Universidad de Chile - Santiago, Chile: From a Student’s Perspective
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This booklet is designed by past Student Exchange participants in order to share their experience and knowledge with students participating in the Fisher International Student Exchange. Items in this booklet are not endorsed by the Office of Global Business at Fisher College and information contained in this booklet is subject to change.

ACCOMMODATIONS
- Universidad de Chile does not provide on-campus housing, but will help arrange with securing accommodations in-country.

Homestays
- Past students have recommended home-stays for a real look into the culture of the country. They have proved to be a safe, fun, and loving environment.
- A set monthly fee includes a private room, laundry, and two meals a day.
- These are typically located in an upscale area of Santiago known as Las Condes with beautiful housing in a safe area. It is located about 30 min or less from campus by public transportation.
- www.Homestaychile.com is run by a professional named Cecilia Blanch. She is wonderful at matching students with trusted families and will change families if a problem arises.
- The international office at the host institution may be able to help with home-stay accommodations. Send them an email and see what or who they recommend.
- This option is more expensive than an apartment but it is much less of a hassle and students have said that it is worth the extra money.
- Most home-stays will include prepared food in the rent price.

Apartment Search
- While apartments can be more difficult to arrange, it is better for students that want to live closer to campus.
- If a student opts to lease an apartment the best advice is to plan to stay in a hostel for the first couple of days after arriving in Santiago and investigating into availabilities once in the country.
- Most hostels have websites with booking information in English and students should secure a hostile (if planning to stay there the first few nights) before leaving the US. The best hostels are located in Providencia (walking time varies) and Bella Vista.
- If you are looking to find a roommate, the option of staying in the hostel and searching for apartments is the most conducive to finding one. Other international students will be apartment searching and may be looking for roommates as well.
- Both options can be ‘hit or miss.’ Do not worry; you are not bound to any arrangement. If problems arise, past students have been able to switch to a host family or an alternate accommodation.
Facebook Marketplace can be a great way to find a sublease for the semester. Just as Fisher students are traveling abroad during the fall, so too are students from Chile.

Beware of Craigslist. There are a number of scams out there and it has happened to Fisher students in the past. If you are unsure, ask for help from the Office of Global Business staff.

Neighborhood Guidelines

- Recommended areas to live are Providencia and Las Condes. Students have not had as good of luck with the neighborhoods of El Centro and Patronato. A general rule of thumb, is the closer the place of stay is to the Metro Red Line, the better.
- Fellow international students (who will become your friends and travel partners) live east of campus. Anything west of Metro station Santa Lucia (unless very close to the Red Line) is generally not recommended by past students. Living near the Yellow line is a “no go.”
- Take into consideration the amount of time it takes to get to the business school. This is where you will most likely be taking the majority of your classes.
- The city is navigated according to the Metro and its colors. A map can be found here: http://www.chilepass.cl/img/mapas/santiago-metro.jpg

Documents

Passport

- Passports should be secured as soon as possible. They are required not only for travel overseas, but also for application to Universidad de Chile and among other reasons.
- Check expiration date. In the past students have failed to realize that their passports expire during their trip which can cause serious issues with reentry into the United States.
- Keep several copies of all relevant documents on you at all times: licenses, residency cards, passports, visas, enrollment verifications, whatever has been issued to you. This is not required but you may find yourself in a situation in which these things would be extremely helpful to have and save you time.
- If nothing else, keep a copy of the passport (US driver’s licenses are useless) and your acceptance letter on you at all times. You will receive a Universidad de Chile photo ID. This will act as a BuckID/driver’s license.

Student Visa

- Apply for a student visa as soon as possible in the US. Make sure to have all required paperwork to send to the Chilean consulate in Chicago or the sub-consulate in Detroit for residents in the Midwest. There is a required FBI check that can take up to 4 months. You must be present to get it stamped either in Chicago or Detroit. Make sure you are aware of the full process, options, and required documents. The actual processing takes around 1 month. All of these procedures are available online.
- It is not recommended that you apply for a student visa once in Chile. There are long waits (hours and hours) and can cause a lot of unneeded stress. It is much easier to complete the paperwork while in the US.
- As of 2010, if staying for only one semester, Universidad de Chile does allow students to have a tourist visa. You may enter the country by paying a non-refundable $150 at the airport. However you must exit and reenter the country in 90 days to restart the time period. Check with the host institution if this will still be accepted.
- Past Universidad de Chile students have stayed on a tourist visa. A quick trip to Mendoza, Argentina ($40USD round trip by bus) is the easiest way to renew the visa. Many people including the European students stay on the tourist visa. You still have to pay even if you choose the student visa. The only perk of a student visa is they give you an official photo ID. It is more of a souvenir than an ID since most official business will still require the passport (banks, plane tickets, bus tickets, etc).
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- If students have any questions about obtaining a visa, Travel Solutions can help. Found here: http://controller.osu.edu/travel/travel-agencies.shtm. Or call Travel Solutions by phone at 877-678-8785 or 614-750-4020, ask for a Visa Expert.

