

***Consortium for Advanced Study Abroad  
Program in Chile (CASA) Fall 2025***



**Pre-departure Booklet**

Santiago, Chile

Miércoles, 23 de julio – Viernes, 9 de diciembre, 2025

# CASA Chile Program

## Santiago de Chile, 2025

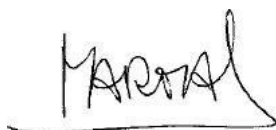
Mayo de 2025

Estimado/a Participante de CASA Otoño 2025

¡Bienvenido al programa de otoño 2025 en Santiago, Chile! Estamos muy contentos de que hayas decidido participar en este programa donde vivirás, estudiarás, y te insertarás en la cultura chilena. Todos los que trabajamos en la oficina de Santiago queremos apoyarte y ayudarte a que la experiencia que estás por comenzar sea inolvidable y que tus metas personales, profesionales, y académicas se cumplan.

Si tienes alguna pregunta o duda, no dudes en contactar a cualquier miembro del equipo de nuestra oficina. Cuenta con nosotros para lo que necesites, estamos aquí para ayudarte y para hacer que esta experiencia sea una de las más significativas de tu vida.

Atentamente,



**Pilo Mella**

DRCLAS Regional Office  
Student Program Manager

## Staff



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# CASA Participants Fall 2025

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Emergency Numbers	
<b>Ambulancia:</b> 131	<b>Carabineros (policía):</b> 133
<b>Bomberos (Fire Dept):</b> 132	<b>Embajada de los EEUU:</b> +56(2) 2330 3000
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<b>International SOS for medical and security assistance:</b> +1 – 617 – 998 - 0000	

**Para llamar a un celular desde teléfono fijo:** marca 9 + número de 8 dígitos

**Para llamar a un teléfono fijo desde un celular:** marca 2 + número de 8 dígitos

**Para poner '@' en el computador:** Alt Gr + tecla

## Regional Office Social Media

To keep updated on the Regional Office's happenings, connect with us through our various Social media outlets. We'll be posting photos of our activities there! #DRCLASChile

**Like us on Facebook**



<https://www.facebook.com/DRCLAS.Regional.Office>

**Follow us on Instagram**



@casa\_santiagochile

**Follow us on Twitter**



@HarvardDRCLAS

**Check out our website**



<https://casa.education/santiago>

# Orientation Program

**Note:** This calendar is tentative and is subject to change; however, this can give you an idea of what to expect during our Orientation Week!

Miércoles 23 de julio	Jueves 24 de julio	Viernes 25 de julio
<b>10:00</b>  Bienvenida e inicio de Orientación	<b>10:00</b>  Recorrido Barrio Patronato y La Vega Central.	<b>10:00</b>  TBD
Almuerzo DRCLAS	Almuerzo en La Vega	Almuerzo en la Vega
<b>15:00 - 17:00</b>  Recorrido Plaza de Armas, Catedral y La Moneda.	<b>15:00</b> Chilenismos y Pro-seminar  Cecilia Blanch, Housing Coordinator	<b>TBD</b>

Lunes 28 de jul	Martes 29 de jul	Miércoles 30 de jul	Jueves 31 de jul	Viernes 1 de agosto
<b>10:00</b> Presentación Claudio Fuentes	<b>10:00</b> Cerro San Cristobal	<b>10:00</b> Recorrido Barrio Lastarria y Bellas Artes	<b>10:30</b> Centro Cultural Mapuche La Pintana	<b>10:00</b>  Viaje a Valparaíso
Almuerzo DRCLAS	Almuerzo DRCLAS	Almuerzo el Eladio	Almuerzo en Centro Cultural	
<b>15:00 – 17:00</b> Película documental “Mi país imaginario”	<b>15:30</b> Presentación Cristián Opazo	<b>15:00</b> Visita Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos	<b>Tarde libre</b>	

- El viaje a Patagonia será desde el jueves **23 de octubre** hasta el domingo **26 de octubre**.
- El viaje a San Pedro de Atacama será desde el jueves **28 de agosto** hasta el domingo **31 de agosto**.

