



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Contact details available at the IO.

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Geschiedenis

destination city & country	Santiago, Chili
name university abroad	Universidad de Chile
start date	01 / 03 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 07 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

You are requested to write on the following topics. Text boxes will expand automatically while typing!

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	Finding and applying for courses beforehand and communicating a lot with the Universidad de Chile was difficult initially, so I felt a little unsure of what I was applying to in the start. Eventually though, the Universidad de Chile came through and they sent applicatino forms.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Universiteit Utrecht was at times as unsure as I was, because communication on Universidad de Chile's side lacked in general. They did however respond swiftly to all my questions and did all they could to help me.
academic preparation	Not needed, I followed different subjects here than my own study program.
language preparation	To prepare for the language requirements, I took spanish classes once a week for a little over a year, starting of slow and taking more intense language classes towards the end. Besides this, I also spent a month of my summer holiday in a spanish language school. All this got me up to B1 level spanish just in time for the application, which was suficient.
finances	I wasn't able to get a grant so I financed it with the money I'd saved up and the financial aid I received from DUO and my parents. Cost of living is for South American standards relatively expensive, but for European standards still really affordable.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	The course inscription was all done last moment: only the first weeks that I was already there I could apply myself for courses, and not all courses I had seen offered years before were offered this year. So at the last minute I had to find new courses that I didn't plan to take before. What was ideal, was that the days and hours in which the courses were given were already known beforehand, so making a schedule that works well for me was easy. There also is a wide variety of courses to choose from, and even though the course inscription is preferably done mostly at the same faculty, students can choose to follow courses from all different faculties as well. Even sports courses can be followed for credits.
academic quality of education activities	



The academic quality differs per course. For most of my courses I was very satisfied: the teachers explained a lot, talked clearly and engaged the classroom in the lesson. Only one of my professors used powerpoint, but I didn't miss it greatly in most other courses. Only one course however was near impossible to follow and perform well in as an international student: the teacher talked with a very have chilean accent, during class times she mostly just read out loud from a book and gave only minimal explanations, causing for a very ineffective class hour, and the assignment for the course evaluation involved having to read massive amounts of literature, multiple books of more than 300 pages long, and being evaluated in a sort of oral exam form that required knowing the content of these books by heart. This is something I would already struggle to do in english or dutch, let alone in spanish. Clearly I did not pass this course, and only very late in the semester, with the exam approaching, I had to make the decision to drop it and focus on other courses. Luckily, this course was the exception and I'm positive about the academic quality of the others.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support of the university was relatively good. The introduction programme covered all the necessary points, and there was an option to apply to have a student – or in my case former student – assigned to you to help you if you had questions about the university or city. Usually all very friendly people. There was also a group chat for international students with coordinators for university wide questions. Also the university's online platform has a forum and handy email system where you can ask questions to the professors and students of your course directly if you need it. There's also an email adress you get that specifically focusses on aiding international students, though their response time is short.

transfer of credits

The transfer of credits is really unclear. A normal course here according to the normal value is 6 points, which transfers to 6 credits in UU as well. However, some courses naturally give 3 or 8 credits, and during the inscription period for international students all courses that first had 6 credits suddenly gave 10. When I emailed later to ask about the credit values the only reply I got was "credits are equal to the hours invested in the course" which didn't answer this conundrum at all.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme was relatively well done, however information on what to do came relatively late. Before departure there were two online meetings with the basic information, which helped well in orienting the students. After that there was a presencial introduction day that included a tour through the city giving the students the change to talk and meet other international students. The day after a campus tour was organised to get to know even better the people that you'll end up on the same campus with. Only the course inscription was possible last-minute which threw a lot of people, including me, off and caused a bit of chaos and unclarity as to what courses I would be following.

accommodation

Accomodation was not arranged by the university, they gave some tips as to where to possibly go, but the way to go is definitely finding a room by yourself online. Most house bosses are pretty strict with there rules, I've heard many friends being disallowed to have guests or have alcohol in their room, and it's normal for house bosses to think that their higher position as room provider allows them to do basically anything: one of my friend's house boss decided to host her parties in the house that she only sold rooms in without informing the inhabitants in due time – while residents were disallowed to have gatherings – and someone else's house boss made sexist remarks while she was cleaning her room.

