the time of arrival.

ATM Card

- **Personal identification numbers (PINs) outside the U.S. need to be four digits and should not begin with zero.**

The best way to obtain money abroad is by using an ATM card. ATM cards are widely accepted in Chile and allow you to easily obtain cash, make deposits and transfers, and verify account balances.

It is easy to tell where ATM cards are accepted by simply matching the logos on the ATM card with those displayed on the ATM.

To get an ATM card, you must first open an account in the U.S. (if you do not have one already). Accounts usually are connected to a checking or share draft account. Check with the bank to make sure you can use an ATM to access funds in Chile and what fees may be charged, if any. The bank will then issue an ATM card and a personal identification number (PIN).

Once abroad, you can use your ATM card to withdraw money from your U.S. account. There is no waiting period; money deposited in the U.S. is immediately available for withdrawal abroad (there may be limitations on the amount of cash accessible per transaction). Check with your bank to see what options are available and if your bank has a daily withdrawal limit.

When traveling, keep in mind that ATMs might not be as readily available in the countryside.

Financial Aid

Receiving financial aid on time can become a problem abroad due to delays in processing and mailing checks. To minimize delays, sign up for the electronic funds transfer (EFT) option, which is detailed in the UCEAP Predeparture Checklist. EFTs take 30 days to become effective, so it is best to sign up before departure.

Be knowledgeable about program fees and understand how financial aid will be applied toward these fees. Disbursements can be issued only after a financial aid package has been approved and fees have been met.

Year students are responsible for applying for financial aid for the coming academic year. Contact your financial aid officer for acceptance.

Establish plans to receive backup funds if necessary, as well as temporary loans to cover emergencies that may occur while waiting for financial aid checks.

Credit Cards and Travelers Checks

Credit cards, particularly those that allow users to withdraw cash are very useful in Chile. Visa and MasterCard are most widely accepted in Santiago.

Students in the past have taken travelers checks as a backup method to access cash. UCEAP students report American Express checks are the easiest to use. If lost or stolen, travelers checks can be replaced with proof of a list of serial numbers (kept separate from the checks). Travelers checks in small denominations are often more widely accepted than those in \$50 or \$100 denominations. Keep in mind, though, that it is not possible to change travelers checks in small towns when the banks and money changers are closed. While travelers checks may be used as a source of backup funds, the exchange rate on them is quite poor, and this method should not be used as a routine way of obtaining cash.

COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

Phone

- ▶ Approximate time difference: March–October: 3 hours
October–March: 5 hours

It is important to be aware of phone etiquette in order to foster a healthy relationship with your host family.

- Discuss phone usage with your host family before using the phone.
- Avoid incurring phone charges on your host's phone bill by purchasing an international phone card. You can buy a long-distance phone card at newspaper kiosks throughout Santiago. Another way to avoid charges on a host's bill is to make collect calls, although this option is more expensive. It is also common to use Skype to stay in touch with family and friends at home.
- There are easily accessible phone centers where you can make (and pay for) long-distance phone calls. Phone calls to the U.S. are generally inexpensive.
- Some students purchase or rent cell phones in Chile. This is generally easier, more reliable, and less expensive than using your U.S. cell phone with an international plan.
- The country code for Chile is 56 and the area code for Santiago is 2. If calling Chile from the U.S., first dial 011-56.

Mail

- An ordinary letter sent anywhere in Chile costs about U.S. 10 cents. An airmail letter costs U.S. 40 cents to the U.S. and 50 cents to other international destinations. Aerogrammes are U.S. 60 cents.
- Letters and postcards may take several weeks to deliver, although there are express services that offer two-day service. The American Express office in Santiago has a mail service.
- Regardless of reliability of mail delivery, do not have important documents, checks, or cash sent by mail.
- Have mail sent to the UCEAP Study Center address until you have a permanent address. Mail can be addressed to you at:

Programa Universidad de California
PUC-CHILE, Campus Oriente
Ave. Jaime Guzmán 3300
Ñuñoa
Santiago, Chile

Be sure to include "Universidad de California." Otherwise, mail may first go to numerous other campus departments.

- Packages sent to you from the U.S. should be sent certified or registered, or through an express service so the items can be tracked. A number of special mail couriers (FedEx, DHL, Chilexpress) are available.
- Contents should be clearly listed on the outside. If contents are not listed, customs will open the package, which will delay delivery.
- Avoid having electronic goods or other expensive new items sent. These items attract customs scrutiny, and are subject to high fees.