# Academic Tentative Dates

- **Pontificia Universidad Católica**

- ✓ Charla preparatoria PUC: 06/5/2025
- ✓ Charla sobre el proceso de inscripción de cursos: 6/12/2025
- ✓ Preselección de cursos: 6/23/2025-7/4/2025
- ✓ Inscripción de cursos: 7/30/2025 - 8/13/2025
- ✓ Bienvenida y orientaciones estudiantes: 08/01/2025
- ✓ Inicio de clases: 08/04/2025
- ✓ Receso universitario: 09/15/2025 - 09/20/2025
- ✓ Finalización de clases: 11/28/2025
- ✓ Término del segundo semestre: 12/17/2025

- **Universidad de Chile**

- ✓ Orientación Online “Gestión Migratoria”: 06/03/2025
- ✓ Orientación Online “Asuntos Académicos”: 06/17/2025
- ✓ Bienvenida estudiantes: 07/29/2025
- ✓ Inicio de clases: 08/04/2025
- ✓ Receso de Docencia Bimestral: 09/15/2025 - 09/21/2025
- ✓ Finalización de semestre – 12/12/2025

**Universidad Diego Portales**

- ✓ Orientación y Bienvenida estudiantes internacionales: 08/04/2025
- ✓ Registro de cursos: 07/28/2025 - 08/24/2025
- ✓ Inicio de clases: 08/05/2025
- ✓ Finalización de Semestre: 12/23/2025

## National Holidays/Long Weekends

You may want to use the following holidays to travel outside of Santiago or to explore Santiago on your own:

- Viernes 15 de agosto – Asunción de la Virgen
- Jueves 18 de septiembre – Día de la Independencia Nacional.
- Viernes 19 de septiembre – Día de las Glorias del Ejército.
- Domingo 12 de octubre – Encuentro de Dos Mundos.
- Viernes 31 de octubre – Día de las Iglesias Evangélicas y Protestantes.
- Sábado 01 de noviembre – Día de Todos los Santos
- Lunes 8 de diciembre - Inmaculada Concepción.



## Advice from previous students

### Universidad Católica - Guide and tips for the start of the semester

#### Process steps:

Course inscriptions can be hectic and scary especially when you are new to a school - so here is a guide to help you through the process to expect and to give you all the tips you might need.

- 1) Before the program, you'll receive a pre-selection form where you can suggest classes that you would like to take/would be interested in. That does not yet give you a spot or bind you to taking the class, it is just to make spots available for students. If you want to take classes that are outside of what they list on the catalog for exchange students, make sure to reach out EARLY to the exchange office so they can communicate with the departments.
- 2) Just before the start of the semester, you'll have to set up your UC account and email and select classes during a first come first serve registration. Make sure you have your classes ready.
- 3) During the first two weeks (shopping period), you will have an opportunity to investigate different classes and try out what is of interest to you - you will be able to update your schedule online during that time and with the help of Belén (Senior Accompaniment Coordinator) after the add/drop period.

#### Searching for classes

- *Catálogo de cursos/catálogo para estudiantes de intercambio*: the exchange office will send you a link with all the classes open to exchange students: They sometimes have a syllabus or a description, but information might be scarce. A good way to check for more information is to then go to the general course catalog and look up the class for its exact description.
  - o Take note of the classes you are interested in.
  - o Jot down their "NRC" and their "sigla"

→ with that information, you can look them up on the "buscador", the MOST USEFUL TOOL on this planet for making a schedule: <https://buscacursos.uc.cl/>

- Shows the spots that remain available for the classes once registration starts.
- Allows you to play around with class times etc.

#### Prepping for the inscription:

- Make a tentative schedule (or several) including several alternatives in case classes fill up rapidly.
- Again, have all the relevant NRCs at hand.

→ you will have to put them into the little search box on the UC website during course registration, and spots go quick so be ready

#### The inscription:

A DAY BEFORE: With your wish-class-schedule at hand, including all the NRCs, you go to the UC website, log on before the start of the registration and make sure everything is set up. You can check by going to "academic information" and click on "add or drop classes" to get to the relevant page. It will tell you when exactly registration opens.

The day of log on in advance and click through to the website for add/drop

→ refresh when registration opens.

→ put your NRCs in (first three) and click "enviar cambios"

→ then add other classes and click "enviar cambios"

#### Vacant Seats for Classes:

→It is important to know that each faculty has the last word when it comes to giving you a spot in each course.

→Professors are not in control of who is allowed to take a course, it is the faculty or “unidad académica” that oversees this process.

## Travel Recommendations

#### 4 weeks before departure

- ✓ Check with your health insurance carrier to make sure you are covered abroad and obtain travel medical insurance if necessary.
- ✓ Visit your physician and ensure that all immunizations are up to date. Refill any necessary medications and carry copies of your prescriptions in your hand luggage.
- ✓ Plan your budget and strategies for handling money.
  - Check with your bank on fees for international ATM withdrawals and notify your credit card companies of your travel dates. NOTE: Bank of America has an agreement with Scotiabank in Chile which allows you to withdraw money from an ATM **without** paying a fee.
- ✓ Read about Chile – you can read Chilean newspapers online:

El Mercurio: *diario.elmercurio.com*

La Segunda <http://www.lasegunda.com/> y **Chile Today**

**CIPER** <https://www.ciperchile.cl/>

#### 1-2 weeks before departure

- ✓ Make photocopies of your passport and health records. Carry one copy with you, in a location that is separate from the originals, and give one copy to your family at home.
- ✓ Plan for communicating with family when you arrive and during your stay (e.g. Skype)
- ✓ Exchange currency so that you have Chilean pesos on hand when you arrive. You can obtain Chilean pesos (CLP) at any currency exchange location but note that most locations do not keep CLP on hand and will have to order it for you, so allow a week or two for this.
- ✓ Find some pictures of friends and family to bring with you, and consider buying a few, low-cost souvenirs for your host family and new friends.

#### 2-3 days before departure

- ✓ Confirm your flight, check in online.
- ✓ Look up the baggage requirements and limitations for your airline.
- ✓ Label all bags with your name and the address of your host family.
- ✓ Put all important contact information and medication in your carry-on luggage.

### **Packing and Luggage**

- Label all of your bags with your name and the address of your host family.
- Check with your airline for new limitations on baggage weight and size.
- Carry all important documents, CASA contact numbers, the phone number for your host family with you.
- Remember that it will be **winter** in Chile when you arrive. Pack as you would for an autumn day in the USA. Packing layers is highly recommended. Remember, central heating is not normal in Chilean homes, so it will get cold during the day and night!
- People that you meet will probably be interested in learning about your home country. You might want to bring some items that represent your culture. Some students have recommended bringing low-cost souvenirs to give as gifts to your host family and new friends. Keep in mind that you cannot bring produce or plants through customs.
- Laptops: bring a laptop if you will need it (some internships require a laptop).
  - If you bring your laptop:
    - All new laptops have internal power convertors, but you may need an adaptor and certainly will need a surge protector.
    - Take the manual, warranty, and service information for your laptop with you and know how to get service abroad.
    - Always keep your laptop in sight in an airport. Do not put your laptop on the conveyor belt at security until you are sure that you will be the next person through security.
    - Never leave your laptop unattended at any time in Santiago (especially in cafés like Starbucks), and take care when transporting your laptop so that it is not overly obvious.

### **Health: What to know before you go**

- Schedule a travel consultation appointment with your primary care physician. It is wise to see a dentist well in advance of leaving in case you require additional dental work before you go. Women may want to schedule a gynecological appointment before departure.
  - If you are under a doctor's care for a specific condition, be sure to discuss what you

should do to maintain your health while you are away. Consider factors such as climate and air quality and access to medical facilities that might be necessary for your health concerns.

- If you will be using a prescription for the duration of your program, ask your physician to prescribe in advance (when clinically appropriate) a supply that will last the entire length of your stay. Minimize risks at international borders by taking copies of your prescription with you and keeping all medications in the bottles in which they are dispensed.

### **Medical Insurance**

- Comprehensive medical insurance is essential during your program abroad. If your existing policy does not cover you outside the United States, you will need to purchase other insurance. Several insurance coverage options are described below. *CASA does not recommend a specific health insurance provider; it is up to you and your family to choose an option that will best meet your health needs.* Consider the following when making your decision, and choose insurance which best fits your needs:
  - Length of coverage (choose coverage for the **entire length of time abroad**, including orientation and leisure travel, and **plan for coverage for when you return**)
  - Basic medical expense coverage (for broken limbs, etc.)