Student Identification Card
- Upon arrival, it is necessary to register your visa (student visa only, not needed for tourist visa) with the international police. Students will then receive an identification card (un carnet) and it is basically equivalent to a drivers license.

Health Insurance
- Ohio State requires that outgoing students purchase the HTH Supplemental Insurance, this will cover the student’s time while studying. However, if a student decided to travel before or after specific program dates, the HTH supplemental insurance will not cover any illness or injury. It is recommended that students contact their health insurance providers before traveling. In the case that a student requires medical attention out of the HTH time period, it is important to know how to deal with copayments, insurance, etc. Specific questions about health insurance can be directed to OIA (Office of International Affairs).

Food and Drink

Grocery Stores
- There are plenty of grocery stores located throughout the city. Fruits and vegetables are cheap and healthy! The qualities of grocery stores are based on location, not usually by brand.
- The Unimarc by the campus on Avenida Portugal is a great place to buy lunch, but not great to buy other groceries. Jumbo is a small version of Walmart.
- Santa Isabel stores are conveniently located, but typically smaller and lacking in specialized items. Ekono markets are the cheapest.
- Lider Express is owned by Walmart Corporate. These will feature many comfort foods such as American Hot Cocoa, and other ‘GreatValue’ brands. Imported foods such as American style or Mexican styles are expensive.
- Precooked empanadas in supermarkets are a great option for lunch. Ask for them “caliente” or reheated. Fresh fruits and vegetables can be bought cheaply at La Vega (by metro station Patronato). The earlier it is in the morning (9am) the better the harvest.

On Campus
- There is a cafeteria on campus. You will most likely eat here the first day of orientation. It is cheap, but students haven’t particularly enjoyed the selection. A better option is the Unimarc which is less than 2 blocks from campus on Avenida Portugal. You can buy fruits, yogurt, or fresh breads for a healthy and smaller lunch.
- Sometimes your host family will provide food for lunch. It depends on the family. Another option is to walk to the architecture school (directly next to campus) and buy a hamburger. Typically it will be better and cheaper than on campus. The seasoned buns are delicious!

Dining Norms
- Breakfast is usually very light or non-existent. Expect bread and instant coffee. Lunch is pretty heavy (around 2pm-4pm), and dinner is eaten around 8 pm-11 pm. Your body may not be used to this, carry some snacks around with you!
- Learn to eat and enjoy avocado. Buy some while in the US, make a hamburger, and spread the avocado underneath the top bun. Add lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise if you like mayo. This is their typical sandwich. Try
eating raw avocado (smashed and almost whipped) with a sprinkle of salt. This is a decent snack.

Dining
• Restaurant Bali Hai in Las Condes is a great Polynesian themed restaurant that requires a reservation. The plates can cost up to $40 but with this comes a three course meal, a drink, and a three to four hour show/presentation during dinner. It is worth the cost and enthusiastically recommended! It is also very foreign friendly.
• California Cantina in Providencia is a Southern California themed restaurant. Most of the servers speak English and there are televisions always playing US sporting events. This will be the “go-to” place for American football. Ask for the gringo burgers, they are great!
• Fuente Alemana is another option to grab a bite. Many, many drinks are available from all over the world. Get the churrasco or the lomito. Featured on Anthony Bourdain’s show on the travel channel. There are two locations, Avenida Pedro de Valdivia or on Alameda (Avenida Libertador Bernardo O’Higgins) by Plaza Italia.
• Near the FEN on Avenida Portugal, there is a green cart. The man wears a white hat. During the winter he sells Sopaipillas. Try the first one plane. If you like it, try the cold salsa/sauce. During the spring and summer he sells a drink mote con huesillo. It is cooked with barley, peaches, and peach juice and is a treat!
• El Hoyo, their traditional Chilean meat is wonderful!

