This program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in partnership with the Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Throughout the course of your study abroad experience you will be communicating with both IAP and CIEE staff. It is essential that you pay close attention to all information provided to you from both organizations. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from CIEE as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

CIEE handles the program’s day-to-day operations. Generally, questions about aspects of your program abroad should be directed to CIEE (e.g., program housing options, program facilities abroad, cultural tours offered as part of the program, etc.) Questions relating to your relationship with UW-Madison or your academics should be addressed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison (e.g., course credits, equivalents, UW Madison registration, etc.)

This program handbook contains the following information:

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Contact Information
On-Site Program Information
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UW-Madison Information  
International Academic Programs (IAP)  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
250 Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: (608) 265-6329 FAX: (608) 262-6998  
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

Erin Polnaszek  
IAP Student Study Abroad Advisor  
Phone: (608)-265-6329  
E-mail: eepolnaszek@bascom.wisc.edu

Emergency Contact Information  
UW-Madison Students: In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Embassy Registration  
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register online at: https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

U.S. Embassy in Santiago, Chile  
Avenida Andrés Bello 2800  
Las Condes  
Santiago, Chile  
Phone: (562) 330-3000  
Fax: (562) 330-3710  
Email: santiagoAmcit@state.gov  
Web: http://www.usembassy.cl

Program Dates (1st Semester 2011)  
Student Arrival February 16, 2011  
Orientation February 16 – 18  
Move into Homestay February 18
Program Ends (tentative)       July 12, 2011

Exam dates are tentative and the program end date will correspond with the exam schedule. This date may change.

There will be a group pick up at the Santiago airport (SCL) approximately at 10:30AM on February 16th. The exact time will be available in the final mailing from CIEE one month prior to departure. Should students arrive after the pick up time it is their responsibility to make their way to the orientation hotel by 12 noon on February 16.

The Orientation Hotel address is:
Rent a Home
Santa Magdalena 82
Providencia
Santiago, Chile
Tel: 011-56-2-231-0393

**Preparation Before Leaving**

Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist on pages four and five of the Wisconsin IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

**Immigration Documents**

**Passport**

A passport is needed to travel to Chile and to obtain your student visa. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website ([http://travel.state.gov/passport](http://travel.state.gov/passport)). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

**Visa**

You are required to obtain a student visa to enter Chile. Even if you plan on only staying a semester, you should apply for a year-long visa as the visa extension process in Santiago is long and difficult. In order to complete your visa application, you must first apply for an FBI background check. CIEE will provide you with forms and instructions for the FBI background check and the visa application.

**Insurance:**

Please refer to your IAP Study Abroad Handbook that outlines the CISI insurance coverage for all UW-Madison students participating on a UW-Madison study abroad program.

**Inoculations and Health Preparations**

Please refer to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s website ([www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)) and speak to your healthcare provider about possible inoculations.
UHS can provide immunizations and recommendations. Please plan in advance when making an appointment. For more information: [http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/).

Please consult your doctor before departure on the proper medical precautions to take for Chile and any surrounding countries you may wish to visit. If you are planning on traveling in rural areas of Chile or locations outside Chile, consult the CDC website to make sure the area where you are going is not a high-risk for dengue, malaria, Yellow Fever, or other insect-borne diseases. Bring diarrhea pills and iodine tablets if possible.

If you do have special health needs or health concerns, be sure to talk to your healthcare provider and get any medical instructions for your study abroad session in writing. If you are carrying prescription drugs with you to Chile you must have an explanation in writing from your physician regarding content and reasons for the drug. Request that your prescriptions are written for the generic (non-brand name) form. Most therapeutic and non-prescription drugs (as well as some which require a prescription in the United States) are readily and cheaply available in Chile.

Be prepared for pollution. One of Santiago's less pleasant features is smog, induced by its many diesel buses and automobiles. The smog may give you some respiratory irritation. Eye, ear, nose and throat problems might also occur during particularly bad days. If you wear contact lenses you might want to replace them with glasses on those days. If you have respiratory concerns (including asthma), consult your physician for special health tips before leaving the country.

If you wear contact lenses, bring an extra pair, as they are expensive in Chile. For reasons noted above, you should also bring glasses. Regular glasses cost about the same as in the United States. In any case, bring a typewritten copy of your prescription along.

**Dental Checkup**
Have a dental check-up before you leave. A dental problem in Santiago could be annoying, inconvenient, and expensive since dental care is not usually covered by health insurance.

**Packing**

**Clothing**
In reference to style, Chileans are all different. Some dress in nicer clothing and others dress in a more informal style. You will encounter people of all styles, comparable to the United States.

The climate in Santiago is typically dry and warm in the summer and cold and rainy in the winter (June, July and August). During the Chilean winter (June, July and August), you will need clothes which would be suitable for the colder, rainier fall weather in the Midwest; temperatures may fall below freezing. Most buildings and houses in Santiago do not have indoor heating, which makes winters quite uncomfortable if you have not packed warm sweaters and long underwear. Warm clothes for the winter are a must. A rain coat or overcoat and an umbrella are essential to your comfort in the winter. During the remaining months you will need lighter clothes like those you would wear in the late spring or summer at home.
Santiago also has numerous second-hand clothing shops. These are inexpensive and offer an alternative to carrying a lot of clothing with you. There are several near the Campus Oriente and also on Bandera and Providencia Streets around Manuel Montt Station.

Good shoes are important as you will do a lot of walking in Santiago. Bring sturdy, comfortable walking shoes, sandals (which can double as slippers), and running shoes if you jog.

Even if you have never camped out, you may want to do this in Chile, and students may find knapsacks or daypacks, sleeping bags, and canteens very worthwhile. Sturdy hiking clothes are advisable for travel outside of Santiago, especially if you travel off the beaten track. A down jacket, heavy jeans, and hiking boots will all be useful. Traveling and camping gear including a Swiss army knife, some gallon-sized Ziploc bags, and a small flashlight with extra batteries are also recommended. Your daypack can also be used in Santiago for carrying books and papers to class.

