

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

# Study Abroad



**VALPARAÍSO, CHILE**  
**SPRING 2019**

***Program Guide***

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**CONGRATULATIONS** on being accepted to the UW-Eau Claire exchange program in Valparaíso, Chile at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV). Living and studying in a foreign culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

*Building upon existing foreign language skills*  
*Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field*  
*Increasing understanding of different cultures*  
*Enhancing personal development*  
*Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture*  
*Gaining self-confidence and independence*  
*Learning skills for the future international job market*

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

This program guide is to be used together with the general Study Abroad Handbook. The handbook has information that is valid for all study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with specific information for the Valparaíso, Chile study abroad program. It is designed to complement the handbook, study abroad orientation, and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Please realize that, although this guide contains all of the information available at the time of printing, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email additional information throughout the semester. Please contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff, your peer advisor, past program participants, and any Chilean students on campus with your specific questions. You should also make use of the additional written and web resources listed towards the end of this guide.

Basic questions only you can answer include:

- 1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common objectives of students abroad include advancement in future profession, wish to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.
- 2) Given the way the program is set up; how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in Chilean culture, yet some of your classes are with other international and/or American students, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other Americans?

The information in this guide was current at the time of printing, though changes may occur at any time.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### *The Program*

UW-Eau Claire and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV) entered into an exchange agreement with the 2016-17 academic year. UW-Eau Claire students may participate in a one or two semester exchange. You will be taking classes at PUCV along with other Americans, international students from around the world, and local Chilean students.

### *The Location*

The university is composed of different campuses and university centers located in the main cities of the Valparaíso region (Valparaíso, also known as Valpo, and Viña del Mar, or just Viña). The region combines beautiful weather, wonderful beaches, and the splendid *Cordillera de Los Andes*. With a population of more than one million, the region has a multicultural flavor. The city of Valparaíso is the cultural and legislative capital, and the main commercial harbor, of Chile. Seventy miles from Santiago, the capital city of Chile, Valparaíso fascinates visitors with its history, geography, and architecture.

### *The University*

The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV), founded in 1928, has established itself as one of the most prestigious traditional higher educational institutions in Chile. The student body numbers more than 14,000 students. The PUCV facilities include a modern library system, sport centers, specialized laboratories, and recreational centers. The university runs a television channel, radio station, and film storehouse.

### *Academic Calendar*

#### Spring 2019

Departure from US	February 16
Official Arrival	February 17
Orientation	February 18-22
First Day of Classes	February 25
Last day of classes	June 22
Final exams	June 24-July 6
Move-out date	July 7

**Do not make your flight arrangements until you receive confirmation of your acceptance and the exact arrival/departure dates from PUCV.**

## ACADEMICS

*Additional information on program eligibility, as well as academic topics such as registration, class attendance, credits and course load, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad is included in the Academics section of your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### *Classes*

PUCV offers both Spanish language classes and subject area classes in music, literature, history, and physical education to international students. Most UW-Eau Claire students take one or two classes with other international students and choose the remainder from the selection of regular university courses taken along with Chilean students. Upon arrival, all students will take a preliminary Spanish proficiency exam consisting of a written and an oral section in order to assess the appropriate level for Spanish language classes.

The following Spanish language classes are offered every semester:

PUCV Course Code, Number, and Title	UW-Eau Claire Equivalency
PIIE 240/340 Español Comunicacional y Cultura Chilena – intermedio/avanzado	SPAN 405 Advanced Conversation
PIIE 350 Español Escrito – avanzado	SPAN 302 Advanced Conversation and Composition
PIIE 360/460 Gramática Español para extranjeros – intermedio/avanzado	SPAN 410 Advanced Grammar

The following subject area classes (exclusively for international students) are **typically offered each semester; however, the exact schedule may vary.**

PUCV Course Code, Number, and Title	UW-Eau Claire Equivalency
MUS 084 Danzas tradicionales	DNCE 907 Lower Division Elective
LCL 432 Poesía Latinoamericana contemporánea	SPAN 475 Topics in Latin American Literature
LCL 434 Prácticas y discursos del cuento Latinoamericano	SPAN 475 Topics in Latin American Literature
LCL 523 Narrativa hispanoamericana, siglo XVII y XIX	SPAN 476 The Novel in Latin America I: 1850-1950
LCL 531 Poesía Chilena del siglo XX: Neruda, Parra, Huidobro	SPAN 491 Special Topics
HIS 513 Historia moderna de Chile	HIS 944 Lower Division Elective GE 4 Foreign Culture

HIS 554 Arte y sociedad en Chile prehispánico	ARTH 907 Upper Division Elective
HIS 557 Historia urbana y regional de Valparaíso	HIST 940 Upper Division Elective GE 4
HIS 561 Historia de América Latina en el siglo XX	SPAN 907 Upper Division Elective
PIIE 563 Globalización e integración en Latino América	SPAN 421 Government, Business, and Media in Spain and Latin America
PIIE 564 Migración e interculturalidad en Latino América	GEOG 934 Upper Division Elective GE 3 Foreign Culture
PIIE 565 Estudios de cultura de Chile y Latinoamérica	ANTH 934 Upper Division Elective GE 3 Foreign Culture