Money
Using an ATM
• Students have found that some banks charge a percentage of the amount that you withdraw internationally. Some charge a flat fee when money is withdrawn and this usually proves to be a better option. Talk to your bank about the different options they offer.
• Some larger banks have partnerships in South America. This may reduce transaction fees. Citibank is one of these but normally a special account is necessary.
• Capital One offers credit cards that do not charge international fees. This can save a significant amount over the duration of travel. Look into all options to see what will work best for your circumstance.
• While cash is the only form of payment taken at many places, be smart about the amount that you carry at any given time. Carrying an excessive amount of money makes you more vulnerable in certain situations. The stores that have high price tags will most likely take credit cards.

Establishing a bank account in your host country
• Past students have recommended not opening a foreign account as Latin American banks and their transactions can be very slow and bureaucratic. In some cases, visiting students are not even permitted to open an account. That being said, students have found that it is not worth the time and effort it takes. Rather, they suggest utilizing American cards despite the fees.

Credit and Bank Cards
• Credit cards are not as frequently used as they are in the US. Do not plan for the store or restaurant to accept credit cards. Carry cash on you as often as possible. Most high end vendors will take credit cards.

Travelers Checks
• Though travelers’ checks may have once been the safest way to manage money while traveling, they may not be the best option. Traveler’s checks are only good once converted. Therefore, if a student plans to use traveler’s checks, it is recommended that this be only part of the whole money management scheme.

**Phone and Internet**

Using a phone from home

- If planning to use a phone from home, do homework with respect to cost. In the past students have realized that using devices such as smartphones with international capabilities can be much more expensive than planned.
- An international SIM card will be necessary, and can be purchased at a phone outlet upon arriving.
- Some iPhones can be unlocked for use abroad, in which case an international SIM card may be inserted. Check with your mobile carrier before attempting this.
- Some phone providers have international calling to emergency numbers only, or they charge you an insane fee when used. Some students have suggested bringing your phone from home if you have this option; it gives a sense of security when first arriving at the airport.

Buying an international phone

- Students can go to phone providers and purchase a cheap phone along with prepaid minutes. Entel (best) or Claro (second best) are recommended. Movistar has given students trouble. There are affordable packages available in Lider and Jumbo. Talk to university friends about the best place to buy a reliable phone. A cell phone is recommended for coordinating plans, handling business, and safety reasons.
- Unlocked CDMA phones can be used. They are the ones that require the SIM card underneath the battery. AT&T and T-Mobile use CDMA phones that must be unlocked prior to departure. If you are not an AT&T or T-mobile user, it is simple to buy one when you arrive (since you’ll need a Chilean power cord any way.)
- Buying a cell phone is easy and no ID is required. Ironically, Entel stores are not recommended to buy an Entel phone. If you bring a CDMA phone, you’ll need to buy a new SIM card from the respective company. To recharge the prepaid account, you can use cash. Charging is easy and can be done on the street, convenient stores, metro stations, etc.
- The voltages are different. You must use a transformer along with an outlet converter. Chilean power outlets are 220 volts. Laptop cords typically have a built-in transformer (that black box in the middle of the cord) but alarm clocks and other appliances do not and will be fried.

International Communication

- When calling home, Skype video use is free with wifi access! This is a great option for keeping in touch with friends and family from home as well as those met while traveling.
  - Help parents and friends set up and learn how to use Skype before traveling.
  - Purchasing Skype credit allows students to call a landline or a cell phone back home at lower costs. When internet is available this can reduce the hassle involved with international calling cards. Users can also pay $6-$10 for a month of unlimited calls to any landline or cell phone in the U.S. from their computers.
- G-chat is also a favorite channel of communication for students. It has a G-Video option as well. It can be more convenient than Skype because it is more user-friendly. Which mode of communication you choose ultimately depends on your preferences. It is recommended to explore both programs before departure so you can inform family members which you will be using.
- If you want friends to be able to call you, leave voicemails, or leave text messages like a regular cell phone, you can sign up for Google voice. You will need to use a VPN (virtual private network) but students have said that it is well worth it. With Google voice, you receive a US telephone number that works like a landline. If you have to make business calls while abroad, this can be a great tool! For more information go to: [http://www.google.com/](http://www.google.com/)
SAFETY TIPS
• As with any foreign area, be aware of all your surroundings. When possible it is strongly advised to not walk alone, especially for females.
• If staying in hostels it is advised to bring a lock to protect your valuables. Avoid bringing anything of extreme sentimental value.
• Keep emergency numbers to your specific host country with you at all times.
• On the bus or metro, keep the backpack in front. Keep the wallet in the front pocket whenever possible. Never leave anything out of site. Even when at a coffee shop do not set your purse nearby, on the ground.