Personally I stayed in LivinnX, a student-hotel style arrangement, and I shared a room with one other student. Bedwear and all kitchen appliances were not included and had to be bought by ourselves, and the staff of the



place was lazy: three weeks in a row cleaning staff didn't come while we asked them too and when a handyman came over to fix the toilet and a broken lightbulb, he said that they didn't have the lightbulb in stock at the moment and that he'd come back later; he never did come back. Also some stuff was broken, most importantly the lights on the stove that indicate the strength and some furniture was simply missing with the staff refusing to give us it because once again: they didn't have it in stock. The only advantage of my residence is that it had heating while most rooms do not and are super cold in winter.

leisure & culture

Chile is a wonderful place with a very interesting culture, due to it's isolated location tucked away on the west side of the andes. Learning to know chileans and their way of life has been an incredible experience. Leisure-wise, Santiago is an absolute champion. There are multiple charming "barrios" that will make you want to keep visiting them. Even after 5 months of staying in the city, there's still so much that I feel like I haven't done yet, I have so many reasons to go back. There's plenty of history, art, monuments and parks to enjoy throughout your stay here, and there will never be a boring weekend.

suggestions/tips

I have a lot of tips, as well for Santiago as for travel recommendations.

I'll start of in Santiago. I've told you before about the charming "barrios", neighbourhoods, that Santiago is full of, so here I'll give you a list of my favourites. My absolute favourite neighbourhood is **Barrio Lastarria**, there's just so much to do there. It's sandwiched in between Cerro Santa Lucía and Parque forrestal, two of the most excellent places to go for a walk in the city: you can climb the Cerro for one of the best 360 degree views of Santiago, and you can stroll through the parque forestal and admire it's many statues, different species of trees and museum located in the centre, Museo Bellas Artes. The barrio itself is rich of amazing restaurants, bars, coffee shops, ice cream shops, markets, museums and even a cinema. It's everything you need tucked away in a tiny corner. Restaurants I recommend are: Papachecos (best fries in Santiago), Bocanariz (amazing wine and pasta) and La Chupa Libre (THE place to try piscos, cocktails, and to eat). It also has the GAM, the centro cultural Gabriela Mistral, which is a museum, a coffee shop to study in, a library, a book store and a bar all in one.

Then of course there's other barrios: **Bella Vista** is ideal for a night out clubbing or a pubcrawl, **Barrio Italia** is filled to the brim with nice bars during the night and markets with local businesses during the night, and **Providencia** is the most tranquil and safe neighbourhood you can find in Santiago, which lacks in nightlife but makes up for it with its serenity, its pitoresque coffee shops and lunchspots, its chique restaurants and of course – who could forget – the tall and mighty Costanera centre, which offers one of the best shopping experiences in South America.

Travelwise, there's also a few recommendations I have. If you want to visit patagonia, make sure you go in between octubre and march. April is still possible as well, but cloudy views and cold and wet weather are already far more likely: going in April requires a great amount of good luck. If you want to go towards the south in April-May, go to **Pucón** and its surroundings. Hire a car and roadtrip to **Melipeuco** to stay in a cabin and visit national parks in autumn colours and snow, and head to the coast to **Valdivia** to try Chilean beers and see sea lions in the city centre. I also really recommend going to the **Atacama desert**, the best place in the world to watch the stars and beautiful alien desert views, a mars-like experience. If you want to cross the border definitely go to **Mendoza** in Argentina for a weekend to visit some of its many vinyards. Vinyards can of course also be visited in Chile itself: **Santa Cruz** is a small town with big museums and many wineries to visit. My last recommendation within Chile is to visit **Valle del Elqui** and its surroundings. You can take a daytour to the valley from **La Serena**, go by bus to **Vicuña** or directly to **Pisco del Elqui** and visit a Pisco distillery while enjoying the serene and small towns. A little north from La Serena, it is also possible to visit a penguin colony. This is however more difficult in winter, as storms will often cause the waves to be to wild for the expedition to happen.



CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Definitely! Chile is an amazing country with a lot to do, so much so that it's impossible to visit it all in one semester. The university is great, most professors are very accesible and open, even though the central registration system isn't really run very carefully. Besides that, I can recommend anyone wholeheartedly to go to Santiago to study there and get in touch with a whole new world.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't worry too much about your spanish skills I'd say. The Chilean accent can be heavy at times, but eventually you'll understand and manage to communicate with others. Chileans are very friendly and patient, they understand your struggle because they too have the same struggle with trying to speak english, so you'll have a lot of fun helping eachother practice a new language. Santiago is also not as dangerous in comparison to other South American capitals, as long as you're not the easiest person to steal from they won't try very hard. I haven't heard any stories of gunpoint encounters and physical violence – being hit in the head or punched in the face and being robbed that way – is something I very rarely heard. Just watch your surroundings at night and keep an eye on your pockets during the day, and you have little to worry about. Anyway, I guarantee you will enjoy your stay in Chile.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Humanities
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Philosophy Politics and Economics

destination city & country	Santiago de Chile, Chile
name university abroad	Universidad de Chile
start date	14/ 08 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15/ 12 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The process was super easy. I just handed in my documents from the UU and did not need to do much more.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I did not need any support therefore, I cannot answer this question.
academic preparation	Was not really necessary. The courses there weren't too hard so I just arrived and got used to the teachings pretty quickly.
language preparation	I already spoke Spanish so I cannot answer.
finances	Chile was a bit cheaper than the Netherlands but not that much cheaper. Especially if you want to travel that is going to cost you.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I studied courses in global civil society, political philosophy and political geography. I have to say I regret not taking more Chile- specific courses. I thought I would learn enough about the country anyways, but I really missed those lectures about Chilean culture, history, politics etc.
academic quality of education activities	The courses were okay but quite easy and not that intense. However, I think that was also my courses specifically.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Was amazing. They replied super fast and helped out with everything.
transfer of credits	Easy.

STUDENT LIFE



welcome & orientation programme
Sadly I missed this because I had a personal appointment in Germany.
accommodation
I was lucky and found a room through a person in a zoom call from the university. Try to make contact to other students as soon as possible.
leisure & culture
I loved Santiago. Everyone is super nice and welcoming. The campus is very leftist and political.
suggestions/tips
Leave the city sometimes to go to the mountains. You'll have amazing weekends. And travel!

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! I had a brilliant time, I learned so much about Chile, the culture and the politics.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Nope.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	PPE

destination city & country	Santiago de Chile, Chile
name university abroad	Universidad de Chile
start date	01 / 08 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 01 / 2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application process was quite smooth in my opinion. It involves quite some paper work but I think that's normal.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Pretty good
academic preparation	I didn't really prepare academically, but I took a Spanish course, which also gave me already some extra credits, which had as a consequence that I didn't really have to worry about getting enough credits during my exchange.
language preparation	I was already learning Spanish on my own before signing up to the exchange. Then I took "Español 3" at Utrecht University, which gave me the officially needed B1 level. I tried studying a bit more afterwards, but to be honest I didn't do that much because my priorities were somewhere else at the time. I went to Chile with the goal to really learn Spanish. The first weeks, the language was a challenge for me. Chileans tend to speak very fast with a lot of their own vocabulary and stuff. But after some weeks I understood my classes fine. I made friends from other Spanish speaking countries, which allowed me to practice the language without having to deal with the special Chilean accent. This worked out fine. However remember it is very challenging and tiring to live (follow classes, have friends, ...) in a language you do not really know. However you will also learn very fast and if you want there are enough other exchange students to speak English with. And btw, they say if you understand Chilean Spanish, you will be able to understand all Spanish 😊
finances	Thanks to the studiefinanciëring of DUO and my parent, I was able to finance my exchange without trouble. Chile is quite a expensive country, especially compared to other Latin American countries.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I followed 4 courses in the University. One of which was really good (Historia contemporanea de America) and two which were okay (La ciudad para todes and Politica de Latino America) and one which was pretty bad