- Items intended for your personal use should not include price tags (new items that include price tags will be held with the assumption that they are intended for resale in Chile). This applies to clothing and shoes as well—advise your family or friends about this before the goods are shipped to you.
- Small packages that properly indicate the contents are generally delivered without a problem (unless the contents include food). Large packages going through customs may have to be picked up at a special post office.

Computer Access & Use

Whether you choose to bring your own laptop or use the computers available at your host university or the Study Center, the following information will help you prepare your computer needs prior to departure:

- You are encouraged to bring your own laptop if possible, although it is not essential.
- Although computers are available at both university campuses and at the Study Center, do not arrive expecting to find the same computer access that is available at UC. Plan on scheduling computer work ahead of time.
- PUC: You have free access to both PCs and Macs at each PUC campus, as well as Internet access, although at times the computer facilities can be crowded.
- University of Chile: You have free computer access at the university's downtown office. Because University of Chile computing facilities tend to be inadequate, there are also several PCs available for use at the Study Center.

Study Center Computers

The Study Center provides several computers and printers, though preference is given to UC students attending the University of Chile. These computers are available for word processing. They are also connected to the Internet for e-mail access and Internet research. Do not use Study Center computers for printing large papers or projects.

Internet Cafés

Internet cafés are readily available around the city and provide efficient access to the Internet. If you bring your own laptop, you can reduce online charges by downloading e-mail to a CD or flash drive at an Internet café and reading it offline on the laptop.

Homestay Computer Access

While it is becoming more popular, computer access is not as available in most Chilean residences as it is in homes in the U.S. Therefore, if you consider computer access an essential need, you should take a laptop. Do not automatically expect Internet access in your homestay. It is available in some homes, but not all. You may need to go to an Internet café or use host university computers.

If you have Internet access at your Chilean homestay, you may need to negotiate with the host family and determine limits to Internet usage, considering the impact on their electric and phone bills.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

If you want a real experience, live with Chileans. Don't take the easy way out.

I lived in an apartment near my campus with a Chilean. To find housing, look at flyers on campus, especially if you want to live with Chilean students.

I got very lucky and lived close to campus. Mostly my roommates were accepting, but every once in a while their Chilean nationalism overrode their acceptance.

”

HOUSING & MEALS

Where Will I Live?

ILP Housing

During the intensive language program (ILP), which lasts for the first month of the program, you will live in a prearranged homestay. The cost of housing during the ILP is included in your UCEAP fees.

Prior to departure, you will fill out a housing questionnaire, which is used by the Study Center to help place you in an appropriate homestay. The Study Center works carefully to match you to a host, and most students are satisfied with the results. You will find out more about your Chilean host upon arrival in Santiago—this information will not be provided prior to the program start date.

Santiago is a large metropolitan area. It is common for university students and young professionals to rent an empty room in a Chilean household. These are intended as mutually convenient economic arrangements with no expected social component. It is into this environment that UCEAP enters when arranging ILP housing for students.

Not all homestays are a “home away from home.” Many host families have had international students in the past, so some hosts tend to view relationships with students strictly as a source of additional income. The Study Center attempts to locate hosts who will welcome students into their homes and relate to them on a social level, although this cannot always be the case.

The ILP homestay is arranged between the Study Center and the host, not between you and the host. Therefore, report homestay difficulties to the Study Center during the ILP.

Santiago Housing

- ▶ **After the ILP, room and board will not be included in your UCEAP fees. You will need to determine with your host or landlord how payments will be handled.**

Following the ILP, you may choose to remain in the originally assigned ILP household or you may seek different accommodations. At the end of the spring ILP, housing prices tend to increase because regular Chilean students are returning to the university after summer break. All options will be discussed further upon arrival at orientation.

Your Options include:

- Renting a room in a Chilean home
- Sharing an apartment or house with other students (preferably Chilean)
- Renting a room in a *pensión* (boarding house)

Recommendations

If you really want to learn about Chilean culture, the Study Center staff in Chile strongly recommends living with a Chilean family or living in a *pensión* with other Chilean students. In a *pensión*, you can expect to have your own room while sharing the bathroom and other facilities with Chilean students. Breakfast and light dinners may be included, depending on what you negotiate.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

I looked in the newspaper for rooms for rent and moved in with a Chilean couple. I recommend living with Chileans if you can because you learn more from the experience. You can always live with Americans in the U.S.!