TRANSPORTATION
Public Transportation
• Santiago is mapped based on the metro system.
• Students enthusiastically recommend purchasing a BIP card when arriving at the metro station for your first ride. Use the card for every metro ride that’s taken from that point on.
• A transfer from line to line on the metro is free. A transfer from metro to a bus to another bus is free. They charge each time you enter into the boarding platform from outside since you can transfer between trains for free. A transfer from bus (500 pesos) to the metro (usually 520 or 580 depending on the time of day) will cost the extra 20 or 80 pesos. These transfers must happen within 2 hours.
• Busses are an option. Most students live near the metro and just walk the rest of the way. From the Universidad Catolica metro station, it is a 2-3 minute walk to campus. The main bus that runs next to the campus (east and west) is either the 501 or 504. It will take time to learn the fastest route to the school.
• The busses do not run on a schedule such as the CABS. They can be unreliable and skip stops if at capacity. Leave early whenever planning to ride the bus. If you have a big exam scheduled for later on in the day, make sure to leave extra early!

International Travel
• When traveling between countries make sure to follow and complete all visa requirements for both countries.
• Students in the past have traveled a great deal more than originally expected. Keep this in mind when budgeting and packing. Many students over pack. Appliances such as straighteners, hair dryers, electric shavers, etc can be bought in country; as well as toiletries, bedding, and many other bulky items. This will save room in your bag as well as solve any wattage conversion problems you will encounter.
• For the flight over to your destination and back, utilize StudentUniverse.com. Students have had great luck with affordable prices.
• With affordability comes the possibility of delays and cancellations with these airlines. They will rebook you it may just take time. Take situations in stride.
• If possible print out any boarding passes prior to arriving at the airport or you may have to pay an additional fee. Also, double and triple check your bag measurements. These airlines are very adamant on their luggage regulations and will impose hefty fees for any passengers that bags do not apply.

Trains
• Trains are another way to travel around the country. The stations are accessible by metro.
• Some students suggest utilizing the train system over bus carriers. Others do not agree and do not recommend the trains. The bus carriers are not like the greyhound and generally are cheap and reliable. There are many
companies to choose from. Some bus company recommendations are: El Rapido, Andes Mar, TurBus, and Pullman. Each student will find their own particular preferences.

Other Travel Tips

• When traveling from Chile to other countries make sure you investigate all the stipulations. Some countries require payment, others do not, some do not if you are traveling by bus, but do if you are traveling by train. It can get confusing so make sure you plan out a trip with all this in mind.

UNIVERSITY TIPS

Courses

• If you are taking Negocios Internacionales (International Business), Erich Spenser is a recommended professor. This is a must take, it is very interesting!
• For finance majors, Finanzas II (Finance II) with Roberto Stein is also recommended. “In my opinion, he is the best professor in the school!” said a past student. Stein used to teach at Tulane University in New Orleans. If you want to make a great first impression, bring him good coffee from the states, and he will love it. He is also very flexible and understanding.
• Globalización, Tratados, y Acuerdos Comerciales (Globalization, Treaties, and Trade Agreements) does not fill any requirement at Ohio State. Keep this in mind when course planning. The exams in this course were also not completely based on lecture and have given trouble to students in the past.
• Español Para Negocios (Spanish for Business) is an interesting course. The class is very informal, small and there are opportunities to ask the teacher about Chilean etiquette and slang. Students will take a test at the end of orientation to determine which Español Para Negocios level they should take (Beginner or Intermediate.)
• Take a sports class! Not only is it enjoyable but students have the opportunity to informally practice their Spanish and meet Chileans and other intercambios (Exchange students). Chilean students are intrigued by foreigners and generally would love to interact. Whatever sport, (soccer, tennis, dance, volleyball, or basketball) students will have to provide their own equipment (soccer shoes, tennis racket, basketball shoes, etc). Volleyballs, basketballs, and tennis balls were provided by the university.