Some classes from the regular university curriculum (non-PIIE classes) already have established UW-Eau Claire equivalencies. However, if a class you take does not have an equivalency, one will be established after you register for the course (upon arrival) and report your registration through the UW-Eau Claire online study abroad account. Regular university courses typically of interest to international students include geography, arts, and economics. PUCV also offers courses in agronomy, urbanism, sciences (biology, biochemistry, chemistry, kinesiology, mathematics, physics, and statistics), accounting, business administration, social work, journalism, law, philosophy, education (elementary, special, physical), translation, music, psychology, communication, engineering, computer science, natural resources, and religious sciences. Please note that access to psychology courses is limited to students with an appropriate background in the field, and that law, philosophy, music, and



special education are only offered on a full-year schedule and are thus limited to students studying at PUCV for the calendar year.

### ***Registration at UW-Eau Claire***

All you need to do for registration at UW-Eau Claire is sign the online Payment Plan Agreement (PPA) for the term during which you will be abroad. You will then be registered by the CIE for your term abroad under a placeholder course number (INTA 400) but NOT the specific courses you registered for at PUCV. This “blanket registration” will appear on your billing statements and will be replaced by specific courses once your transcript from PUCV arrives. You do not need to complete any other registration at UW-Eau Claire.

### ***Registration in Valparaíso***

When PUCV international office contacts you to complete the online PUCV application, you will also receive a list of courses that will be available (both regular university courses and those specifically for international students). As part of the PUCV application, you will indicate the classes that you are interested in taking. This is only a pre-registration to help the international office staff gauge demand. It is recommended you list up to 8 classes you are interested in.

Your registration will not be finalized until roughly three weeks after you arrive in Valparaíso. After arrival, you will have the opportunity to visit any and all classes that you are interested in taking to see if you would like to enroll. Once you have decided upon the classes that you will take, the PUCV international office staff will ask you to confirm your registration.

Remember to **keep your syllabi and/or the work that you have done to assist the CIE and department chairs with course equivalencies or substitutions, if necessary.**

### ***Credits and Course Load***

The credit conversion from PUCV credits to UW-Eau Claire credits is one-to-one. Therefore, the number of credits you take at PUCV is the same number that you will receive at UW-Eau Claire once your PUCV transcript is received and processed. You must take at least 12 credits in order to maintain full-time status as a student at UW-Eau Claire. Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and **must be approved in advance by the CIE.**

**PUCV requires all international students to take a minimum of 15 credits.** However, you can request a waiver of this requirement by emailing your UW-Eau Claire Study Abroad Coordinator and asking her to authorize this situation and verify with the PUCV international office staff that you are meeting the minimum credit requirement by taking at least 12 credits.

### ***Course Equivalencies***

You can find a list of previously-established UW-Eau Claire course equivalencies for your host site by going to the Transfer Credit Wizard site on MyBlugold CampS, which can be found on the [Transfer Credit Wizard](#). Once you have reviewed the list of equivalencies for your host site and compared it to your tentative selections, you will want to meet with your UW-Eau Claire academic advisor to discuss how these courses might fit into your UW-Eau Claire academic career. **Be sure to bring a copy of the equivalency list and your degree**

**audit to your host site to assist with registration there.**

Keep in mind that the Transfer Credit Wizard is a historical record of past course equivalencies. **There is no guarantee that the same courses will be offered in the future, or that they will be offered during the term you are abroad.**

Please note that catalog changes at either university may change a previously established equivalency. Examples of such changes would be a change in course title, number or description, one institution dropping the course from their catalog, etc.

Course equivalencies for any courses not yet evaluated by UW-Eau Claire will be done **AFTER** your actual registration at your host site. This saves the Registrar's Office and department chairs hours of evaluating courses that no one actually takes. Please note that you cannot assume that a course you are taking will transfer back in the way you want it to just because the course description sounds similar to a course taught at UW-Eau Claire. All course equivalency decisions are made by UW-Eau Claire department chairs and are not official until the Registrar's Office receives the equivalency.

### ***Reporting your Registration***

As soon as you are registered for classes abroad, **log in to your UW-Eau Claire online study abroad account and complete the Course Descriptions questionnaire.** You will find it at

<http://www.uwec.edu/cie/studyabroad>.

Choose LOGIN from the top toolbar and log in with your UW-Eau Claire username and password. You will need the:

- course title,

- course number,
- description (translated into English, if possible), and
- number of credits

for each of the classes you are taking, IF no equivalency has previously been established.