Be careful when you look for housing. Many people will take advantage of the fact that you are a foreigner and don't know the price ranges.



UCEAP alumni highly recommend finding housing close to campus; however, this is not always possible and many students commute via public transportation. Santiago is a large city, but it is well connected via public transportation (a clean subway system and extensive bus routes). Expect the cost of commuting to range from \$80 to \$120 per month.

Precautions

Renting an apartment with other students can provide more personal freedom, but can be more expensive than living with a family. In addition, finding a suitable apartment can take some time and can require considerable deposits. Chilean students do not generally return to Santiago and seek roommates until March or April; thus, if you want to rent an apartment with Chilean students, you will need to stay in a *pensión* temporarily until you can locate Chilean roommates.

UCEAP discourages sharing living quarters with other UC or American students. Although living with other UCEAP students can be comforting, it tends to limit social contacts and language acquisition.

Tips for living in a Chilean Home

There is probably no better way to be immersed in Chilean culture than to share everyday life with a family, although there are some adjustments to consider:

- You may not have lived with your own family in a few years.
- Conforming to someone else's rules, especially if they appear strict, may be a strain. Homestay families may set curfews, restrict your house guests, or have different rules governing use of the phone, food, and utilities.
- You need to be flexible. The burden of adapting is on you, not on the host family.
- The homestay is intended to be a mutually convenient social arrangement, a cultural experience, and a financial agreement between you and the host family.
- Being in a family setting, it is imperative to take into account local customs as families come to know you personally. Ideally, you can become part of the family, but to do so requires time, patience, sensitivity, negotiation, and understanding. A perfect match is not always possible. Dialogue and consideration are usually the best vehicles for good results.

The primary purpose of living with a host family is to interact socially and culturally, and to improve language proficiency in Spanish. It is expected that everyone, including other guests in the home, will speak Spanish at all times. If a host family requests that you speak English, you may want to work out a reciprocal arrangement and occasionally speak in English to help your host family with the language. However, you must remain committed to developing your Spanish language skills.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

I loved where I lived. I decided to remain with my host family and I recommend this to any student who gets along with theirs. Although the cost may have been higher than other options and I didn't live with students, I had a great experience in my home.

”

There may be some unspoken conditions and responsibilities to a homestay involving everything from use of the kitchen to possible curfews. To avoid any confusion, you must communicate with your host family and consider the following:

- Do not expect to have free reign in the home; stricter customs may make you feel like a guest in your Chilean home.
- Manners are important; occasionally bring your host family a small gift and remember to offer compliments when appropriate.
- Remember that many Chileans smoke in the house.
- Neatness counts! Make your bed.
- Alcohol or drug abuse will not be tolerated. You may be asked to leave by your host family or be dismissed from the program.
- During the ILP, your room will be fully furnished. You may need towels and sheets if you move to an apartment on your own.
- You will have limited use of the family telephone for personal calls. Work out phone usage with your family ahead of time. Be prepared to take a phone card or buy one in Chile, or purchase a cell phone.
- Find out if you will be issued keys to the house and if your family expects you to be home at a certain time of night.
- Ask about your rights and responsibilities concerning the bathroom facilities. If possible, set up a schedule, especially for the morning.
- Find out how many meals per day you will receive. What should be done if you know you will miss a meal? What should you do if you miss a meal unintentionally? Discuss any special dietary needs and scheduled meal times. Inquire about access to the kitchen and the household's food. Vegetarians must be flexible.
- Learn who is responsible for doing the laundry.
- Ask if you are allowed to have guests, including overnight guests. Discuss parties and social gatherings in the home.
- Remember to always inform the host family about any trips out of town and times when you may expect to arrive home late, in case of an emergency.
- Make sure you understand how payment for room and board is to be made. When is payment due? During the ILP, your housing payment is included in your UCEAP fees. If you stay with your host family after the ILP, you need to know how payments will be handled.
- The telephone is generally an expensive utility. Ask your host family about the use of the phone and how to reimburse the family for phone bills, then follow the set guidelines. When the program is over, leave some money to cover charges that have not yet been paid.
- Do not leave lights, computers, or other items running when not in use. Check with your host family regarding use of heat, etc.
- Moderate water usage is highly recommended. Talk with your host family early on.