(Genero y etnicidad). It really depended on the teacher. Thankfully there was the option to sign up to some classes and then check them out and let some of them fall after the first weeks. So I would for sure advise to do that and check out which classes are good. It might take some time for them to after that officially sign you up.

academic quality of education activities

Like I said, it really depends on the teacher. The good and okay courses I had were comparable to Utrecht university I would say. Only with a bit more flexibility with the deadlines 😊

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Lots of people at the university were really helpful. However, it sometimes took me some time to find the right person who I needed. For example, I once needed someone to help me with officially signing up for the courses I wanted to take, so I went to some service desks. The people were very nice and sent me to someone else, who was also very nice but also sent me to someone else, and so on. But after I think about 3 different people I ended up with the right person who arranged it on the same day for me.

transfer of credits

In process, but seems to be all good.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome programme of the U de Chile is rather small I would say. They did organise 2 online information sessions in advance to going to Chile which were very useful. At the beginning of the exchange there was one universitywide welcome session, which I missed, but apparently it wasn't that interesting. And my faculty (Filosofia y Humanidades) did not have any other welcome sessions or orientation programme. I heard this was different for other faculties though. However, it was very easy to ask random people on the campus (I was at Juan Gómez Millas) to help me to find my classes, everybody was very nice and helpful. There is also a buddy program from the university. The buddies are supposed to give you some orientation. Although I did not have a lot of contact with my buddy, I did meet quite some Chileans who were buddies of other exchange students and this is mainly how I made Chilean friends.

accommodation

The university does not provide any accommodation. However, they did send a list of houses that other exchange students recommended. When they first send this, I looked into it but decided to wait a bit more. And when in July I looked into it, all of the accommodations were fully booked. I decided to go to Chile and look for accommodation while in a hostel. Although this was really overwhelming since I was alone at the other side of the world in a country which language I didn't speak very well and everything, it worked out quite nice. I found accommodation through compartodepto.cl. I lived in a house with 7 other exchange students. This is mostly something exchange students do, typically student houses are more difficult to find with Chilean students; they tend to live in apartments with less people in my experience.

leisure & culture

Santiago is a big city which offers a lot of leisure and culture activities. However, in the beginning it was hard to for me to find out what was going on in the city. To be honest, I still do not know where to find this information, but I think the instagrams of the comunidad of the city you lives in is a good start. Next to this, I experienced that there is way less official student organizations from within the university in comparison with Utrecht. However, I did find a small interfaculty theatre group, you can contact me if you want to join them. When you have a week off or a long weekend I also really advise you to go explore the country and travel around. Chile's nature is beautiful!



suggestions/tips

It's normal if the first days/weeks you have to get used to everything a lot. Don't let it stop you from doing things and meeting people. Meeting people who became very good friend was for me the important factor in feeling home in Santiago.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I would! Chile is a very interesting and very beautiful country!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have the opportunity: travel!