**Prescriptions and Cosmetics**
Take copies of your prescriptions, written for the generic (non-brand) name, with you. Remember to carry on all prescription medicine with you in your carry-on. You can buy a wide range of cosmetics and obtain prescription drugs in Santiago. If you are particular about a specific brand, you may want to take a sufficient supply for your time abroad. Feminine hygiene products are more expensive in Chile than in the United States. If you prefer a specific brand, you may want to take enough with you for the time you will be abroad.

**Books**
Books written in or translated to the English language may be difficult to find in Chile; however, there are bookstores in Providencia that sell books in English. If you want to read books in English while abroad you might want to bring a few paperbacks with you to trade with friends. It is, however, a good idea to take this semester/year and try to immerse yourself in the language thoroughly by reading only in Spanish.

**Gifts**
You should plan on taking several gifts appropriate for different ages and genders for your host family. Most Chileans appreciate things from the United States, such as T-shirts with American sayings. Anything identified with your university or hometown will be appreciated, such as charm or key ring with the university seal or a small stuffed animal. Other suggestions include colorful stationery or postcards (perhaps with scenes of the United States), or CDs with the latest American music. While these are good suggestions, they are likely to enjoy any gift that you personally choose.

**Illegal Drugs**
In regards to drug penalties in Chile, the U.S. Department of State ([www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)) describes: "Penalties for possession, use and trafficking in illegal drugs in Chile are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines".
Electronics
In Chile, electric current is 220 Volt with 50 cycles (compare this to the United States where we have 110 Volt with 60 cycles). This makes electrical appliances impossible to use without a transformer and a conversion plug. It is not recommended that you take any appliances with a motor as the motor will work slower than it was made to do. Small appliances will all be available in Chile, and prices are comparable to those in the United States.

Travel and Arrival Information

Travel Plans
There is no group flight offered to Santiago. If you do not want to travel alone, you may want to connect with the other students at the orientation and make travel arrangements. You must inform IAP and CIEE of your travel plans, including flight number, airline, arrival date and time. You can submit your travel itinerary to IAP via your My Study Abroad account.

Arrival Information
Since you will have a student visa, you should not be charged upon your arrival in Santiago, as you have already paid this fee to the Chilean Consulate during the visa application process. At the international check-in point in the airport a “processing fee collected under reciprocity” of $131.00 (U.S.) is levied on all U.S. citizens without appropriate visas.

Be sure to save your international embarkation-disembarkation card that you filled out on the plane and had stamped upon entering the country. You may be asked to show this document upon leaving the country.

Onsite staff in Santiago recommend that, for safety reasons, you DO NOT TAKE buses or taxis, but instead use the shuttle services which are mini-vans (TOUR TRANSFER or TRANSVIP) from the airport to the destination of your choice. The vans have ticket counters within the airport and will carry each person to the address they wish to go. These vans run along the sidewalk immediately outside the arrival area. The cost will be about USD $15.

Students will receive additional updated arrival information by email closer to the program start date from CIEE.

SPECIAL MEALS
If you are a vegetarian or have a special dietary need/preference, please inform CIEE so that they can plan excursion meals and activities accordingly. You should also indicate this in your host family preference form so that CIEE can inform your host family.

Registering your visa once you arrive in Santiago:
It is your responsibility to register your visa and obtain your cédula de identidad upon arrival in Santiago. Failure to initiate this process within 30 days of entering Chile will result in financial penalties. The procedures for this process change frequently. The CIEE staff will provide you with information about how to obtain your cédula once you arrive in Chile. Please pay close attention in case office locations, hours, etc., have changed since the printing of this manual.
To register your visa, go to Policia Internacional, at General Borgono 1052. It is recommended that you arrive at 8:30 a.m. in order to get a number. The office closes at 12:30 P.M. on weekdays. Policia Internacional is located just off the corner of General Borgono with Independencia, in front of a big church: look for a white government building with lots of flags to the left, just two blocks north of the Mapocho River. Take Metro Line 1 to Los Heroes Metro Station, where you switch to Line 2. Go north and get off at the last stop (Cal y Canto); exit on Bandera, the street in front of the Mapocho Station, and walk across the bridge to Independencia. You can also take one of the many downtown micros that go to Independencia.

When arriving at Policia Internacional, enter the main building (which is on the right) and go to the back-left of the main floor, where you will be given a number. BRING YOUR PASSPORT, AND TWO SANTIAGO NAMES AND ADDRESSES WITH YOU. This requirement tends to change each semester or year, but it is recommended that you take two names and addresses in case you need them. One address can be that of your host family (be sure to have both last names) and the other can be the CIEE staff. After many questions (tell them exactly why you are here — to study at the university via CIEE under a special agreement between UW and CIEE), you will be given a card certifying your registration at the Policia Internacional.

SAFEGUARD THIS CARD! YOU WILL NEED IT ANY TIME YOU TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF CHILE!

Cédula de Identidad
Take the registration card from the Policia Internacional and other documents (a photocopy of your passport page with your picture, a copy of the page with the visa, the page that was stamped when you entered the country, the receipt from customs that you received at the airport, and about 3,000 pesos) to the Registro Civil (Pasaportes y Extranjeria) at Moneda 1342 (one block west of Moneda and Teatinos, left of the Presidential Palace La Moneda) or any other Registro Civil office throughout the city (a detailed list of other registro civil offices will be given at the orientation meeting upon arrival). You can arrive to Moneda 1342 by taking the metro to La Moneda Station. Take the Vereda Norte exit, walk north one block to La Moneda Street and read the numbers on the street signs to help you find 1342.

Move through the crowd towards the back, where there will be a line before a cashier on the left. Tell the cashier that you are there for a cédula and show them the Policia Internacional certificate.

You will be given a number. When your number appears on the electronic board, take your Policia paper to the appropriate desk, where you again have to answer a few questions. You will be given a receipt to return to pick up the cédula in about two weeks.