Report difficulties to the Study Center Director if they occur. Air your concerns immediately to avoid having a small incident build up into a major annoyance. Something that causes upset or even rage may be the result of a cultural misunderstanding that the Study Center may be able to help explain.

Food

Chileans typically eat three or four meals a day, with lunch constituting the main meal (usually served between 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.).

In general, Chilean food is basic and simply seasoned. It is heavily based on red meat, rice, and potatoes. Popular dishes include seafood, corn cakes, empanadas, beans, and corn pies. Vegetarians will be able to find suitable food, although not many Chileans are vegetarians. Fresh fruit and vegetables are available at local markets. There are several vegetarian restaurants and a growing interest in the vegetarian diet.

Santiago boasts a huge variety of interesting restaurants at a range of prices—from Mexican and Peruvian to Japanese and Middle Eastern. Outside of Santiago, however, Chilean, Chinese, and Italian food are the most common.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

It's hard to get to know students. They're friendly, but they already have their own groups of friends. Just ask yourself how many foreign students you're friends with at your own school. But it's definitely worth the effort to get to know other students. Don't be shy—join student activities.

My interaction with classmates and professors was an important part of my experience in Chile. I played soccer and swam, which proved to be great ways to make friends. ”

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- ▶ According to Chilean visa laws, you are not allowed to work while in Chile.

Excursions

In addition to the on-site orientation at the beginning of the program, additional excursions may be provided by the Study Center to enrich your study abroad experience throughout the semester. These include:

- A field trip to El Teniente copper mine, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the world's largest underground mine.
- A visit to Villa Grimaldi Park for Peace, a human rights monument.
- Other small group excursions throughout the term (check with the Study Center once you are in Chile to learn more about available offerings).

Get Involved

You are encouraged to participate in cultural activities while abroad, including visits to museums, monuments, performances, theater and musical events, and tours. The Study Center can provide information about cultural and social events. In order to integrate more fully into the local community, you are urged to:

- Become involved in extracurricular activities
- Join clubs, sports, musical, theater, or art groups
- Provide volunteer services to social organizations
- Participate in athletic events and religious activities
- Attend lectures, discussions, and receptions in academic and community circles
- Participate in an internship

Santiago itself is a large international city that offers many activities. Art galleries and museums, opera, movie theaters, and architecturally and culturally unique urban and suburban neighborhoods offer much to see and do. Popular sites include:

- The Municipal Theater
- Plaza Mulato Gil de Castro with its art galleries and antique stores
- The Royal Customs Building (Museum of pre-Columbian Art)
- Palace of Justice, Manso de Velasco's House
- The San Cristobal Hill Metropolitan Park, which includes a zoo, two swimming pools, picnic areas, restaurants, and the Enoteca Restaurant

Fun shopping areas include the downtown area between Miraflores and Amunategui streets and Av. B. O'Higgins and Santo Domingo Street; and Providencia Avenue, including, among others, chic boutiques on Suecia, General Holley, Los Leones, and Ricardo Lyon streets. In the eastern area there are some shopping centers, including Panorámico, Apumanque, Parque Arauco, and Altolas Condes.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Patagonia is the most beautiful place on earth. I couldn't even explain in person how breathtaking this place is. You just have to go and see for yourself—gigantic glaciers, volcanoes, hot springs—it's full of such beautiful nature.

”

Sports

At the **Pontifical Catholic University** you can participate in sports at a competitive, educational, or recreational level. Available athletic activities include aerobics, basketball, gymnastics (artistic and rhythmic), judo, mountain climbing, physical training, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and weight training. A variety of athletic facilities are available, including six soccer pitches, twelve tennis courts, ten lighted all-purpose fields, two tracks, one lighted hockey field, one heated pool, eight locker rooms, one physical therapy clinic, and a two-story gymnasium.

The **University of Chile** has more limited recreation facilities.

Both universities have intramural teams in a variety of sports. Private health clubs are available in Santiago, but membership fees are somewhat expensive. Skiing and hiking are but two of the general recreational activities available in the surrounding areas.

Resources

- ▶ The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel.