If no UW-Eau Claire equivalency has been determined for a class that you registered for, the UW-Eau Claire Study Abroad Coordinator will contact the Registrar's Office for an equivalency and let you know what it is. Please note that the equivalency is determined by the chair of the appropriate department, and that the process of determining an equivalency can take 2-3 weeks. Because of the time involved, department chairs will only evaluate courses students are actually taking abroad. **In other words, you will not be able to have equivalencies established for 3 or 4 courses so that you can choose which one you wish to take.**

### ***Grades & Transcripts***

Grades are assigned by the professors at PUCV according to the Chilean system. A PUCV transcript with Chilean grades is sent to UW-Eau Claire, roughly two months after the end of the semester. Because this is later than the end of the UW-Eau Claire semester, your MyBlugold CampS account will initially indicate "NR" (not reported). This will be changed once the transcript arrives. **If you are a senior studying abroad for your last semester, you will need to delay your graduation by one semester following your return from Chile.**

The grades and credits from your time abroad will appear on your UW-Eau Claire transcript, converted into the UW-Eau Claire system. The grade conversion scale is as follows:

PUCV Grade	UWEC Equivalent
6.0-7	A
5.0-5.9	B
4.0-4.9	C
0-3.9	F

**Note: UW-Eau Claire students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail, and that grades from PUCV are figured into your UW-Eau Claire GPA.**

### ***Foreign Language Immersion Requirement***

This program fulfills the immersion requirement for Spanish or Latin American Studies majors and minors.

### ***Academic System***

The Chilean academic system operates differently than that of the U.S. Unlike in the U.S., Chilean students are not typically given many small, graded assignments throughout the semester. Instead, they are largely graded based on periodic and/or cumulative exams and papers. It is also not uncommon for exams to be given orally. You also may be expected to do a fair amount of reading outside of class to keep up with the course content. These readings will not necessarily be assigned. It is up to YOU to make sure that you are following along with the lectures and readings so that you can do well on exams and papers.

Chilean professors will not hold office hours, as professors in the U.S. do. If you need to speak with one of your professors, you must do so before or after class.

Another difference to note is that “student services” are a relatively unknown concept. The university is there to provide access to academic resources. It does not have the

mission, common to most U.S. institutions, of “student development.” University students are considered adults who will work their way through the system, asking questions when necessary. As a newcomer to the system and the culture, you will find it necessary to ask questions often!

## **MONEY MATTERS**

*Information about how payments are made, when they are due, the withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### ***Cost Estimate***

You can find the most current cost estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the [CIE Chile webpage](#). Be sure you are looking at the correct term. Remember that the cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, what you pay to the host university, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

### ***Personal Travel***

The amount spent on personal travel varies greatly from student to student. Consider both your budget and your priorities. Students who want to be involved in their host community generally spend less time (and money) traveling. Others travel every weekend with correspondingly high costs and fewer close connections in their new home.

### ***Currency Exchange***

The currency of Chile is the Chilean Peso. There are six peso coins, issued in amounts of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, and 500. Banknotes are issued in denominations of 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, and 20,000. Inflation over the decades has led



to the issuance of these large Peso banknotes. As of June 12, 2017, the exchange rate from the U.S. dollar to the Chilean Peso was 1 USD = 663 Chilean Pesos (CLP). You can find current exchange rates at

<https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

When observing prices and numbers in Chile, you will note that where the comma is used in the U.S., Chileans use a period and vice versa. For example, if an item costs one thousand Pesos, it will be noted as 1.000, not 1,000.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

*In addition to the scholarships listed in your Study Abroad Handbook, the following may also apply:*

### ***Hilda Belle Oxby Scholarship***

Advanced students of Latin American Studies or Spanish, with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.5 in Spanish are eligible to apply. Contact the Foreign Languages Department for application details. This scholarship generally has a March deadline.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

*Additional information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### ***Medical Facilities in Valparaíso***

If you have an accident or become ill while studying at PUCV, you may go to any medical center or hospital and must pay the price corresponding to the service up front. You must then file a claim through CISI, the

insurance provided through the UW System for partial or full reimbursement in accordance with plan coverages.

PUCV has a student medical center and free dental care\* as well as agreements with most major medical centers for emergency assistance.

*\*Please note that dental care is not available to international students.*

### **Unidad de Beneficios (UBE) Medical Center**

Yungay # 2872, Segundo Piso, Valparaíso

Phone: 2274106 or 2274111 [ube@ucv.cl](mailto:ube@ucv.cl)

This unit provides basic medical and dental care to PUCV students.

#### *Hours of Operation*

Medical Service

Monday – Thursday 9 am – 5:30 pm

Friday 9 am – 4 pm

Dental Care

Monday – Friday 9 am -12 pm / 2 pm - 4 pm

To request an appointment, please contact Macarena Moya directly in her office (International Program Office) or to [macarena.moya@pucv.cl](mailto:macarena.moya@pucv.cl)

### **Private Health Centers and Clinics**

Clínica Valparaíso

Avenida Brasil # 2350, Valparaíso

Phone: 2268100

Instituto Nacional del Trabajo (IST)

Alvarez #662, Viña del Mar

Phone: 2262000

Clínica Reñaca

Anabaena #336, Jardín del Mar, Viña del Mar

Phone: 2658000

Clínica Ciudad del Mar  
13 Norte #635, Viña del Mar  
Phone: 2451000

### Other Medical Centers

Hospital Carlos Van Buren  
San Ignacio # 725, Valparaíso  
Phone: 204000

Hospital Dr. Gustavo Fricke  
Alvarez # 1532, Viña del Mar  
Phone: 675067

Hospital Almirante Nef (Naval)  
Subida Alessandri s/n, Viña del Mar  
Phone: 573000

Clínica Avansalud  
13 Norte # 635, Viña del Mar  
Phone: 451000

### Emergency Contacts

General emergency procedures are described in the Study Abroad Handbook and PUCV staff are available if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at your program group meeting in November; be sure to keep it in your wallet at all times. This information is also on the *Contact Names and Addresses* page of this guide.