There is no way of knowing exactly how long it will take at the registro civil. It depends on the time of the day, the month and the office they chose, but this is always changing. The safest thing is to arrive early and to go to offices which are not so crowded such as the one in Vitacura or Las Condes. The Registro closes at 2:00 P.M. It might be a good idea to bring something to read while waiting.
There are Registros Civiles in almost every Comuna (locations at http://www.registrocivil.cl/f_oficinas.html), so you can find one close to where you live. Past participants say that the Registro Civil in Comuna of Providencia is less crowded than at Moneda. You do not have to go to the Registro Civil the same day you visit Policía Internacional if you run out of time.

After you receive your cédula, carry it with you as you would your driver’s license in the United States. Your cédula can be used to change money, book flights, pay with a credit card, and travel and eliminates the need to carry your passport with you. Make copies for CIEE and to keep at home.

The Academic Program

General Information
On this program students have the choice of enrolling in up to three universities in Santiago: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (La Católica or PUC), Universidad de Chile (la Chile), or Universidad Diego Portales (UDP). The CIEE on site staff will assist students in registration when they arrive in Santiago. For all courses, students will directly enroll at the university and attend the classes with other Chilean and international students.

In addition to the university course offerings, CIEE also offers a few courses each semester. They are optional and would be taught by CIEE staff and be with only other CIEE participants.

La Católica
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile ("La Católica" or PUC), founded in 1888, is a full-service, private university and ‘home’ to approximately 23,000 students. The university is spread across four campuses in Santiago. Three of the campuses are smaller than most North American campuses and fewer extracurricular activities take place on them, though some are available. San Joaquín (where you are likely to take many of your classes) is larger and has more of a campus feel to it.

La Católica has a large body of professors, of whom over 1,035 are full time and more than 533 are part time. Of its faculty, 88.4% have graduate degrees and 70% are involved in research projects. Many of Chile’s most influential intellectuals teach at La Católica.

La Chile
Founded in 1842, the Universidad de Chile, known as "la Chile," is the country’s preeminent public university with 20,000 students and a faculty of 5,000. It offers courses in 13 facultades. La Chile has campuses throughout Santiago.

UDP
Additionally, students have the unique opportunity to take direct enrollment courses at the Social Sciences Department of the Universidad Diego Portales (UDP), which includes Political Science, History, and Sociology. The UDP was founded in 1982 and is one of the leading private universities in the nation.
Orientation
All students will participate in an orientation session and required course “Contemporary Chile” in mid-February, which helps students in acclimating to life in Santiago. In addition, the different universities provide an academic orientation at the beginning of the term during early March.

*NOTE: in the past, students have gotten lost on their way to Orientation because there are multiple campuses. Please make sure you know exactly where you are going for Orientation and ask CIEE or your home stay family if you need assistance with directions.

The Universidad Católica has four campuses in Santiago:
The downtown campus, Casa Central, is home to the administrative offices, International Relations, Biological Sciences, Journalism, and Law.

The Oriente campus is home to the departments of Philosophy, Art, Music, and Theater. It is situated in an old monastery in a residential area.

The San Joaquin campus is home to the school of Engineering, and the departments of Psychology, Physics, Geography, History, Education, Sociology, Literature, Linguistics, Political Science, and Economics. The San Joaquin campus is located in an industrial area outside of downtown.

The Lo Contador campus is home to the departments of Drawing, Architecture and Urban Studies.

Your classes may be focused in the Campus San Joaquin, or Casa Central, which both have good access to transportation services. Casa Central, Lo Contador, and San Joaquin are all located on the metro line. When planning your courses, be sure to take into consideration where the course is taught and allow yourself sufficient time to get there.

Academic Calendar
The academic year in Chile follows a different calendar from that of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A semester at Universidad Católica consists of 15 weeks of classes, with the first semester beginning in early March and continuing through July, and the second semester beginning in early-August and ending in mid-December. January and February are the traditional summer vacation months.

Course Information
Students will enroll at up to three universities and take regular classes with Chilean students. The academic system is comparable to the U.S. academic system in structure and expectations.

You can choose from a wide variety of courses offered at the three different institutions. Courses are available in Art, Geography, History, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and many other disciplines. Upon arrival, you will get a copy of the timetable, or blue book from the CIEE staff.
If you take courses that examine Chilean literature, history, or politics, there are likely to be other foreigners in your classes. Past participants recommend that if group projects are required, you form a group with Chileans. This will give you an opportunity to get to know Chileans, which otherwise can be challenging!

It is very difficult to get credit for science-related courses back at UW-Madison. Because of this, students are discouraged from trying to take science courses while in Santiago.

**Course Offerings at Católica**
Information concerning course offerings at Católica can be located online at: [http://www.puc.cl](http://www.puc.cl).
In order to reach the course listings:
Click “Estudiantes UC”
then “CURSOS” (under información académica)
then “Cursos link” for given semester

**Academic Units at Católica with Some Restrictions for Admissions**
Faculty of Business Administration and Economics - Students should be aware that the courses offered in this faculty are quite rigorous and foreign students may be required to take an admissions test before being allowed to register for classes.

Political Science Institute - Courses offered in the Institute are very advanced. Students are required to have previous backgrounds in political science and in their particular areas of interest. Students will also be required to show their UW-Madison transcript when registering for classes.

Music Institute - Courses offered in the Music Institute are theoretical in nature due to the shortage of musical instruments available to students.

**Registration**
Students will not register for classes until arrival in Chile. Registration will be covered in detail at the onsite academic orientation provided by CIEE and the individual institutions. During onsite orientation, you will receive a timetable (blue book) from which you can choose classes. During the third and fourth week on campus, all departments require that you talk with the people indicated for help choosing classes. They will take into consideration the level of difficulty, Spanish level and the classes you have already taken in the past.

CIEE will provide more detail on course registration upon arrival in Santiago. Keep in mind that registration in Santiago is very different than at UW and can be much more time consuming. Past students have indicated frustration in the amount of time it takes to register for a course. The more you spread out your courses among the three institutions, the more difficult course registration can be. It is important to be patient and ask questions as you work through the process in Santiago.