There are many useful cultural and travel resources available for Chile. Past students recommend Lonely Planet guides, *Chile: The Rough Guide*; *Insight Guide Chile*; and *Open Road Publishing Chile Guide*. Also look for *How to Survive in the Chilean Jungle*, by Brennan and Taboada.

Some of the best resources that will help you prepare for your program are UCEAP Chile alumni who have experienced the lifestyle in Chile and can share valuable information. Ask your Campus UCEAP Advisor for names of Chile returnees and inquire if there are any reciprocal exchange students from Chile on your UC campus.

HEALTH

- In addition to the following sections, read the [Health](#) and [Safety](#) chapters of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
- Access the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov for more information about travelers health.

Local Medical Services

- If you experience a medical emergency, notify the UCEAP Study Center as soon as possible. The Study Center staff is your first point of contact in Chile.

It is a good idea to let the Study Center know of any medical services received, even if it is not an emergency so we can help with your insurance reimbursement or with direct payment to the medical provider.

While in Chile, you may experience health problems related to altitude, climate extremes, and change of diet. Approaching the Tropic of Capricorn, sun and heat can be difficult, particularly at high altitudes. Cholera is present in some areas of the Southern Cone. Observe the safe drinking water precautions.

Medical services in Chile are relatively modern and similar to what one would find in the U.S. Hospitals with ambulance services and pharmacies exist throughout Chile, and the greatest numbers are located in Santiago. It should be noted that a doctor's prescription is needed to obtain certain medicines such as antibiotics. Major hospitals accept credit cards, but many doctors and hospitals in Chile expect immediate payment in cash. If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, contact the Study Center immediately. The Study Center has a list of doctors, dentists, and clinics available. Staff can also help make arrangements with your professors if extended absence is expected. The Study Center staff members are there to help. A thorough review of health issues will be covered during the on-site orientation.

Review the UCEAP health insurance policy plan before departing for Chile and note all exclusions. The [UCEAP Insurance Plan](#) requires you to pay for services up front and submit an insurance claim form. If you need insurance claim forms, visit the Insurance tab of the UCEAP [Participants](#) web portal. Medical claims processing time is about four to six weeks after receipt of the claim. Keep photocopies of all documentation submitted in case the claim gets lost in the mail.

Prescription Medications

Europ Assistance, UCEAP travel assistance providers, can get information regarding the availability of your prescription medication in Chile. Call (866) 451-7606 (inside the U.S.) for assistance. If you are taking medication abroad, be sure to review the [Health](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* and note the following recommendations:

- Prescription medications should *not* be mailed from the U.S. They may be opened at Chilean customs and will not be delivered to you. Customs always opens packages.
- If your prescription is not available in Chile, plan on bringing enough medication for the length of your stay.
- Take your doctor's prescription with you so that it can be considered by a local health practitioner in Chile.
- Travel with a letter from your doctor, translated into Spanish, that lists the active ingredients of the medication.
- Always transport your medications in their original containers and in your carry-on luggage.
- If carrying syringes or needles, be sure to carry a physician's letter documenting their medical necessity.

Air Quality

Air pollution is a significant health problem in Santiago, especially during the winter (May through August). If you have a respiratory or cardiac condition, you will be at greater risk for complications from air pollution, which may include cough, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or chest pain. You can minimize the risk by staying indoors, avoiding outdoor exercise, and drinking plenty of fluids. If you have chronic health conditions, include this information on the homestay questionnaire and consult with your physician regarding precautions before departure. Make sure your condition is noted on your UCEAP Health Clearance. Keep this in mind when choosing a neighborhood for your residence in Santiago.

Smog will present a source of irritation for everyone. Santiago is in a valley, so the smog from factories and cars gets trapped in the valley and the air becomes toxic. Jogging outdoors is not recommended during the Chilean winter months (May–August) due to the poor air quality. The most severe air pollution occurs during the winter (May through August). Additional information on air quality levels is available at the [National Air Quality Information Service \(SINCA\)](#) website.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Use common sense in any largely populated area. It's best not to walk alone late at night, of course, and to be on guard in the centro or on the buses. Overall, I've found Santiago to be safe.

Gender is definitely an issue. Men will stare at women shamelessly. Whistles and catcalls are frequent but it's best to just ignore them, even if you're offended. The more you acknowledge them, the louder they get. On a personal, one-on-one level, most Chilean men are polite, helpful, and respectful.