### 911 Equivalent in Chile

If you are in an emergency situation in Chile, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. The local equivalents to the 911 emergency line **in Chile are 131 for ambulance, 132 for fire, and 133 for police.** Save these numbers in your cell phone in case you need to use them quickly.

The U.S. State Department also provides a list of [911 numbers abroad](#). Plan ahead and research numbers before you go.

### Safety in Chile

Safety in and around Valparaíso will be discussed during orientation in Chile. For specific information on crime and road safety, see the [Chile Consular Information website](#). If you are the victim of a crime or if you are arrested abroad, get in touch with the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy. U.S. consular offices will do what they can to help U.S. citizens in serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties. They can often direct you to a reliable doctor or clinic, help you contact family, or re-issue your passport.

### Earthquakes and Tsunamis

The majority of the west coast of South America is vulnerable to earthquakes, and therefore potential tsunamis. The Peru-Chile Trench delineates the meeting of two large tectonic plates, which sometimes rupture and release large amounts of energy. This release of energy results in earthquakes and sometimes tsunamis.

Valparaíso is a coastal city and therefore particularly vulnerable not only to earthquakes, but also tsunamis. If you are in a university building during an earthquake, follow the recommendations below:

#### During an earthquake:

- Stay calm
- Do not use an elevator or try to evacuate the building
- Distance yourself from glass, bookcases, and partitions that could fall
- If you are next to a door, open it

- If it is not possible to access a secure area, try to find a corner or a firm counter under which to take shelter and cover your head
- Do not attempt to rescue any objects
- Remain alert to gas leaks, pipe breaks, and short circuits
- Do not leave the premises immediately; wait until the earthquake stops

#### After an earthquake:

- Note that after an earthquake, there will be aftershocks
- Identify evacuation routes; follow evacuation signs placed visibly in each area
- Proceed without running down hallways, stairs, and patios and head to the outside of the building
- Never use the elevator
- Do not light matches, candles, or other objects that create the risk of fire or explosion
- Pay attention to obstacles
- When leaving the building, use caution as there could be falling objects
- After evacuation, do not re-enter the building until receiving express permission from university authorities

#### Regarding risk of a tsunami:

- The following campus locations carry no risk: Curauma, Sausalito, Institutos de Historia y Arte, Arquitectura y Diseño (Recreo), Alimentos, Institutos de Matemática y Estadística e Instituto de Música, Ingeniería Mecánica y Agronomía
- If you are in Esc. de Ciencias del Mar, Instituto Ciencias Religiosas, or Ritoque, evacuate immediately due to the fact that it will take 20 minutes to get to an

outdoor location with an elevation of at least 20 meters

- If you are in Facultad de Ingeniería, IBC, Rubén Castro, Gimpert or Casa Central, keep the following in mind:
  - You have 20 minutes to get to an outdoor location with an elevation of at least 20 meters; do not use a motorized vehicle for any reason
  - Estimate the amount of time it will take to get out of the building and access a safe area
  - If you think the suggested evacuation route will take more than 20 minutes, go to the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> floor of a building of at least that height
  - Do not return to at-risk areas until the tsunami alert is lifted

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

*Passport information is included in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### Visa

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. The CIE will post basic information about the current visa options for U.S. citizens for study in Chile to the Learning Content section of your online study abroad account during the semester prior to departure. **However, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date about student visa requirements for Chile, and if required, to apply for and receive a visa from**

a **Chilean consulate or embassy in a timely manner.** Please read the “Visa” section of your Study Abroad Handbook for more information about what you should do to keep up-to-date on visa requirements.

## PACKING TIPS

*In addition to the general packing information in your Study Abroad Handbook, you should know the following about Chile.*

### ***Clothing and Climate***

Keep in mind that since Chile is in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are opposite those in the United States. If you are arriving to Chile in February, it will be late summer. If you arriving in July, it will be the middle of winter. Winter in Valparaíso is not as cold as in the Midwest, but since central heating is uncommon and it rains frequently, the damp cold can feel much cooler than the actual temperature. Average highs from December to February are around 70 degrees Fahrenheit and around 50 degrees Fahrenheit from June to August. Average lows from December to February are around 55 degrees Fahrenheit and around 45 degrees Fahrenheit from June to August.

Chileans generally dress less casually than the average American, but the style of dress is similar. Students generally wear jeans to class, but they dress them up with a nice blazer or sweater, or shirt and nice shoes. Chilean students also commonly wear leggings, sweaters, and sweatshirts.

### ***What to Pack***

Your peer advisor will give you a suggested packing list at Orientation, Part 2.