**Course Load and Credit Conversions**
Students need to register for enough credits to maintain full time status at their home university (12-18 credits). At the same time, students should not exceed the credit limit, as explained in the
below chart. Keep in mind that you need to be registered as a full time student both at your home campus and with CIEE, and you may not exceed credit loads at any institution.

You must keep in mind how many credits you will receive at UW-Madison when you register for classes in Chile or if you consider dropping a class. If you take more than the allowed number of credits, you may be charged additional tuition on your home campus.

The general guide for translating credits from the Universidad Católica to UW is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Católica Credits</th>
<th>UW-Madison Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 (physical education classes*)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (courses with academic coursework)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 (graduate level courses)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Students can take a maximum of one physical education class per semester. Credits from physical education courses will not be counted when determining total credit load.

**Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit**
Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

**Grade Conversions**
Students’ grades will be converted according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>La Católica</th>
<th>UW Madison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.5 - 7.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 - 5.4</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 - 4.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 - 4.4</td>
<td>BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 – 3.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 - 2.9</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Communication with the UW-Madison Spanish Department**
UW-Madison students who are studying (or have studied) in Santiago should communicate with Professor Guido Podesta (gpodesta@facstaff.wisc.edu) concerning credit and equivalents. You may also communicate with Professor Podesta if you have questions about a particular equivalent while abroad. You should include in your e-mail the following information:

Name, UW ID number, major(s), expected date of graduation
Your phone number (this is particularly true if you are in Madison)
Hours that you may be reached (this is particularly true if you are in Madison)
Most advanced Spanish language and literature classes you have taken at UW-Madison
Reference to the particular program you are (were) on and how long you are (have studied)
abroad. **Make sure to copy Erin Polnaszek in IAP on any correspondence with Professor Podesta.**

**Spanish majors on the UW-Madison campus**
UW-Madison students majoring in Spanish must keep the following information in mind:

1) You must take at least 15 credits of the upper level work in the Spanish major “in residence”
(that means, here on campus or in programs sponsored by UW-Madison). All Spanish courses
numbered 300 or above count toward this requirement.

2) You must take at least 6 credits of Spanish at the 300 level or above while physically present at
UW-Madison.

If you would like more information or clarification on this issue, please speak with Erin Polnaszek
(IAP Study Abroad Advisor) or Karen Thompson, Undergraduate Spanish Advisor. For course
equivalent issues please contact Professor Guido Podesta.

**Courses in Professional Schools**
Students are unlikely to receive degree credit for professional schools courses, such as Law and
Architectural. We therefore discourage students from taking classes in the professional schools in
Santiago.

**Course Equivalent Requests and My Study Abroad**
Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for
your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-
Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent
Requests through your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on the UW course
equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP
Study Abroad Handbook.

**Living Abroad**
Educate yourself about your host country. Remember- it won't be possible to prepare yourself
completely. There will be situations you will not have anticipated and your flexibility will
determine in great part the kind of experience you will have while abroad.

**Geography**
Chile borders Argentina to the east, Bolivia to the northeast and Peru to the far north. It has
2,700 miles of Pacific Ocean coast and a great variety of climates and landscapes. There are four
distinct geographic regions: the northern desert, the high Andean sector, the central valley
(where Santiago is located and where most of the country's population is concentrated) and the
southern lake district and archipelago.
Eighty-nine percent of the 15.5 million population (in 2002) of Chile belong to the Catholic religion, and the dominant ethnic groups are European and Mestizo. A small percentage of the population is indigenous.

Natural resources in Chile are mainly copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum and fish. Agricultural products for domestic use and export include: wine, wheat, potatoes, corn, sugar beets, onions, beans, fruits and livestock. Some major industries are: mineral refining, metallurgy, food processing, fish processing, pulp, paper, wood products, iron and steel.

The official language in Chile is Spanish though English often will be understood and spoken in bigger cities. You will discover deep differences between the rich and poor in Chile. The rich Chile is very modern and similar to North American and European cities. At the same time you will probably encounter poor sections of Chile with greater poverty than you have ever seen before.

Politics
Chile is a Republic. Major political parties are the Christian Democratic Party, the National Renovation Party and the Party for Democracy. Michelle Bachelet became the country’s first female president in 2006. The political climate in Chile has been stable for several years and civil disorder is rare, although in the past several years there were demonstrations surrounding General Pinochet’s case, who died in 2006. As opposed to many other South American countries, Chile’s economy is strong.

If you see political demonstrations, avoid them. Do not approach them, do not get involved. If a demonstration begins, leave the area immediately to avoid potential risk to your health and safety. Possible consequences of involvement in a political demonstration include tear gas exposure, being hit by thrown rocks, or police detention.

Climate
The seasons in Chile are reversed from those of the Northern Hemisphere. Winter in the United States is summer in Chile and vice versa.

The climate is generally mild. Chile does not have a tropical climate (due to the cold Humboldt Current off the coast as well as the short distance to the snow covered Andean peaks). The climate in the country varies considerably with latitude but from May to October it will be rainy and cold in most parts of the country.

In the summer and autumn (November through April/May), it will be hot in Santiago, but during a single day, the temperature will go from 10-15 degrees Centigrade to 30-35 degrees and back down to 15-18 degrees after 6:00 P.M. In February, you may want to leave the city heat to travel to the seashore or the southern part of the country, which is always colder due to the Humboldt Current. Fall may be rainy. Lower temperatures (10-20 degrees Centigrade) in the mornings in April, May or June are not uncommon. High temperatures in fall could reach 20-27 degrees.

In the winter, the coldest month is August and most buildings and houses in Santiago do not have good indoor heating. September will be cold but sunny, and springtime will show in the blooming
almond trees and cherry trees. Stay warm during the early mornings and evenings when low temperatures will reach one-digit degrees Celsius. The cold weather is accompanied with heavy smog within the city, particularly downtown.

**Earthquakes**

Central Chile is one of the most seismically active places on earth. While living in Santiago you will frequently experience *temblores* which are very mild quakes rarely causing damage or injury. Should you feel such a tremor the safest place for you to be is indoors.