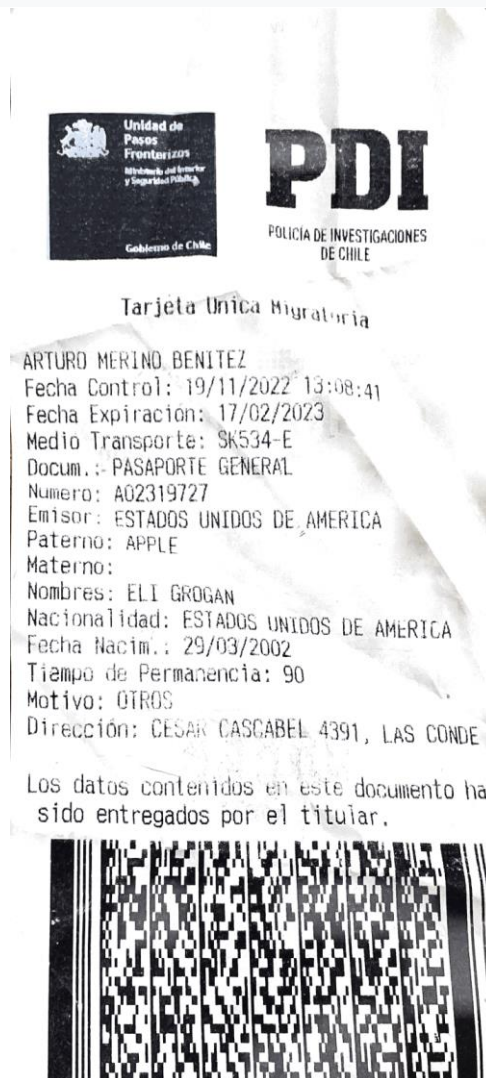
### **Shipping**

It is not recommended to send articles from the USA to Chile. The tax charged is very high, plus the process takes a long time. It can take more than three months. In case you are missing something, it is better to buy it directly in Chile.

# Aeropuerto Arturo Merino Benitez

## Tarjeta Única Migratoria

When you arrive in Chile, the International Police will give you a paper that looks like a receipt. It's very important that you save it because they will ask for it when you leave the country. When you get it, take a picture, that will help you in case you lose it. In case you happen to lose the original document, you can get a free duplicate online in <https://www.pdichile.cl/tr%C3%A1mites-online/duplicado-de-tarjeta-de-turismo>. You will only need a picture of your passport and the page that was stamped once you entered the country.




Unidad de Pases Fronterizos  
Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad Pública  
Gobierno de Chile

**PDI**  
POLICIA DE INVESTIGACIONES  
DE CHILE

Tarjeta Única Migratoria

ARTURO MERINO BENITEZ  
Fecha Control: 19/11/2022 13:08:41  
Fecha Expiración: 17/02/2023  
Medio Transporte: SK534-E  
Docum.: PASAPORTE GENERAL  
Numero: A02319727  
Emisor: ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA  
Paterno: APPLE  
Materno:  
Nombres: ELI GROGAN  
Nacionalidad: ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA  
Fecha Nacim.: 29/03/2002  
Tiempo de Permanencia: 90  
Motivo: OTROS  
Dirección: CESAR CASCABEL 4391, LAS CONDE

Los datos contenidos en este documento han sido entregados por el titular.



## Budget and Money

- You can obtain Chilean pesos (CLP) at any currency exchange location but note that most locations do not keep CLP on hand and will have to order it for you, so allow a week or two for this.
- The exchange rate is approximately **\$943 Chilean pesos (CLP) = \$1 USD**, but this varies daily. You can check the exchange rate at <http://www.x-rates.com/d/CLP/table.html>
- Your (ATM) card from your home account may well allow you to withdraw money from your account in the local currency. Inquire about the amount of funds that may be drawn out per day and the charge for overseas withdrawals. The charge per withdrawal may be as high as \$10.00 at host ATMs abroad. Some home banks charge no fee for international ATM withdrawals (**Bank of America** has an agreement with **Scotiabank** and charges no fee when withdrawing from a **Scotiabank ATM**). If you need additional funds while overseas, they may be deposited into your home account, and you will be able to withdraw them.
- Notify your bank and credit card companies that you will be in Chile to avoid any issues with using your cards.
- Bring some personal funds to cover in-country travel (metro, public transportation) and unexpected expenses, especially those incurred during the first month.
- If you are expecting to receive funds from home during the program, make proper arrangements for their timely disbursement. Keep in mind that fluctuations in the exchange rate may raise or lower the value of funds that you are expecting to receive.



## Cell Phones

Cell Phones are cheap and easy to obtain once you arrive in Santiago. The major carriers in Chile are ENTEL and Movistar. A phone runs around \$30,000 CLP (around 46 US Dollars). The phone comes with around \$5,000 - \$10,000 pesos worth of credit to talk and/or text. When you run out of credit you can purchase more credit at any pharmacy (i.e.: Cruz Verde), supermarket (i.e.: Unimarc) or minimarket (i.e.: Big John) and at any metro station.

If you plan to buy a SIM card once in Chile, you should check with your cell phone carrier if your phone is properly unlocked before leaving the U.S. This process takes a few extra steps that can typically be done within one week.

When you buy a Chilean SIM card, it usually comes pre-loaded with a limited number of gigabytes of data and minutes for calls that last 30 days at max. Keep in mind to refill the SIM card monthly.

Within 30 days of entering the country, regardless of if you buy a phone in Chile or just install a new SIM card, you must register the phone at: <https://multibanda.cl/ia/> for it to work properly on Chilean networks. If you do not do this, your phone number and cell service will be blocked. However, some phone plans, such as AT&T, include an international roaming package in Latin America that allows your phone to function in Chile without an extra charge. If this is the case for your phone, you will not have to register the phone!