And the people I met and friends I made were what made my exchange such a good experience, so go out there to meet people! In my experience it is also easier to make friends in Chile since people are way more open.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Santiago, Chile
name university abroad	Universidad de Chile
start date	07 / 08 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 12 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	I actually experienced the application process as a bit stressful, but that was maybe even more the application process at the UU than U de Chile. I don't remember it all very well, but I do remember the Universidad de Chile had two or three online meetings which were really nice and made a lot clear for me and also made me really excited to go. I would say that the application process can be a bit vague, which might make it feel chaotic, but at the end, it won't be too difficult. Just make sure to check your mail and follow the instruction. I would really recommend to sign up for the buddy program!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	For me the whole process before leaving felt chaotic, also with the UU. But looking back at it, it was probably just because I started everything very last-minute and also changed plans very late. In my perspective there were a lot of different e-mails from different people, but after the real life meeting for the exchange to all Latin American countries, it all became more clear and the coordinator was really helpful and responded quickly. Once I left, I didn't have any contact with the UU I think, so I can't say anything about that really.
academic preparation	
	The courses I was about to follow were all extra for my studies, so I could just choose whatever course I liked. It was a bit of a struggle to find which courses were available, but at the end it turned out that you have to chose from a list of the year before. This means that there is a chance that the courses you choose are not available anymore when you have to choose for real. At the end it turned out that it really does not matter which courses you fill in in the form in the beginning, when you arrive you can still change courses.
language preparation	
	I had some experience with Spanish before and I followed Spanish 2 and 3 at the UU. They recommend having B2 level Spanish before going. I had B1 and I think it was fine. It is a bit difficult in the beginning, but that's part of it. Just don't be scared to make mistakes, everyone is really helpful and they are quickly impressed by your level of Spanish (the students at least).
finances	
	I worked a lot before I went and I was lucky with the basisbeurs that just came back when I started the semester. Don't forget to your studenten-ov and fill in the form so you also receive the compensation for public transport, that was around 100 euros a month. If you just google 'ov-vergoeding buitenland' and you'll find the instructions.



The rent is more or less around 300 euros a month, depending on what kind of house you want. I would not go for something much more than 300, because that is already pretty expensive for Chilean rents. Expect to pay more or less the same as in the Netherlands when you go to the supermarket or go out for drinks or food.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

In my opinion it really depends on which course and which teacher you have whether it is well or not so well organised. I think the overall content was really interesting for me. I had courses within history, anthropology and cinema, all about Chile or Latin America. You use U-cursos, which is kind of like Blackboard. It's pretty clear and all the communication and course content is on this platform.

academic quality of education activities

Some teachers were really nice, motivated and enthusiastic. Some were a little bit more lazy or boring, but I think that's the case at all schools. The lectures and assignments are sometimes of pretty high quality, but I feel like they grade you pretty mildly, especially if you're an exchange student whose first language is not Spanish.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Everyone was really sweet, but sometimes not that helpful. For me it was often more helpful to ask students to help you out with for example U-cursos than to ask employees of the university. The students were amazing and very helpful.

transfer of credits

They send me an e-mail with the certificate with my grades, I still have to transfer it I think. I don't really know how it works, but at least the UChile send the list a three weeks after the end of the semester more or less. They give you a lot of points per course as well by the way. To obtain 30 ECTS you only need to follow 3 courses, if I say it correctly. I had 4 courses, which were 40 points all together.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There is a general opening ceremony, which was well organised and nice, but also pretty formal. It is a very nice way to get to know the university and the students though! Besides this, there were not a lot of activities from out the university. There is however a big exchange students community and you will quickly be in group chats with hundreds of people who are also on exchange. You can also find these groups on Facebook I think if you look for Intercambio Santiago or something. It is a nice way to meet people in the beginning, at the end I did not really do a lot with it, but it was nice for the start.

accommodation

I went to a hostel before finding a house. I went to La Chimba Hostel, which was very nice. From there I started looking on Facebook and compartodepto. Within 1,5 weeks I had a house. A lot of people do it this way. You can also book an Airbnb for your arrival, many people did this. Don't worry about finding a house, there are enough options!
I would recommend to find something in Providencia, Nuñoa or barrio Yungay. Las Condes is also fine, but a bit the rich kids area.

leisure & culture

The city has a lot of nice museums, which I really recommend visiting! And with just half an hour travelling you will be in the mountains where you can walk to waterfalls and have beautiful views. Santiago is the perfect place from where you can travel around. The buses are very comfy and not expensive and the nature is



breathhtaking. Once you leave the metropolitan city you'll see the beauty of Chile. Even though many people complain that Santiago is a big, chaotic and contaminated city, I really enjoyed living there. I really liked the Chilean people, the city has enough nice spots and there is always something to do.

suggestions/tips

Go to Chile!!