The US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends the following: The best protection during an earthquake is to get under heavy furniture such as a desk, table, or bench. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits, and alongside exterior walls. Many fatalities occur when people run outside of buildings only to be killed by falling debris from collapsing walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.

**Santiago**

Santiago is the fourth largest city of the South American continent with a population of 4.5 - 5 million (2002). It is situated 70 miles from the Pacific Ocean at an altitude of 1,703 feet above sea level. Santiago is much more cosmopolitan and "European" in feel than other Latin American capitals.

Santiago is a thriving, cosmopolitan, major world city. It has museums, concerts, art, nightclubs and discos, and a variety of professional sports teams (particularly soccer). There are many opportunities to see theater, and the city features many movie theaters. Though 92% of all motion pictures shown in the country come from the United States, there is also a good selection of movies from other countries, such as Mexico, France, Italy, Sweden and Argentina.

Most sports that you might be interested in are available in Santiago. Golf, tennis, polo, soccer, swimming, horseback riding, fishing, hunting and mountain climbing can be enjoyed all year around.

Though the water is generally cold (comparable to California) due to the Humboldt Current, there are a number of Pacific beaches and resorts only two to four hours from Santiago. Be sure to check with your host family and your Chilean friends to make sure that the beaches you are going to are safe (strong undertows, crime and pollution may be potential risks).

Water is potable, which means that you can drink it directly from the tap without boiling it, however you may require an adjustment period. You may also want to be more cautious and drink boiled or bottled water.

Cultural information is also available in any of the main Chilean newspapers. La Católica publishes a bi-weekly bulletin, *Quincena Cultural* which lists current cultural events for university students. Nighttime activities such as parties and discotheques generally start much later than in the States. It is rare that any nightlife begins before 10:00 p.m. *El Mercurio* is recommended by a past
student:  http://www.emol.com/tiempolibre/_portada/index.asp. There is also a monthly English newspaper, Newsreview, which lists events.

**Housing**

Home stays are required for all participants. CIEE will arrange the home stays for students based on information received in the housing preference form, which can be found in Your My CIEE checklist. Make sure to provide as much detail as possible to achieve the best possible match.

**Interacting with your host family**

Go into life with your new family with an accepting and non-judgmental frame of mind. Be as honest, considerate, and communicative as possible. Treat them with respect and they will respect you back. Always remember that you are a visitor (despite the fact that you are paying for room and board) in the family's home and in another culture. Take the time and make the effort to get to know the family that has accepted you into their home.

Chileans are accustomed to more outward courtesy and formality than the average North American. Therefore, the lack of a thank you or other polite expression is much more likely to be taken as ingratitude. In conversation, mucho gusto or encantado is the most usual response for a first-time face-to-face encounter. Similarly, during meals, saying qué rico or some other phrase of delight with what is served is a common courtesy.

It is a good idea to use the usted form with the older generation of the household unless, or until otherwise advised. In the majority of homes, students use the tú form with the parents, but it is better to start out cautiously. Your Chilean parents will give you clues for using tú openly by telling you tutéame or hable con tú. With contemporaries, tú is always used. Observe the way things are done in the household and try to conform as much as possible. When in doubt, ask about a particular thing that puzzles you. It is the student who should take the initiative in these instances because the family may be hesitant to correct you for fear of hurting your feelings. At the beginning, you can capitalize on your lack of cultural awareness by asking questions that might later be considered impolite.

Despite language problems, try to speak Spanish from the beginning. The families are aware of your adjustment problems and will try to be patient and helpful. Always speak with another American in Spanish when in the presence of non-English-speaking Chileans. In that way, everyone can understand.

If you desire a close relationship with the brothers and sisters of the family, be prepared to take the initiative. The Chileans have the reputation as muy timidos. They will wait for you to make the first move. This may be difficult since they may be shy about approaching you. Find out early whether or not there are family rules you are expected to follow, such as cleaning your room, being on time for meals, etc. This may save some embarrassment and/or misunderstandings later on. Try to find out about individual idiosyncrasies in the family but be tactful. When you leave the house tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to be home. Telephone if you are going to be late or miss a meal. These customs show courtesy toward the family and save
them worries about your getting lost or getting into trouble. Families may be especially concerned about female students; be sure to communicate your schedule with them.

Many of the conveniences which we take for granted in the United States are considered luxuries in Chile. Your family may constantly tell you to turn off the lights, or limit your phone calls, or feed you more and more rice and less and less meat. In general, be prepared to recognize and deal with the fact that there is a very real monetary factor that will enter into the relationship most students have with their families. This factor may prevent you from achieving full identity as a family member. It is much appreciated if you keep your room clean, make the bed, etc. To better integrate yourself into the family, offer to wash dishes and share in some of the other daily chores.

For this reason, be careful about imposing your guests on your family. Ask permission before you bring home a friend and don’t be surprised if the response is not favorable - the family may simply feel it cannot afford to feed another person. If you have been permitted to have a friend over at the house, stay in the living room. In most houses it is not acceptable to bring a friend into your bedroom: be sure to ask the family their ideas about this. It is very inappropriate and unacceptable to be in your bedroom with someone of the opposite sex.

If you have friends visiting from the United States you should make arrangements to have your friends stay in a hotel or youth hostel. If your family offers to have your friend stay with you, be sure to work out the potential financial arrangements (i.e., offer to pay) before your friend arrives.

Although maids are not as common in Chile as in other Latin American countries, your family may have a muchacha or empleada, another area in which to take care. There are well-defined social barriers which prohibit excessive familiarity between family members and empleadas and you may be shocked at how some empleadas are treated. Although you may feel closer to the empleada than to anyone else in the family, the family may resent or disapprove of an openly friendly relationship between you and the empleada.