# Living in Chile

## Host Families

Living with a host family will be a valuable part of your experience in Chile. Keep the following tips in mind to ensure that both you and your host family have a positive experience.

- In general, Chilean families are very close, and they will include you in the family. Host parents will most likely ask you where you are going and when you are going to be home, what you will be doing, etc. They do not do this to be nosy, but because they are concerned for your well-being and security and would like to be able to advise you accordingly. Remember that it is their country, and they know it best.
- Host mothers may go through your belongings to organize them for you.
- It is not customary to talk about politics and is best to not bring it up.
- Chileans usually eat four meals per day:
  - Breakfast (light)
  - Lunch (heavier meal)
  - “Once” or “Té” (afternoon tea and light snack)
- Try not to hurry off after finishing lunch as it is typical for a family to stay at the table and talk for an hour or so after the meal is through, and this time gives you an opportunity to get to know your family and practice your Spanish.
- Electricity, water, gas, and phone calls to cell phones are expensive. Be respectful.

## Customs

- In general, Chileans greet one another with a kiss on the right cheek (men greet with a handshake), especially if they have met more than once. If an older person is present, it is polite to greet him/her first.
- To show respect, use titles where appropriate when in conversation (i.e. use “Doctor,” “Profesor,” etc.).
- Nicknames are common (i.e. “flaco” or “gordo” may be used inoffensively).
- Chileans are sometimes not as sensitive when addressing others as Americans tend to be. If a Chilean tells you that you have gained weight, it is not meant as an insult.
- Chileans have a more relaxed attitude toward time. Don’t be late for meetings or any official engagements, but don’t be surprised if they do not necessarily end at the time you expect.



## **Personal Security**

- Crime rates are low to moderate throughout Chile and are moderate in Santiago, Valparaiso, and other major cities. American citizens visiting Chile should be as careful in cities as they would be in any city in the United States.
- Americans are at a heightened risk for pickpocketing, purse or camera snatching, and theft from backpacks and rental cars. Such crimes have been reported in all areas of Chile frequented by tourists.
- You should also be especially alert while using public transportation, such as the metro and public buses and while in the vicinity of Metro stations and bus terminals.
  - Do not carry important documents or large amounts of money inside pockets, purses, wallets, or backpacks.
  - When carrying your phone with you, keep it out of sight.
- When walking, note that it is NOT assumed that pedestrians have the right of way, so be careful when crossing the street.
- Late at night, you should take taxis instead of public transportation, especially in isolated areas.

## **Transportation**

- Public transportation in Santiago is called Transantiago. When you arrive, we will explain how to use the system, but if you would like more information now, you can find it at [www.red.cl](http://www.red.cl)
- It is not customary to tip taxi drivers unless they provide an extra service like helping with your bags.
- Public transportation tends to be very crowded at rush hour (between 7-9 AM and between 6-7:30 PM) so, if possible, try to avoid taking it at these times.

## **Food**

- Except for some initial problems the first couple of weeks, most foreigners experience few problems with water or food in Chile.
- You can drink the tap water in Santiago but may want to drink bottled water when traveling outside of Santiago. Be on guard for food sold on the street, or anywhere else, without refrigeration.
- Try to experience Chilean food (there is great Peruvian food too in Santiago)

### **Supermarket**

- The main supermarkets in Santiago are: Líder, Santa Isabel, Unimarc and Jumbo.
- Milk is highly pasteurized for a longer shelf life. It is sold in boxes and does not need to be refrigerated until opened.
- Fruits, vegetables, and bread are weighted in their respective section of the supermarket, not at the cash register!

### **Dining Out**

- Leave a 10% tip when dining out. There is no additional tax, it is included in the total price.
- Your waiter will not bring the check until you ask for it.

### **Going Out**

- If you go out with other Chilean university students, expect to chip in for food and drink. It is common for everyone to get together, pool money and then go to the store and buy things, as it is cheaper.

### **Literature**

If you would like to read works by Chilean authors, you might consider the following writers:

- Pablo Neruda (Nobel Prize 1971)
- Alejandro Zambra
- Pedro Lemebel
- Gabriela Mistral (Nobel Prize 1945)
- Nicanor Parra
- Isabel Allende
- Roberto Bolaño
- Alberto Fuguet

*"I think I have grown a lot personally and learned a lot regarding myself. This program has given me greater understanding of the world in which I live, greater understanding of a foreign culture, and given me greater confidence having worked and lived in a foreign country and being more or less integrated into a foreign society."*

–Haiwen Chen, Chile

Living and studying overseas successfully usually means that you can adjust to a different lifestyle, schedule, environment, food, climate, time zone, social habits and a new language. The same things that make the experience exciting can cause psychological and social disorientation, frustration, confusion, and other stressful responses. The phenomenon called "culture shock" is a natural wave of reactions to the array of differences one encounters in a new place while one is adapting to the new environment. Culture shock can include mood swings alternating between heady exhilaration and mild depression. Phases of adjustment to a new culture usually include:

1. Initial euphoria
2. Irritability
3. Gradual adjustment
4. Adaptation and biculturalism
5. Re-entry

In the early weeks of your new life in Chile, you may feel excited about your experiences and environment, and for many people, that feeling may last for a long time. For others, the exhilaration will give way to frustration with how so many things are different from home. Symptoms of culture shock can include sleeping difficulties, as well as the urge to sleep a lot due to the fatigue associated with stress, homesickness, trouble concentrating, an urge to isolate yourself, irritation with your host culture, feeling overwhelmed, and depression. Even if you are accustomed to being away from your family and friends for long periods of time, you may still have problems because you are away from everything that is familiar. There are many ways to cope with your feelings of disorientation until they pass, as they usually do:

- Learn as much as possible from residents about their culture. Ask questions.
- Observe how others are acting
- Keep in touch with other students with whom you can discuss your feelings but avoid gripe sessions that may not be helpful.
- Identify similarities and differences.
- Do things you enjoy. Go out and explore. Learn Spanish skills.
- Keep in touch with family and friends to avoid feeling isolated.
- Keep your long-range goals in mind.
- Keep your sense of humor!

If you accept that culture shock is part of the pattern of adjustment, you will be able to move through it effectively. If you are aware of the process that alone may be enough to help you get through it. For most students, the symptoms of culture shock wave after the first few weeks as they begin to understand the host culture better. If your own symptoms do not seem to be passing, the best advice is to seek help by reaching out to a program provider or health care provider. For further reading on the stages of culture shock, refer to the book, *Survival Kit for Overseas Living*, by Robert L. Kohls. The fourth edition of this book was published in June 2001 by

Intercultural Press, and it is available through bookstores.

### **Ethnic and Racial Minorities Abroad**

- The meaning of gender, ethnicity, race, and sexual orientation is perceived and treated differently from country to country. Anyone is a potential racial or ethnic minority member in another country, and it is important to be realistic about this in advance. By being informed about conditions in a country before you go, you may be able to anticipate and handle them. Reports from ethnic and racial minority students vary on the treatment they have received around the world. It is helpful to speak with program directors, and with past participants who have similar backgrounds about their treatment in specific countries and how they managed.
- Past students have noted that: *“Chile is a rather homogenous society. People may stare because they are not accustomed to seeing people with diverse physical features.”*

### **LGBTQ+ Students Abroad**

- Attitudes and laws pertaining to sexual orientation vary throughout the world and it is important to know the laws and mores of Chile. Use LGBTQ+ travelers’ groups to get advice and answers to your questions. Seek assistance from DRCLAS if needed. Consider referencing LGBTQ+ travel guidebooks.
- The Rainbow Special Interest Group of NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, is a group whose goals are to counsel international and study abroad students who are gay, lesbian, and bisexual; to support gay, lesbian, and bisexual professionals in international education; and to combat homophobia within NAFSA. <http://overseas.iu.edu/>
- International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission: [www.iglhrc.org](http://www.iglhrc.org)
- The International Lesbian and Gay Association: [www.ilga.org](http://www.ilga.org)

### **Disabilities and Accommodations Abroad**

- Students registered with Student Disability Resources who are eligible for academic and other accommodations are also eligible for overseas accommodations where such accommodations can be arranged. SDR is able to facilitate this process with *a great deal of notice*. Contact [sdr@fas](mailto:sdr@fas) for more information.
- Mobility International USA (MIUSA) is a US-based national non-profit organization whose mission is to empower people with disabilities around the world through international exchange, information, technical assistance, and training. It is their goal to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in the international exchange and development programs. <http://www.miusa.org/>

### **Women Abroad**

- Risks are increased for women abroad as they may encounter attitudes or expectations that are restricting. All students should be aware of these risks and provide support. Stereotypes

of U.S. women drawn from the media generate expectations about U.S. women's behavior abroad. As a woman, you may take offense at certain behaviors, such as unwanted attention, or feel limited in your mobility or frustrated by the different norms for women's conduct. Practical strategies to avoid harassment include understanding the cultural differences, seeking support from others, conservative dress, and knowledge of how to handle unwanted attention. Note that these are very subjective and in no way a suggestion to limit or confine any students' identity.