University Resources

• The international office and its employees are incredibly helpful and want the best experience possible for all exchange students. If you ever have any problems, ranging from housing, culture shock, or even theft, they are more than willing to help. They are all foreign and understand the circumstances that you are encountering. Erich Spenser is a good friend to have. He teaches Negocios Internacionales and is the director of international programs. He is great and helpful.
• You should bring stereotypical things that represent the US. A flag, pictures, postcards of national monuments or tourist sites, a map, etc. Things of Fisher or Ohio State are great as well. During November or Late October, the FEN hosts Semana Internacional (International Week). Each country sets up a display and talks with Chilean students about studying abroad. The FEN will reimburse for any American food that you purchase (chocolate chip cookies or apple pie) the countries compete for best display. Canada won 2 years ago. Germany won last year. Germany brought a German flag, European Union flag, stereotypical German lederhosen (pants/overalls), and some German candies. Depending on how many American students study there, it could be a great time to promote OSU and win the friendly competition!
MISCELLANEOUS TIPS

Shopping
- There are cheap clothes up by metro station Patronato. They are off-brand and quality varies.
- Parque Arauco is the best mall. It is near station Escuela Militar.
- El Pueblito de Los Dominicos is good for artisanal gifts and souvenirs. The prices reflect the fact that mostly foreigners shop there and are steep. Not horrible, but not cheap.

Nightlife
- The metro closes between 10:30pm and 11pm so plan accordingly. In safe areas, Busses are an option (keep in mind the traveling in groups’ recommendation if the area is not known to be as safe). The bus (Micro) runs at all hours of the night. Taxis (official and with the yellow roof) are cheap. Much cheaper than the states.
- Bellavista is an area that is known for its nightlife. La Piojera is a cowboy-esque style restaurant and to get its full charm go there before 7pm.
- Bar Constitución is a fun and very popular club with good music and a lot of interesting people.
- There are so many hidden gems in Santiago. It may not seem to be a huge place for tourism but explore the entire city and all its crevices to get the full charm.

Dress Code
- University students dress formal. While sweatpants may be the norm here at OSU, they can be anything but normal on campuses in other countries. If you want to fit in, jeans are recommended.
- Be aware of the season differences! Bring clothes appropriate for this! In July when school starts, it is cold. Upper 30’s and 40’s. Bring or purchase a coat and a spring jacket. Some students go skiing, and a winter coat is a necessity.

Language
- The language barrier can be very difficult at first. Their accents are very strong and can be difficult to understand.
- Some students leave the U.S. thinking that most populations speak English. Do not expect that people you meet will know English. If you are not fluent in Spanish, carry around a pocket dictionary with essential phrases. Be patient with people and do not get frustrated. If you work on it, your Spanish will greatly improve.
- Past students have also wished that they had learned more Spanish before leaving! Practice with other Spanish classmates, listen to Spanish music, and watch Spanish movies, or American movies in Spanish (which is what Chileans normally do). The more confident you are with your Spanish the more opportunities may arise once in the country.

Tidbits
- The business campus is known as FEN (facultad de economia y negocios). You will constantly here it being referred to as this.
- Research and familiarize with the styles Reggaeton and Cumbia for music. You will fit right in if you are familiar with these music styles.
- If you like to ski, Valle Nevado costs 10000 pesos or 20 dollars (including tax.)
- Prices are shown with tax included. So if a box of cereal is 2000 pesos in the supermarket (equals 4 or so dollars, it includes the taxes which are actually pretty high)
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Phrases/Words
- Chao= goodbye (they normally do not use adios)
- Bacán= cool (you will hear this used all the time)
- Po = um or just a filler. It’s a sound, not a word. “Si po, amigo. Como estas?” = “Yes, friend. How are you?”
- Ask a Chilean what the word “weon” means. When called “weon” by a friend is friendly and cordial. “Weon” when called by a stranger is very strong insult and curse. Be careful

If there are further questions or concerns, different resources are available that students can utilize. The Office of Global Business will be a resource throughout the entire trip. Past students have also volunteered to be a contact if additional questions would arise.

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