### ***Appliances***

The standard electric current in Chile is 220 volts. U.S. appliances, such as hair dryers and razors, run on 120 volts. If you plan to bring these appliances, you will need to buy **both a converter and a plug adapter.** If you plan to bring your laptop abroad, check the power cord to see acceptable voltage inputs and outputs. If it includes 220 volts, you will only need to use a plug adapter, not a voltage converter.

## ARRIVING IN CHILE

### ***Travel Arrangements***

It is your responsibility to make international travel arrangements to Santiago, Chile and to arrive at Aeropuerto Arturo Merino Benitez (SCL) on the official arrival date. **If you arrive on any other day, it is your responsibility to take a bus to Valparaíso.**

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Study Abroad Handbook.

### ***Getting to Valparaíso***

Transportation from Santiago to Valparaíso is provided by PUCV, which will send a bus to the airport on the official arrival date. A staff member from PUCV will be there to greet you and show you where all of the other international students are waiting. Sergio Garcia, the Housing Coordinator at PUCV, will be in contact with you via email about your flight arrival details prior to the arrival date. You must provide your arrival details to him prior to the official arrival date if you wish to take the bus provided by PUCV. If you plan to arrive before or after the official arrival date, PUCV can assist with pick up arrangements,

but you will be charged an additional fee for this service. If you experience any delays or changes to your arrival flight, you will need to contact Sergio about the changes in order to still be picked up at the airport – otherwise you will be responsible for your own transportation to Valparaíso.

If you miss the group transportation from Santiago to Valparaíso, you can travel to Valparaíso independently by bus. Every 15 minutes, shuttle buses leave from the Santiago international airport and bring passengers to one of the main bus stations in Santiago, *Pajaritos*. This shuttle bus costs between 2,000 and 2,800 Chilean pesos (about USD \$5). From the *Pajaritos* station, look for a bus company that provides service to Valparaíso/Viña del Mar, keeping in mind the following:

- You can purchase a ticket at the window of the company you choose; the most well-known companies are TUR-BUS, PULLMAN BUS, and LINEA AZUL.
- Fares generally range from 5,000 to 7000 Chilean pesos (about USD \$7-11).
- When the attendant asks where you will get off, say that you will get off at the “**Terminal de Buses**” in the city of your destination (Valparaíso or Viña del Mar).
- From the “**Terminal de Buses**,” you can take a taxi to your housing/host family, which costs about 4,000 Chilean pesos (about USD \$7).

## SETTLING IN

### *Orientation/Placement Test*

The day after you arrive, you will begin a week-long orientation program. Typically during the first day, you will receive information about

classes, take the written portion of your Spanish placement test, learn about living and studying in Chile, and take a tour of the main PUCV building, *Casa Central*. On the second day, you will learn about registering your visa and take the oral portion of your Spanish placement test. Then later in the week, the PUCV international office staff will provide you with information about how to get your Chilean “*cédula de identidad*”, course registration, picture-taking, and getting to know your fellow international students.

### *Host Families*

You will live with a host family. The families involved in hosting come in all shapes and sizes, two parents with several children, a widow and her child, an older couple whose children are on their own, a single woman, etc. Most of them have had students for years; some will be hosting for the first time.

Living with a host family offers students a more authentic way to interact with Chilean culture and society. Each family has characteristics that make it unique: composition, activities, religion, and cultural habits, among others. The family agrees to receive you as the student and integrate you into their activities as if you were a member of the family. Therefore, you should make an effort to participate in family gatherings, outings, and celebrations.

Staying with a host family includes:

- A single, furnished room
- Bedding
- Laundry
- Shared bathroom (with the rest of the family)
- Access to the kitchen
- Internet access

- Three meals daily, provided by the family

### **Family Placement**

Family assignments are made by the international office at PUCV. You will be notified of your placement directly by the PUCV international office via email, usually about one month prior to arrival in Chile.

Family selection is done taking into account the preferences of both the student and the family. Once an assignment is made, information about the family is sent to the student and that of the student to the family, so that the family can prepare for the student's arrival. Once you are placed with a host family, it is a good idea to connect with them via email or Facebook in order to introduce yourself and discuss the details of your arrival. The university will also communicate with your host family regarding your arrival in Valparaíso and arrange for the family to pick you up at *Casa Central*, the main university building and location of the PUCV international office, after taking the bus from Santiago.

### **Meals and Food**

You will receive three meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Remember that you are a guest (even if a paying one) in your family's home, and that it is not a hotel situation. Do not insist on being able to do things as you would in your own home. This is particularly important when it comes to food customs. Be prepared for the following:

- Lunch is the largest meal of the day and is eaten around 2:30 pm. It usually involves sitting with the whole family, talking for a good amount of time, and resting afterwards.

- Dinner ("once") is eaten no earlier than 8:00 pm, usually later (especially on weekends). Portions are much smaller than a typical American dinner.
- The refrigerator is often off-limits, and between-meal snacking is less common than it is in the U.S. You may get hungry between meals, especially at the beginning. **Snacks are your own responsibility: go to the supermarket and buy some snacks or fruit that you can carry with you to school.**
- If you know you will miss a meal, let your family know and ask how you should handle the situation.