- While sexual harassment is a concern, it is noteworthy to consider there also exist cultural differences. If you are having difficulty making this distinction, seek assistance from DRCLAS. Travel guides, including Lonely Planet, Let's Go and Rough Guide all offer useful recommendations for women travelers.
  - Women's Guide to Overseas Living, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Nancy J. Piet-Pelon and Barbara Hornby, Intercultural Press, Yarmouth, ME, 1992

## Language

The official language is Spanish, although the State also recognizes all other native languages and dialects. English is generally spoken by people who work in the tourism industry.

You will quickly learn that Chileans, especially Chilean youth, often drop the endings of words and use slang in their daily speech. Below are some of the most common words you can learn prior to departure to ensure that you understand as much as possible upon arrival.

Please note that in informal speech Chileans sometimes substitute the –as verb ending in –ar ending verbs for an –ai ending. For example, “¿Cómo estai?” instead of “¿Cómo estás?” and “¿A dónde vai?” instead of “¿A dónde vas?” This also happens with –ir/-er endings, where “¿Qué quieres?” becomes “¿Qué querí?” and “¿Tienes un lápiz?” becomes “¿Tení un lápiz?”

Chileno	Inglés	Ejemplos/Uso
Agarrar	To make out (kiss)	
Al tiro / Al toque	Right away	<b>Voy al tiro. Voy al toque.</b>
Asopao	Fool	<b>¡El gallo (hombre) asopao!</b>
Auto	Car, used more frequently than “coche” or “carro”	
Atinar/atinado	To react in the correct manner to a situation/suitable, appropriate	
Bacán	Cool	
Barsa	A guy who tries to take advantage of situations	<b>Ese barsa me ocupó mi computador sin pedirlo.</b>
Brígido	Algo fuerte o potente (bueno o malo)	
Bueno	Literally, “good” but in Chile, it is used to mean “yes” or “ok”	<b>-Quieres un vaso de agua?</b> <b>-Bueno.</b>

Cabro/a	Kid/child	Tengo dos cabros chicos.
Cachar (cachai?)	To understand (you get it?)	Cachai dónde queda el parque?
Caleta	A lot	A synonym for this is “ene”
Cahuinear/Copuchear	Chismear; to gossip	
Cara de raja	Insolent, rude, shameless	A synonym is “sinvergüenza”
Carabineros	Police	
(Pre)Carrete/carretear	(Pre) party/to party	If you are invited to a “pre” they are referring to a “precarrete”
Chanco	Literally pig/pork. Used figuratively in different senses: 1, <i>to someone</i> , dirty; 2. “Pasarlo Chncho”, have a great time; 3. “Irse al chancho”, overdo something; 4. A burp	¡Te fuiste al chancho! (Hiciste algo hasta el extremo)
Chato/a	Fed up	Él me tiene chato.
Choro	Cool (used by older generation)	A synonym is bacán
Cochino/a	Filthy	
Confort	Toilet paper	
Copete	Alcohol (usually pisco or beer)	¡Toma un copete más!
Cuático	Dramatic, exagerado	
Cuico/a	Rich/can be snobby	Usually has a negative connotation
De repente	Sometimes	In Chile, this is used like “de vez en cuando”
Desubicado	Out of place, inappropriate	
Embarrarla	Screw it up	Synonym: cagarla (vulgar)
En volá	Maybe	
Ene	Used to mean “a lot”	Me dio ene lata ir hasta allá

Filo	Never mind	Filo, no me importa
Flaite	Refers to people of lower classes, sometimes derogatory.	
Filete	Cool	
Fome	Boring	Eres fome, no te gusta ninguna cosa.
Funar/Funado	To cancel/canceled	
Fresco/a	Fresh, also “sin verguenza”	
Gallo/a	Man/Woman	Este gallo/a es muy agradable.
Guagua	Baby	Pronounced like “wawa”
Harto	A lot	Tenemos hartos que hacer.
Huevón/Huevona	Familiar term among friends (very informal/vulgar); can also be used with a negative connotation (sort of like “idiot”)	Variations on this Word include “huevá” (refers to a thing); and “agüevonao” (adjective form). It is used <i>frequently</i> . Chileans might spell it “weon”
Lata/Dar lata	Not wanting to do something	¡Qué lata!/Me da lata hacer la tarea.
Luca	One thousand pesos	Tenés luca que me prestes?
Manjar	Dulce de leche	
Me carga	To hate something	Me carga ir al médico. (No me gusta ir al médico)
Me/te tinca	I want to/I feel like	Me tinca ir al cine. ¿Te tinca ir?
Medio	Literally translates to “half” but is used to mean “kind of”	Él está medio cansado
Micro	Bus	Refers to bus that operates within Santiago and is feminine (i.e. la micro)
Mino/a	Attractive	Ella es muy mina!
Once	Late afternoon tea	Vamos a tomar once.
Onda	“Deal”, “story”	Most often used as “¿Qué onda?” to mean “What’s up?” or “What’s the deal?”
Ordinario	Used to describe someone who is basic or has no manners	