Don't stress too much, at the end everything works out. I would recommend to stay at least a month before or after the semester. I had almost 2 months after the semester, which gave me the possibility to travel around the country and the continent.

Another tip: don't do the student visa. You can just enter on a tourist visa (say at the border that you're travelling and not studying). You have to leave the country within 90 days and when you enter you get 90 days again. You can do this as many times as you want. I've heard that the student visa is a lot of trouble to get it and it costs you money.

Join a sports team with Chileans! I joined the feminine football team at my campus and it was one of the best things I did when I was there. It really helps to not get stuck in the international students bubble.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would really recommend Chile and also really the Universidad de Chile. There are a lot of different universities in the city, but this is one of the few public ones. I really enjoyed the vibe and students at this university. Other universities are only for the rich kids, but this one isn't. The students were very sweet, open and helpful. All my courses were at campus Juan Gomes Millas, which I really enjoyed. Santiago is not a very special city, but I thought it was a really comfortable place to live and a nice starting point to start and discover Chile.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Expect the beginning to be a little difficult. For me it was a bit lonely at the start, but that is part of it. Don't stress about it, at some point you will really find your friends and find your spot. Just say yes to a lot of things, you will more quickly regret something you didn't do than something you did. Especially in the beginning.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	University College Utrecht
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Santiago de Chile, Chile
name university abroad	Universidad de Chile
start date	14/ 03/2022
end date	22/ 08 /2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was simple and clear. The motivation letter requires some effort, and the whole situation has to be well planned. Patience is also important, but it eventually works out well.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Very good. It was clear and help was provided during the whole process. There was also a lot of understanding concerning the difficulties with the exchange university that can arise during the time abroad.

academic preparation

It is enough with the academics provided in UCU (I believe this applies to UU as well).

language preparation

I am a native speaker of Spanish language. Still, the Chilean slang and accent made it hard to communicate at the start. However, seeing some of my exchange manage as not very advanced non native speakers, I think this is possible. Still very challenging.

finances

Chile is one of the most expensive (if not the most) countries in Latin America. The rent will probably be cheaper than in the Netherlands, but expect other prices to be similar.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The University of Chile is very disorganised and slow with all of its processes. There is also a lot of confusion (mainly at the arrival) and a lot of misleading information. However, once here you start to understand this is a general rule when it comes to the country.



academic quality of education activities
The academic quality is excellent. At least studying anthropology and psychology the courses have been challenging and very interesting.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Very weak from the exchange team, but good from profesors.
transfer of credits
This seems to be unclear, but doable, you can easily organise to get enough credits with doing 4/5 courses.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There is not really a big active programme from the Universidad de Chile. However, Santiago is a young city and has many exchange students. The international and the student community is very big. You will meet people easily since there is a lot of organisation from within the students.
accommodation
The accomodation is not too hard to find, and it's cheap. The university does provide you with links and options that are very helpful. Best places to stay are Providencia and Ñuñoa. Avoid the south of the city or the centre (Bellavista, Estación Central, Recoleta).
leisure & culture
Santiago de Chile is a very big city and there is an extremely big offer of activities. Really something for everyone and going on at all times and places.
suggestions/tips
Don't miss out on the opportunity of getting to know Chileans. Exchange students can be easier to meet, but interacting with locals ends up being much more fulfilling.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, the education is very good and the country and city, even if challenging, is very interesting. You can learn a lot academically and personally both in and out of the classroom.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Go to solve things in person rather than through emails or calls. Travel as well, talk to professors and they will be understanding of your situation.