### **Public Transportation**

Host families and university buildings are scattered throughout the Valparaíso and Viña del Mar region, so you will become accustomed to using public transportation to get to class, meet up with friends, and generally get around.

Public buses are referred to as *micros*, and a trip typically costs 300 to 450 pesos. *Micros* have many routes throughout the area and will take you almost anywhere you need to go. PUCV will give you a student discount paper which grants free trips on the *micro*, but past students have reported that not all *micro* drivers will accept it.

A past student reported, "*There is a bus schedule posted online but I highly doubt that it is correct. The buses are always late and early and everywhere in between. I would suggest ALWAYS giving yourself an extra 10 minutes to go anywhere. The best way to know when the*



*buses run, how late, and where they go is to ask people, on the street or at home."*

The subway/train system in Valparaíso and Viña del Mar is referred to as the *metro*. Students, including international students, can apply for a student *metro* card, which reduces the fare to about 150 pesos per trip. Although the *metro* may be cheaper and faster than taking a *micro*, the *metro* only has one route (between Valparaíso and Viña del Mar), where *micro*s have many. Once you arrive in Chile, PUCV staff and your host family will help you figure out how to navigate the public transportation system.

In addition to taking buses and trains, you might find it necessary to take a taxi on occasion. Chile has shared taxis, called *colectivos*, which generally travel a specific route and will pick up passengers anywhere along that route. If you hail a *colectivo*, there may already be passengers in the car going to a destination along the route, or the driver might pick up other passengers along the way. Past students report that *colectivos* typically cost roughly 400 pesos per person, depending upon the distance to your destination. There are also traditional taxis in Chile, which cost significantly more than *colectivos*. Past students report that it is easy to be overcharged for taking a taxi, especially if you are not a local. Always ask the driver how much the fare will be before getting in.

### **Volunteering**

One of the most enriching experiences during your stay in Chile can be volunteering. International students have the opportunity to collaborate with different governmental and non-governmental organizations through volunteer work during their time at PUCV. It is

important to note that these activities do NOT carry academic credit through PUCV.

However, you may apply to complete your service-learning requirement through UW-Eau Claire. For more information, visit [www.uwec.edu/sl](http://www.uwec.edu/sl). Volunteer opportunities in Valparaíso and Viña del Mar include:

**Hogar de Cristo:** Through the "Programa Calle," volunteers deliver food and warm clothes to homeless individuals during the night in both Valparaíso and Viña del Mar. [www.hogardecristo.cl](http://www.hogardecristo.cl)

**Biblioteca Libro Alegre:** Reinforce reading habits, healthy eating, and provide support for at-risk children.

**Programa de Intervención Breve (PIB):** Work with children from 0 to 5 years on the process of reinforcing self-esteem and good school habits; children participating in this program have suffered or are vulnerable to domestic violence and/or bullying.

**MINEDUC Chile's Ministry of Education – Programa El Inglés Abre Puertas:** Reinforce and support English teachers in the classroom. The program works with *Enseñanza Básica y Media* and *Liceos Municipalizados* in Viña del Mar and Valparaíso. Volunteers do not teach class, but the idea is to motivate and incentivize children speaking English through activities like theatre, debate, and singing.

**SONRÍE:** Sonríe, an institution dedicated to development and implementation of community action projects, offers exchange students the opportunity to participate in one of three projects currently underway – *Comedor Puente Cancha*, *Carrusel*, y *Forestito* – projects that are intended to give volunteers the

opportunity to share with young Chilean students dedicated to working towards social change.

**Taller de Acción Comunitaria (TAC):** Work in at-risk schools in the hills of the Andes mountains and surrounding areas. TAC has a “Casa Comunitaria” where the majority of activities take place. Volunteers support the work of teachers at *la Escuela San Luis* located in *Cerro Alegre* and help develop artistic skills in children and youth. This group relies solely on volunteers who have been participants at TAC as children and outsiders who believe in their mission. They create awareness of the environment, recycle, maintain a garden, have a library to encourage reading, tutor subjects with which children are having difficulties, and paint murals around the neighborhood.

### **Activities**

PUCV arranges a language exchange for those students wishing to participate. Language exchanges are voluntary activities that bring together Chilean and international students from PUCV in groups of 5 or 6 to practice Spanish (for the international students) and English (for the Chilean students). Groups meet at least one hour per week, spending half the time speaking Spanish and half speaking English. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know other cultures, students, and practice Spanish with a native speaker.

There are also many cultural activities available to students in the Valparaíso and Viña del Mar areas, including arts & crafts, movies, exercise (including yoga, Pilates, salsa dancing, running, CrossFit, Zumba, soccer, basketball, rugby, and aquatic sports), music, workshops, theatre, art exhibits, and museums.

## **COMMUNICATION**

*Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address is in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### **Time Difference**

The local time in Valparaíso can be either one or two hours ahead of Eau Claire, depending upon Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. To see the current time in Valparaíso, visit <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/chile/valparaiso>.