As a woman I felt harassed just walking down the street hearing the local commentary. As I learned more about fashion and behavior, I felt this a lot less.

”

SAFETY

Crime Risks

It is healthy to have concerns about safety and security abroad. Study abroad, like most other things in life, involves risks. You and your family have a role to play in minimizing potential dangers, and UCEAP expects you to participate actively in minimizing your risks while abroad.

UCEAP cannot:

- Guarantee the safety of participants or ensure that risk will not at times be significantly greater than on a UC campus.
- Monitor the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of individual participants any more than is the case on a UC campus.

However, UCEAP takes reasonable efforts to establish a safe environment in its programs abroad, and to counsel students on potential risks and necessary precautions.

Pay careful attention to the following information regarding safety in Santiago. Flexibility and an informed perspective will be critical to help you adapt to your new environment. An understanding of the social reality and close attention to your surroundings may help you avoid potential problems.

With a population of over six million people, Santiago presents the unavoidable aspects of dense urban living: increased crime, pollution, sexual harassment, social disparities, and standards of living that are not comparable to life at UC. The tension, disappointment, and adjustment involved in dealing with these differences should not be underestimated, but should not discourage you from going abroad either.

According to University of California's security provider, Chile is one of the safest, most stable countries in South America. While crime is on the rise, it is relatively modest by South American standards. Most criminal activity takes the form of petty theft, pick-pocketing, purse-snatching and non-violent robberies. With approximately 85 percent of the population living in major cities and roughly one-third living in Santiago, crime is prevalent in urban areas, particularly the capital. Although most incidents occur in areas frequented by travelers, little evidence exists suggesting that street criminals specifically target foreigners.

Purse snatching or slashing of straps and pick-pocketing are most prevalent in crowded tourist locations and pedestrian shopping areas in downtown Santiago, as well as in subway stations, on subway trains, in bus terminals, and on crowded buses. Criminals often work in pairs, one distracting the victim's attention by a motion or sound and the other stealing the victim's property.

Another growing problem in Santiago is theft of electronic devices, particularly of laptops, car stereos, cameras, and automobile computers.

Police Response

The *carabineros* of Chile are the uniformed national police force and have primary responsibility for crime prevention. They are considered to be the most professional police force in Latin America. Their effectiveness is hampered by a lack of resources, such as man power and patrol vehicles. Therefore, what would be considered a rapid response time to an incident in the U.S. is not possible in Chile.

► UCEAP participants who have been the victims of robbery have experienced the inconvenience of reporting lost credit cards and obtaining new documents. A little precaution can save a lot of headaches. During the on-site orientation, you will receive additional tips about how to reduce risks.

Be Responsible for Your Security: Avoid Becoming a Victim

- Personal safety and crime are issues in Santiago just as they are in any large city.
- Petty theft and crime are prevalent, especially in crowded places like the metro, bus stations, and the airport.
- As usual, foreigners tend to be easier targets; blend in and take necessary personal safety precautions when in public.
- Wear clothing with inside pockets, especially if carrying important documents. Secure purses and wallets, especially in crowded places such as discos and marketplaces.
- Crime is a problem as in all large cities around the world. Beware of thieves and pickpockets. Constantly watch your belongings. Avoid talking on your cell phone or wearing headphones when walking down the street. Keep your camera concealed. Be cautious, especially when you are alone. Walk in groups whenever possible.
- Carry backpacks/purses on the front of the body, not the back.
- Do not place money, documents, or other valuables in backpacks. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Keep copies of all important documents (passport, credit cards, etc.) in a separate, safe place.
- Remain alert and on guard in public or crowded places. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Travel in groups of three or more, and never walk alone at night.
- Always watch your wallet, especially on the metro.
- Have a cell phone, charged and turned on, with you at all times so that you can be reached quickly in the event of an emergency.

Sexual street harassment (verbal comments or even physical advances) has surprised many UCEAP students. Past students remark that *piropos*, or catcalls, to American women are common. Although usually no harm is meant, you may find it offensive. The best advice is to ignore the perpetrator, as protesting usually results in an escalation of the offending behavior.

Women should never walk alone after dark, and should practice “safety in numbers.” Be aware and take precautions once in Chile. The Study Center Director will cover this topic in depth after you arrive in Santiago.