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faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Santiago, Chile
name university abroad	Universidad de Chile
start date	07 / 03 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 07 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	This was quite a bit more work than I initially expected. It is a lot of forms, letters and general bureaucracy. But as long as you try to treat it as the fun of anticipation ('voorpret' in Dutch), it will be fine.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Great! You just have to send some extra emails to remind people or to ask for help every now and then.
academic preparation	
	I did not need to gain any credit during my exchange so for me this was not too difficult. I would just advise you to do as much work before you go, so you don't have to worry too much during your exchange.
language preparation	
	I spoke some Spanish when I went to Chile, I practised with some friends from Spain and I did some courses up to level B1. But I was still quite lost the first two weeks. The Spanish of Chile is very different and having specialist classes in Spanish is something entirely different. But I learned quicker than I thought, once you have too! So don't worry too much, but I would advise you to speak as much Spanish as you can beforehand, so you can enjoy the experience to the fullest (because also in social settings it is great to speak Spanish as fluently as possible).
finances	
	I basically pumped up my student loans and worked a bunch of extra shifts before the exchange. This way I saved up enough to not worry too much about money during my trip. Chile is not a cheap country, you can even expect to pay more for groceries here than in the Netherlands. But rent, dinner and drinks will be more or less a bit cheaper.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	It was easy enough to pick my courses, they will send you links to the sites with all courses. Just keep in mind that the semester starts a bit later than in the Netherlands, so the signing up to courses starts very late compared to ours. You can also change courses later on. Which might be important, because schedules will also be posted very late. Also big difference: they do ½ courses simultaneously in a semester instead of two blocks of two courses each.



Also: you can expect a strike or two. This means there won't be any classes in general and that can mess up the program of your courses if not the whole semester. But just keep calm, because after some time they will take action for the international students.

academic quality of education activities

This highly depends on your choice of courses. There are ridiculously easy courses but also courses that are much more complicated. Keep in mind that the 'bachelors' are 6 years in Chile compared to our 3 years this means some courses from year 5 can be really hard.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

It was okay. If you sent an email they usually responded, but everything was slow and be sure to ask a couple of times, because communication could be quite unclear. They are really nice though and want to help you so don't be afraid to ask!

transfer of credits

I am still waiting, but they were willing to sent my credits earlier due to my graduation date so that is nice.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was one welcome talk in week 2 and a orientation meeting online. Nothing big. Be sure to search for the international community of your faculty, they are way more active than the PME in general but chances are you yourself have to sign up.

accommodation

I used the site CompatoDepto to find a room, but many used Facebook as well or lived in LivinX (a big building full of international students). Rent is a bit cheaper than Utrecht and it is easier to find a room.

leisure & culture

Awesome. There is a lot to do in Santiago and in Chile in general: hiking, concerts, museums, a lot of history, wine etc.

suggestions/tips

Make sure to talk to your Chilean classmates, in my experience it is important to take the first step in contact yourself. Also: make sure your Spanish is as well as it can be. You will learn quickly so don't worry if it is not good yet, but making friends and life in general will just be a lot easier if you speak Spanish. Also don't beat yourself up if you're struggling the first weeks: chilean Spanish is hard if you're not used to it.

Also the parties of Miércoles Po, the encounters of Santiago Speaks and salsa lessons etc are a great way to meet people.

Another thing: the chilean winter is cold, really cold and the houses and buildings are barely heated. So take a good coat and warm clothes if you are going in the months of may/june/july/September.

And travel! Chile has so much to offer: desert, mountains, rivers, lakes... it is honestly such an unique country and I will definitely come back!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! It is a good university (although there are some bad courses) and Chile is an awesome country. I have only met nice people, both inside the university as outside and have had an awesome time! So just do it!

do you have any additional advice or comments?



Universiteit Utrecht

Don't worry too much, it can be overwhelming to plan and organise an exchange, but it will all work out and be 100% worth it in the end :)