Be sure to be honest with your family about your needs and to tell them right away if you don’t like a certain food, etc. Tell them right away, don’t lie to them just to make them happy -- you will be part of their family and living with them for at least five months. If you are a vegetarian, you need to state this clearly on the housing form so an appropriate family can be matched with you because vegetarianism is not widespread in Chile. Be sure to note specific dietary restrictions if you are vegetarian (i.e., specify if you eat fish, chicken, eggs) or have food allergies. Although Chile did pass an anti-smoking law in 2006, making regulations similar to those found in the United States, students may still encounter smoking in Chilean homes. Be sure to specify your preference for non-smoking and realize you may encounter smoking occasionally. There will most likely be problems due to various cultural differences, but try and keep an open mind and remember that this is a learning experience. Living with a family is truly the only way to completely learn about the Chilean way of life.
Health and Safety
Health Precautions
Health conditions in Santiago are generally good. Although tap water is potable, it is recommended that newcomers to the country drink bottled water or boil the tap water to avoid the adjustment period and its symptoms (diarrhea). When outside of Santiago, you should only drink bottled water and avoid ice cubes.

Water irrigation systems use sewage water for vegetable and fruit plantations. This makes it vital that you carefully wash any vegetables before you eat them and that you peel all fruits that you can peel. The only safe way to clean your vegetables is by soaking them in a chlorine solution according to instructions on the bottle (many brands are available in any grocery store in Santiago).

Especially during the summer months, you should be careful to avoid mayonnaise, lettuce, dressing, custard or cream fillings that might have been left in room temperature for some time.

Access to Medical Facilities
If you need medical attention during your stay in Chile, please contact the CIEE on site staff immediately so that they can recommend appropriate medical facilities and assist with interpreting, if needed. As a student on the program, you will be able to access La Católica’s medical services. However, you must pay for each visit and submit claim forms to your insurance company for reimbursement. In addition, students should bear in mind that Católica’s medical services are bound by Catholic tradition, which limits access to some medical treatments and procedures.

Students should refer to their study abroad general handbooks for additional health insurance information and coverage.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases
If you are sexually active, beware, be smart, be safe, always use a condom and use it properly. The risk of acquiring the HIV infection through sexual contact is growing.

Condoms are available, but the quality is questionable. Do not place yourself at unnecessary risk: pack American condoms and use them if you are going to be sexually active while you are overseas.

Birth Control
If you are or think you may be sexually active, bring birth control as prescribed by a U.S. doctor. The morning after pill is not easily available in Santiago. You will need a doctor and a prescription to get it. Católica’s doctors will not write prescriptions for it so you’ll need to see a gynecologist off campus. In cases of emergency or to speak with someone in more depth about these issues, please contact the CIEE on-site staff.

Sexual Assault
If you or another program participant experiences sexual assault or violence, contact the CIEE staff immediately.

**Personal Safety**

While Chile rates among the safest countries in Latin America regarding theft and robbery, certain discretion is always advisable when traveling to a new country or an unfamiliar area. Just as you would not leave your luggage unattended in the Greyhound Bus station in Madison or Milwaukee, it is not recommended that you leave your luggage unattended anywhere while traveling outside the United States. You should not leave money or other valuables in a hotel room while away though your general luggage will usually be safe. It is recommended that you purchase small locks for your personal luggage. In addition, regardless of where you choose to live, you should keep your money and valuables in a secure, locked place when you are not at home. Students may also choose to lock valuables inside their suitcase in their residences.

Pickpockets are very active in Santiago, especially during rush hour in the downtown area. Consider using a money belt that you can wear under your clothing. If you carry a purse, consider carrying it inside your jacket -- long straps or flaps on purses that can be easily opened make you a target. You will also be a particular target if you wear expensive (or expensive looking) jewelry. Never wear gold jewelry. Also, alcohol makes foreigners an easy target for delinquents. Avoid being vulnerable and drink only in safe places where someone you know can help you in case you need it.

The U.S. Department of State strongly recommends avoiding frequenting the streets of downtown Santiago after dark, even in well-traveled areas. As with any larger metropolitan area it is strongly recommended, especially for women, to never walk alone at night in any area of the city. If you have to walk alone at night, be aware and cautious. Should a threat to your personal safety, or that of other program participants, occur, notify the CIEE staff immediately. They will be able to direct you on the best course of action, and can provide local assistance.

**Personal Safety for Women**

Some female students may find that attitudes toward women are different from that experienced in the United States. Students may encounter *machismo* in host families or other social settings. Observe the local culture to see what behavior and style of dress is appropriate for women. It is recommended that you take precautions so that your actions do not invite unwanted verbal, physical, or sexual advances. Pay attention and be alert to your physical surroundings. **Avoid travelling alone, and never travel alone at night.** Never walk alone at night, even if you are staying in a good neighborhood.

Do not act impulsively when out with people you do not know; what might be acceptable in one culture may be misinterpreted as lewd or promiscuous in Chilean culture. It is advised that you do not drink in Chile if you are not of legal drinking age in the United States. If you choose to drink, always drink in moderation and only drink with people you trust. Never leave your drink unattended.

**Students of Color**
Some African-American and Asian American students have experienced subtle and/or blatant racism during their semester or year abroad in Chile. Prejudice exists in Chile as it does in the United States; however, the openness with which it is expressed is often shocking. Billboards, sitcoms and television commercials often depict offensive caricatures of minorities. Host families and others will sometimes refer to a student of color as negrito or chinita, which in most cases is a term of endearment. A student from the U.S. can easily and understandably be offended by these terms.

If you experience racism, keep in mind that there is a long history and a lot of culture behind any comments or actions that are made. Cultural sensitivity is a very important concern when studying abroad, but it should not mean that you take absolutely everything the culture deals out in stride. There is no excuse for anyone making you uncomfortable because of your race or ethnicity, no matter where you are, and you should of course defend your feelings to the extent to which you feel comfortable doing so. Please keep in mind your personal safety when or if confronting someone about this issue.

LGBTQ Students
You should be aware that Chileans are typically less open to diversity in sexual orientation than North Americans. If you are an LGBTQ student who plans to live with a host family, if you feel comfortable doing so, you may want to include this in your application to be matched with a more open or understanding family. If this is not information that you feel comfortable sharing at this point with a host family, you may want to plan if/how/when you will tell them. You may want to talk to the CIEE on-site staff about specific recommendations if you have concerns or questions about this topic. There are many resources on LGBTQ issues in Chile.