Paco	Police	<b>Slang: Equivalent of “cops” in English</b>
Pie/Ir a pata	Foot/to walk	<b>¿Cómo vas a llegar?</b>  <b>A pie.</b>
Palta	Avocado	<b>Used instead of “aguacate”</b>
Pavo/a	Hair-brained; Scatter-brained	
Pega	Work	<b>Used just like “trabajo” or as we use “work” in English.</b>
Peludo	Difficult	<b>¡Está peluda la tarea!</b>
Penca	Sucky	<b>¡Es muy penca esta canción! (Es muy mala esta canción)</b>
Pendejo	Child; or used to say that someone is immature	
Pesado	Literally heavy; implied meaning: bothersome, rude	<b>El no me cae bien, es muy pesado.</b>
Pieza	“Room,” used much more frequently than “habitación” or “cuarto”	
Piola	Calm, laid-back	<b>Can refer to a person or a place.</b>
Raja	Literally “butt” but used in many phrases; for instance, “pasarla raja” means to have a great time, or “te va a ir la raja”	
Regio	Used to describe someone who’s literally “royal” or great	
Retar	To critique or make fun of or call out someone	
Water/WC	Baño	

## Further Reading and References

- **DRCLAS Regional Office Website:** <https://drclas.harvard.edu/andes-southern-cone>
- **Preparing to Travel** <http://www.hio.harvard.edu/preparing-travel>
- **Chile es tuyo (Spanish):** Very useful page with a variety of information about Chile and its attractions <http://www.chileestuyo.cl/>
- **Study Abroad Guide Introduction**  
(<http://www.studyabroad.com/student-guide/introduction.aspx>)
- **Students Abroad Introduction**  
<http://www.studentsabroad.com/handbook/introduction.php?country=General>
- **Chilean History (Spanish):** <http://www.icarito.cl/2009/12/406-5249-9-la-independencia-chilena.shtml/>
- **US Department of State:** Information about travel and living abroad: <http://www.state.gov/travel/>
- **Embassy of Chile USA:** Information about consular affairs, political, economic, cultural, press, agricultural, tourism: [http://chile.usembassy.gov/tourist\\_cards.html](http://chile.usembassy.gov/tourist_cards.html)
- **Chile abroad (Spanish):** Chilean Government information about all the Chilean consulates in Canada, Mexico and the US: <http://chileabroad.gov.cl/>
- **Sernatur (Spanish): National Tourism Service, Chile:** <http://www.sernatur.cl/>
- **Chilean Government (Spanish):** Information about the Chilean Government: <http://www.gob.cl/>
- **Chile Lindo:** Chilean recipes, music, news, internet radio: <http://www.chilelindo.com/>
- **Guía Digital Chile (Spanish):** A comprehensive directory with Chilean websites classified by subject: <http://www.guiadigital.gob.cl/>
- **Universia (Spanish):** Information about Chilean Universities, student life, chat, groups, events, research, etc.: <http://www.universia.cl/>
- **Santiago Adventures:** Day tours from Santiago Chile to the mountains, coast and vineyards of the central region: <http://www.santiagoadventures.com/>
- **Chilean cultural heritage site (Spanish):** <http://www.nuestro.cl/eng/who/index.htm>
- **The leading Chilean newspaper, El Mercurio (Spanish):** [www.elmercurio.cl](http://www.elmercurio.cl)
- Fisher, Glen. (1997). *Mindsets: The role of culture and perceptions in international relations*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.
- Kohls, L. Robert and Knight, John M. (1994). *Developing intercultural awareness: A cross-cultural training handbook*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.
- Kohls, Robert L. (2001). *Survival kit for overseas living: For Americans planning to live and*

*work abroad*. Fourth Edition. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Podcasts:

- Para conocer arte y cultura de Santiago: <https://soundcloud.com/centrogam>
- Un buen programa para conocer lugares en Chile y Latino America:  
[Valle de la luna](#)  
[Torres del Paine](#)  
[Valdivia](#)  
[Machu Picchu](#)
- En la radio, hay programas y música:  
[Radio Universidad de Chile](#)  
Radio Bio Bio  
Radio Cooperativa

Películas:

- No (2012) Dirigida por Pablo Larraín
- Machuca (2004) Dirigida por Andrés Wood
- Violeta se fue a los cielos (2011) Dirigida por Andrés Wood
- Nostalgia de la Luz (2010) Dirigida por Patricio Guzmán

¡¡NOS VEMOS EN JULIO!!

