Program: CIEE Liberal Arts in Santiago, Fall

Samantha’s Majors: Spanish, Economics

Academic Life: Although it was possible to take classes at all three universities, I chose to take three classes at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, and one through CIEE. My PUC courses included a short stories class that was for Chilean students (and some international students), as well as a women studies class and a Chilean history class that was only for international students. My CIEE class was advanced Spanish grammar and was only for American students in my particular program. The classroom setting in all of my classes was comparable to my courses at UW Madison, with the small exception of them all being taught in Spanish.

Advice To Someone Considering Chile: I would say to take advantage of all the outdoor opportunities that Chile has to offer. During my time abroad I was able to swim in the ocean, climb countless foothills, and hike through Patagonia, all while living in a huge metropolitan city. The country is incredibly diverse in its climates and overall environments. You have five months to do all of the adventures that you’ve always dreamt of doing.

One Tip For Others Interested In Studying Abroad: One tip for future students studying abroad would be to realize that every single day won’t be worthy of an Instagram post. In Santiago, I lived with a host family, so a lot of times after classes I would come home, eat dinner with my host parents, and then work on homework. It might sound mundane and uninteresting, but that’s one of the best things about studying abroad: the fact that you spend five months making a life in another country. My advice is to accept this and not obsess over whether or not you’re wasting your time abroad. You’re not. Enjoy it.