Visit the LGBT Campus Center for additional helpful resources http://www.wisc.edu/lgbt/aboutus.html.

Travel
Safety While Traveling
Students are advised to exercise caution when travelling throughout South America, including areas outside of Santiago. Students should regularly consult the Country Specific Information, Travel Alerts, and Travel Warnings available from the Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/. In addition, students should locate and/or register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. For your own protection, make sure to leave your travel itinerary with an on-site contact as well as a family or friend in the United States.

Travel outside of Chile
As stated above, you will need to take your cédula any time you travel outside of Chile. Take this in addition to your passport. If you plan to travel outside of Chile prior to receiving your cédula, you must take your tarjeta internacional de entrada y salida.

Most countries in South America will require an airport departure or arrival tax, which can range from $10-50 USD. You can pay in either the local currency, or in U.S. dollars, but do not expect to pay with a credit card. If you are leaving Chile by plane to travel to other countries in South
America or to other cities in Chile, you must pay an airport departure tax. This fee is approximately the equivalent of US$30.00 for international flights and approximately US$8.00 for domestic flights. If you do not fly before your time of departure from the country, you should keep this in mind and have enough money left and available when you leave. Before taking a flight, make sure to confirm the time your flight will be leaving.

Some travel resources include:
- Lonely Planet: Chile and Easter Island
- The Rough Guide to Chile
- Insight Guide to Chile and Easter Island
- Lonely Planet: South America on a Shoestring
- Footprint South American Handbook

Transportation within Chile
Chile has a good public transportation system. You will not have to wait long for a bus or a train -- the most common means of transportation for the majority of Chileans. Santiago has an efficient subway system, the Metro, with three lines through the city, one east/west and the other north/south. Since the new transportation system Transantiago was implemented on February 2007, people have changed their transportation habits and the Metro system and buses are often overcrowded at rush hours (7:30-9:00am and 6:30-8:00pm).

The Metro runs from approximately 6:00am to 11:00pm Monday-Friday and 6:30am-10:30pm on weekends (you can take a bus or cab before or after those hours). You can buy tickets for the Metro at the Metro station ticket offices, or boleterias. The cost is approximately Ch $460 (depending on the schedule). In order to use the buses and the metro, you have to buy a tarjeta bip ($1300) and then reload it. You can buy it and reload it in the metro stations and other puntos bip throughout the city.

Taxis: A 15 minute taxicab ride will cost you approximately $5-$7 USD (about Ch$2500-3000 pesos). But if traffic jams occur, which you must expect, the price will rise. To avoid being charged more than you should, insist that the taxi driver use his meter. If this is not possible, agree on the fare beforehand. The basic route of the Micro (buses) is posted in the window, as is the cost (about Ch$400 pesos). You must get acquainted with the line number that you need. The number appears on a sign at the major stops if that particular line stops there.

Because of the distances between locations and traffic, bicycle travel is not a viable alternative.

There are three bus stations and one train station for travel outside of Santiago:
- Terminal de Buses Los Héroes
  (servicios hacia el norte y sur del país) also to Mendoza
  Tucapel Jiménez 21
  Phone: (2) 4200099
  Entre metros Moneda y Los Héroes

- Terminal de Buses San Borja
  (servicios hacia el norte y sur del país)
Handling Money Abroad

CREDIT CARD
American Express, Visa and Mastercard are valuable when you travel and may also help you in proving that you have sufficient funds when crossing borders into other South American countries. Visa and Mastercard are accepted in most stores and restaurants, although it is recommended that you leave them at home unless you know you will need them.

ATM
ATM machines are widely available in Santiago, and allow you to access PLUS and CIRRUS networks as well as major credit cards. Redbanc ATM machines are widely available in the airport, banks, shopping malls, and on the university campus. Redbanc services are also available in other major Chilean cities.

The easiest and most common banking system is to keep your bank account at home and have your family deposit money in it. You can withdraw funds as needed from an ATM machine using your home bank ATM card.

TRAVELERS CHECKS
We recommend students do not rely solely on one method of accessing funds. One other way to take currency with you is in American Express traveler's checks. There is an American Express Bank in Santiago, at Agustinas 1360, where you can exchange travelers checks for dollars without paying commission fees or taxes. It is a good idea to have some travelers checks with you, in case your ATM card is lost or becomes unusable.

CASH
To exchange dollars into pesos, you should go to money exchange offices, or casas de cambio. There are many downtown, in Providencia, and in Apoquindo. Check the current exchange rate and compare. Banks offer a considerable lower rate than money exchange offices. International Money Advance can only be obtained in a special section of the Banco de Concepción and Banco de Chile. Avoid people who offer to exchange money on downtown streets.

In Santiago, you may also cash personal checks from your United States bank account at the American Express Bank in Calle Agustinas 1360. You can receive dollars or pesos when cashing checks.

Citibank is also a good option for banking. If you have an account in the United States, you can take out money easily and without any charge like other non-international banks. There are many Citibank locations in Santiago and other surrounding countries.

BANK ACCOUNT
It is not easy to open a bank account in Santiago and there is no need to do so, with the other options listed above.

Communication
During your first email or phone call to your parents and friends, you should provide a home phone number in case of an emergency.

When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

You may wish to bring a U.S. calling card with you to Chile. Be sure to call the telephone company and ensure that the card will work from Chile. AT&T’s access number is 12300311 or 800/225-288. Sprint’s access number is 12300317. These numbers can be reached from any teléfono particular (phone in a private home) and will connect you with the international operator; this method tends to be rather expensive.

If you decide to purchase or rent a cell phone, please study the contracts carefully to make sure that you can meet the requirements (length of contract, monthly minimum, etc.) before purchasing the phone. Prior to signing a contract, you should check with staff or other participants as to what companies they use and recommend. ENTEL PCS (using pre paid calling cards which are sold at supermarkets and kiosks) is a recommended carrier.