### **Email/Internet**

You will have access to the Internet at your host family's home. PUCV also has a small computer lab that is exclusively for international students, but it is only open during the day. Many restaurants and cafés have wireless Internet for customers, and there are dozens of *locutorios*, businesses that charge a small fee for use of telephones and computers, throughout the city. The city of Valparaíso also offers free wireless access in many public areas of the city.

*A past student reported: "It's actually required by the program that your host family has Internet at your house so I would recommend bringing your laptop with you. I needed it for writing papers for a few of my classes. Everyone I know here has wireless Internet as well. The computer labs at the school are easy to access and are in pretty much in every building so you could survive without a computer. I rarely bring my laptop to school out of convenience and safety."*

## Snail Mail

International airmail can take 10 days or more in either direction. Packages usually take at least two weeks, and sending from Chile can take longer than receiving in Chile.

## Telephone Information

Phone lines in Chile are more expensive than in the U.S. The bills that your host family receives are not itemized like they are in the U.S., so if you were to make phone calls from their landline (*teléfono fijo*), the family would not be able to bill you for them because they wouldn't know what to charge you. Discuss with your family whether they will allow you to use the house phone to call home or not. Plan on making all of your local calls from *locutorios* or using a cell phone, if you decide to get one. Normally, incoming calls do not have a charge associated (even international calls), but check first with your host family about how much and when they will allow you to use the phone.

### From the U.S. to Chile:

If you want to call someone in Chile before you arrive, you must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you dial 56, the country code for Chile, then 32, the city code for both Valparaíso and Viña del Mar, and the rest of the number.

### From Chile to the U.S.:

To phone home while you are abroad, you will most likely use phone cards through a landline (at your host family's home, if they allow it, or a *locutorio*) OR use a cell phone that you purchase in Chile. There are many forms of phone cards that you can purchase, so you will want to look around for the best value, and make sure that the card you purchase works to call the U.S.

Phone cards are sold at most of the newspaper stands (*kioskos*) located throughout the area. Ask for a *tarjeta telefónica for llamadas internacionales*. Instructions for these cards are located on the back.

## Cell Phones

Cell phones are very popular in Chile, especially for texting. Some past participants have found it economical and convenient to purchase cell phones for their time abroad. If you think you might be interested, stop in a cell phone store for more information. These stores are located throughout the Valpo/Viña area.

Past participants report that phones were usually around \$20 and that they used about \$20 worth of calling/texting credit while abroad. Calling from a cell phone can be expensive; however, texting is quick and cheap. If you have a smartphone or iPod touch with Internet access, you can also download one of the many free texting apps (like WhatsApp) to keep in touch with family and friends in the U.S. and Chile.

If you have a cell phone that uses a SIM card here in the U.S., contact your phone company to see if you can bring your phone to Chile and buy a Chilean SIM card.

## Skype/Facebook Chat

Past students recommend Skype and Facebook chat for keeping in touch with friends and family. Skype is free to download and allows you to make calls through the Internet (using a computer or smartphone). You can use Skype to call landlines for a small per-minute fee, or you can talk for free with someone using Skype on their own computer or device.

### ***Courteous Communication***

If Skyping in your host family's house, close the door to your room, speak softly and/or use headphones, and end the conversation immediately if it is time for a meal.

## **CULTURAL NOTES**

### ***A Brief History of Chile***

Before Europeans arrived, Chile was inhabited by several tribes of indigenous peoples, including the Inca in the north and the Araucanian tribes in the south. In 1520, Ferdinand Magellan was the first European to see Chile. In 1540, Pedro de Valdivia, a Spanish conquistador, came to Chile where he founded several cities, despite resistance from the Araucanians. One of the cities he founded was Santiago, which is now Chile's capitol and largest city. In 1553, the Native Americans led several successful revolts against the Spanish conquerors, killing Valdivia and devastating most of the cities he founded. This led to nearly 100 years of warfare. Eventually the Spanish dominated, but even then strife and conflicts continued for many more years.

In 1808 when Spain was seized by Napoleon, the Chileans saw an opportunity to gain independence. On September 18, 1810, Chile declared independence, beginning a long war. Eventually Chile was able to defeat Spain and Bernardo O'Higgins became Chile's first leader. Despite finally winning its independence, Chile experienced several changes of government. Many of these changes were caused by coups by the military and civil wars, though none as severe as in other Latin American countries. Despite these problems, the government enacted many changes that have enabled Chile

to become one of the most economically developed countries in South America.

In 1879 the Chilean military seized the Bolivian port of Antofagasta, claiming that the land was theirs. This led to a war with Bolivia and its ally Peru. Chile came out victorious, which gave it control over considerable territory, cut Bolivia off from the Pacific Ocean, and gave Chile control over some of the world's biggest nitrate and copper mines.

Salvador Allende Gossens, a Marxist, was elected president in 1970, making Chile the first Latin American country to vote in communism. This move led to political and economic disaster. The unrest caused by his rule eventually led to a military takeover of the government.