Personal behavior is crucial to your safety. Both men and women need to inform themselves about the basic dynamics of male and female relationships in Chile. Dating rules vary. Exercise caution and good communication if you choose to start a relationship. Additional information about cultural differences is provided in the [Cultural Awareness](#) chapter of this guide.

Demonstrations/Strikes

Strikes, demonstrations, and protests occur in Chile, most often in Santiago. Civil unrest is related to labor, political and education issues. For information on current, and ongoing, Chilean student demonstrations, refer to the [UCEAP website](#).

Advice during demonstrations:

- Avoid all demonstrations, which could become violent without notice.
- Prepare for significant transport and service disruptions during protests and strikes.
- Monitor local media for updates on possible road blocks and plan alternate routes.
- Allow additional time for ground travel due to possible road closures and police activity.

Road & Traffic Safety

Road conditions throughout most of Chile are first-rate compared to other South American countries. Road signage is abundant on city streets and highways. Traffic lights and pedestrian signals work and are loosely followed by most motorists and pedestrians. Use caution when walking in and around Santiago. Pedestrians do not have the right of way in Chile. Be careful when you cross the street.

Chile has modern infrastructure. Taxis and public transportation are plentiful and relatively inexpensive. Agree to a taxi fare before embarking. To use the [public bus system in Santiago](#) you need to obtain the prepaid “Bip” card. This card can also be used when traveling on the [Santiago subway](#).

Fire Safety

Refer to the Safety chapter of the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) for information on fire safety.

Earthquakes

The coast of Chile sits on a geologic formation known as the Pacific Ring of Fire, a seismically active region that accounts for a majority of the world's earthquakes. As a result, earthquakes in coastal Chile are common.

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently, and without warning. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time and advance planning can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of life from an earthquake. Previous earthquakes in Chile have caused death, injury, and extensive damage to buildings, and electrical power outages and breaks in phone service. The likelihood of experiencing an earthquake during your stay is no more likely than what would be expected in California.

Chilean Building Codes

As is the case in the U.S., Chilean architects and civil engineers (many trained and educated in the U.S.) design buildings in Chile to withstand earthquakes. After the Great Chilean Earthquake in 1960, the government of Chile enacted stringent building codes to ensure that new buildings in the country are earthquake resistant. Local authorities enforce these building codes.

How to Prepare:

- Identify hazards in your home.
- Make a plan: Identify safe places in and out of the home. If you live in an apartment building, learn the emergency evacuation plan that is in place for the building.
- Survive: Drop, cover, and hold on. If you are inside a building, go immediately to one of your identified safe places, duck down and hold on. After the shaking stops, exit by stairways only, and watch for fallen debris. If you are outside, do not go back into the building.
- Travel with a flashlight (battery operated or hand crank).
- Have a portable AM/FM or short-wave radio (battery operated or hand crank).
- Travel with non-perishable items and ample bottled water.
- Have a whistle with you at all times to signal for help.
- Familiarize yourself with all earthquake shelters.
- Know where money, credit cards, identity information, and travel documentation are located.
- Know where personal medication is located; wear a medical alert identification bracelet if needed.
- Have an earthquake kit.
- Communicate: After the earthquake, call your family in the U.S. and the UCEAP Study Center immediately to report on your welfare.
- Follow all regular earthquake precautions as you would in California.

Emergency Contacts

What Constitutes an Emergency?

Emergencies are circumstances out of the ordinary, unplanned, or unexpected, which threaten the health, safety, and well-being of you and/or your fellow students. The following are considered true emergencies:

- Any situation that places a student or students at risk, including illness or harm, or other traumatic incidents that require immediate response
- A student who has been arrested
- Civil unrest or a natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency

Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.

- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact the Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad

Carry the local emergency contact information at all times. If you have a health or safety emergency, contact the Study Center. If you do not have access to local or Study Center emergency contact information, call the UCEAP 24-hour emergency phone number above.

U.S. Department of State Consular Affairs

UCEAP strongly encourages you to follow the UCEAP Study Center safety measures and to register your travel online with the [U.S. Department of State](#) before your departure from the U.S.

Santiago Emergency Phone Numbers

The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in Chile is:

Ambulance (SAMU)	131
Fire department (<i>bomberos</i>)	132
Police (<i>carabineros</i>)	133