Skype: Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing.
To create a Skype account, users must download the application from [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends’ Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that’s required for calls to another computer.

**Access to Computers**

Universidad Católica provides computer access through a network of computer labs called *Salas Crisol* located in each one of its campuses. Campus San Joaquín has 6 of these labs with 350 computers, Campus Oriente has 1 lab with 46 computers, Campus Lo Contador has 2 labs and 40 computers and Casa Central has 1 lab and 58 computers.

You can access Salas Crisol by showing your *credencial UC*. If you need to print out documents you will need to bring your own paper. Católica also has wifi internet access in its various campuses.

If you need to access computers or internet out of campus there are many cybercafés spread across the city, especially in central areas such as Providencia. Wifi can be found in many coffee shops such as Starbucks.

**Before You Leave Chile**

Make sure to return all of your library books to the university and get a slip, which proves that you returned your books and paid your fines. If you do not return your books, you will not receive credit from Católica. You may need to show this slip proving that you took care of these details.

¡Buen Viaje! Please remember to ask your study abroad office any additional questions you may have!

**Student Testimonials**

The testimonials below are from past participants; they reflect various students’ experiences and are included to provide different perspectives. IAP does not endorse any specific view expressed in this section.

**Preparations Before Leaving**

“Bring a winter coat. It is a lot colder than you think it will be. And bring warm mittens or gloves. There is no indoor heating so you do not warm up when you get inside. Bring your mp3 or IPOD player. I think it was one of the best things to have. I listened to it on my long ride to school, on overnight bus rides, and all the same places you use it in the United States”

“Pack a variety of clothing! Chile can get a bit cold in the winter so if you’re going there for fall semester expect to wear long sleeves and sweaters a lot at first and tank tops near the end. Also,
it rains a lot in the winter so don’t just bring one pair of non-sandals like I did. Of course, you can buy just about anything there, so it depends on your budget”

Travel and Arrival Information
“There is about one flight a day and I don’t think you have any choice on airline into Santiago. From the US, it is American. The only friend who came on another airline flew through Canada thus, flying Air Canada. The nice thing about flying American Airlines is that LAN (big South American airline) is a partner so you can get miles if you fly to Peru, Argentina, and in and around Chile although if you are just traveling in Chile, take a bus. They are relatively cheap and really comfortable depending on how much you are willing to spend”

Academic Program
“Class wise, I would say to read all of the evaluations that they have at the university in Chile. We all wrote about each class and professor. If people say someone is bad, they mean it, especially if there are several reviews of the same person saying this”

CIEE will give you reviews of the classes from past study abroad people. I suggest looking at that and taking the advice. Just like at UW-Madison, there are easy and hard classes. Your perception of harder/easier classes also depends on your level of Spanish. There is definitely enough time to travel and explore the area, don’t worry about that. Just budget your time well.

Living Abroad
General advice - make it a point to be outgoing and meet locals! It’s the best way to improve your Spanish and get the lowdown on cool things to do. Also, you MUST visit San Pedro de Atacama and go to the Valle de la Luna and go sandboarding. It’s the most beautiful place I think I’ve ever been”

“Go to southern Chile, at least to Pucón. It is so beautiful and amazing. Also, see the north to compare how different it is. The country is so vast that we traveled almost every weekend. Santiago is about an hour from the mountains and the ocean so you have options even if you don’t want to go far”

Volunteer and Other Opportunities in Santiago
“I am volunteering at the YMCA, and I found it through my roommate. I recommend it because there is a good variety in volunteer opportunities available there. Alejandra is really helpful and gives each volunteer a rundown of exactly what is available. Based on the volunteer’s interests, they choose one or more of the volunteer opportunities presented. In my case I chose 3 distinct jobs out of several offered to me by Alejandra. I work in the international programs office with Alejandra, help teach English to adult students, and play with at-risk kids (ages 10-15) in San Joaquin. All in all I spend about 15-20 hours volunteering each week. I really enjoy spending time talking to Chileans outside of the classroom. I would rather spend my time doing things outside of school volunteering then in a lecture hall for 4 hours straight. For me I have had a completely positive experience at the YMCA, and after working in the international programs office I have learned a lot about the US visa policies from the foreigner’s point of view.
“I’m taking the salsa y merengue taller at la Católica...it’s a lot of fun and the teacher is great! We meet once a week Monday evenings and it cost 22 mil semestral... I would definitely recommend this or other talleres offered through PUC!”

“I am working with English Opens Doors. It’s simple, well organized, flexible, good opportunity, and everyone should do it if they have a little time. Sometimes you have to deal with complications from the school you’re assigned to, but all in all it was well worth it.

I would suggest that if people are trying to play soccer down here, it’s great to get together and organize meetings at the really nice soccer facilities that San Joaquin offers. You don’t even need soccer cleats. Send an organizing email through international offices and they’ll send it to all the extranjeros, and you end up playing with and meeting Chileans through that as well.”

“I am volunteering with English Opens Doors. I found it through the University, and they told us about it at one of the orientation things. I really do recommend it; I’ve done other teaching English (like ESL type things) in the States and was a little sceptical about doing it here because I’ve had experience and know what it’s like, but it's still been a very unique experience. I work in a rather poor area and I've learned a lot about the Chilean education system and it's been great talking to the teachers and learning about the kids; half of the time I have to speak in Spanish with them too, so it's still good practice for me!”

“In terms of activities I am doing outside of school, I ended up opting not to take the taller classes on campus, just because I wanted a change of pace, and instead took Yoga classes through a studio in Providencia. When you get here, if you can get your hands on a Yellow Pages, there are a TON of Yoga and Dance (of all kinds!) studios to choose from in various neighbourhoods of Santiago, so it’s easy to find something close to home.

“I’m not doing one this semester but I did last semester. I went to a home for abandoned babies, basically an orphanage and played with babies like 3 hours every other Monday. I found it through the Calcutta Group here on campus and I just blindly sent out emails hoping to hear back and I did. They always promote stuff like that at the beginning of the semester when students arrive.”