On September 11, 1973, Augusto Pinochet Ugarte assumed power in Chile through a military coup. Pinochet immediately suspended the constitution, enforced strict censorship, banned all political parties, and dissolved Congress. During his time as leader, the country was kept in a state of emergency and the military tightly controlled the people. Thousands were arrested, executed, exiled, or kept in prisons, while many people simply disappeared. But the Pinochet government helped the struggling Chilean economy and improved education, giving Chile one of the highest literacy rates in Latin America. Due to this, the people of Chile are much divided in their opinions about his rule. In 1989 Pinochet allowed a vote on his leadership, was defeated, and the government was returned back to the people.

Chile is now a republic with a stable government and economy. The current

president is Michelle Bachelet, who became Chile's first female president. She first served as president from 2006 to 2010. Her current term started in March 2014. The legislative branch is made up of a Chamber of Deputies (similar to our House of Representatives) and a Senate. The highest court of the country is the Supreme Court. The country is divided into 15 political divisions called regions (which are like states in the U.S., only with much less political power).

<http://www.chocklydigital.com/portfolio/Chile/history.html>

### ***Government***

The central government of Chile is a representative democratic republic. Chileans elect a president, who is both head of state and the head of government. Legislative power is shared by the central government and both chambers (Senate and Chamber of Deputies) of the National Congress. Judicial power is independent of the executive and legislative branches. Valparaíso is the seat of the national legislature. The latest version of Chile's constitution was adopted in 1980, during the Pinochet regime, and was last amended in 2011.

## WEB RESOURCES: CHILE

University	City	Country
<b>Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso</b> <a href="http://www.pucv.cl/">http://www.pucv.cl/</a>	<b>About Valparaíso</b> <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valparaíso">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valparaíso</a>	<b>About Chile</b> <a href="http://www.lonelyplanet.com/chile">http://www.lonelyplanet.com/chile</a> <a href="http://www.lonelyplanet.com/chile/valparaíso">http://www.lonelyplanet.com/chile/valparaíso</a>
<b>International Programs Site</b> <a href="http://www.pucv.cl/pucv/site/educ/base/port/pucv_internacional.html">http://www.pucv.cl/pucv/site/educ/base/port/pucv_internacional.html</a>	<b>Things to do in Valparaíso</b> <a href="http://www.ciudaddevalparaíso.cl/turismo.html">http://www.ciudaddevalparaíso.cl/turismo.html</a>	<b>CIA World Factbook</b> <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ci.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ci.html</a>
<b>PUCV Campus Guide</b> <a href="http://www.dri.pucv.cl/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Gu%C3%ADa-del-Campus-Curauma-2013.pdf">http://www.dri.pucv.cl/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Gu%C3%ADa-del-Campus-Curauma-2013.pdf</a>		<b>Chile's Official Website</b> <a href="https://www.thisischile.cl/?lang=en">https://www.thisischile.cl/?lang=en</a>



## CONTACT NAMES & ADDRESSES: CHILE

GENERAL UW-EAU CLAIRE & CISI CONTACT INFORMATION IS IN YOUR STUDY ABROAD HANDBOOK.

### *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV)*

Programas Internacionales  
Casa Central PUCV  
Avenida Brasil 2950  
Valparaíso, Chile  
Tel: + 56-32-2-273-256  
Fax: + 56-32-2-273-446  
Office hours: Mon – Thurs 9:00am- 6:00pm  
Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Carolina Elgueta  
International Programs General Coordinator  
(Incoming Students)  
[carolina.elgueta@ucv.cl](mailto:carolina.elgueta@ucv.cl)

Ivania Yáñez  
International Student Advisor  
(Incoming Students from UWEC)  
[ivania.yanez@pucv.cl](mailto:ivania.yanez@pucv.cl)

Macarena Moya  
International Student Advisor / Emergency  
Contact  
[macarena.moya@ucv.cl](mailto:macarena.moya@ucv.cl)  
Tel: + 56 32 2 273222  
Cell phone (emergencies only):  
+ 56-09-9-9682464

### *UW-Eau Claire*

Cheryl Lochner-Wright  
Study Abroad Coordinator  
[lochnebc@uwec.edu](mailto:lochnebc@uwec.edu)  
3 Schofield Hall  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Phone: (715) 836-4411  
Fax: (715) 836-4948

### *Other Resources*

The US Department of State offers useful  
travel information on the "Students Abroad"  
section of their website:  
<http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>

### *US Embassy in Santiago*

Avenida Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes  
Santiago, Chile  
Telephone: +(56)(2) 2330-3000  
Emergency After-Hours Telephone:  
+(56)(2) 2330-3000  
Fax: +(56)(2) 2330-3710  
<https://cl.usembassy.gov/>  
[santiagoamcit@state.gov](mailto:santiagoamcit@state.gov)

We suggest that you copy this page and leave it with your emergency contact  
and/or parents.

# ***WHAT PAST PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID ABOUT THEIR TIME IN VALPARAÍSO***

*"This was the most incredible experience I've ever had!! Not only did I become fluent in Spanish but I also learned a lot more about the Chilean culture and the Latino culture in general. I learned so much more by living in a foreign country for 5 months than I ever could in a university here in the United States!" –*

*Caitlin, Fall 2014*

*"Incredible. I don't ever want to leave!" – Holly, Spring 2014*

*"Life-changing." – Mackenzie, Spring 2014*

