



TIPS

FOR A SUCCESSFUL
STUDY ABROAD
EXPERIENCE





DEAR STUDENT

This is the first step in your journey abroad! We are here to help you to prepare your upcoming adventure. Not only will you be putting your academic studies into practice in an international setting, but you also have the chance to explore the beauty of the country and experience the Chilean lifestyle!

UVM contact information:

Office Mobile number:

☎ **+ 56 9 9509 7475**

✉ **international@uvm.cl**

Carlos Torres

☎ **+56 9 9576 8846**

✉ **ctorres@uvm.cl**

Tips for a Successful Study Abroad Experience



- 1 Positive & Enthusiastic: get excited about the experience.
- 2 If your classmates do not approach you in class, take the initiative to introduce yourself to them.
- 3 Flexible & open-minded.
- 4 Culturally competent: be mindful & respectful of the culture of the country that you will be working in as well as others.
- 5 Remember: Just because things may be different here, doesn't mean they are wrong.
- 6 Pro-active: take initiative & get involved.
- 7 Motivated & committed.
- 8 Enjoy yourself-have fun!

GETTING READY

What do I have to do to study in Chile?

If your academic program in Chile is less than 90 days, you are not required to obtain a student visa.

If your academic program in Chile is more than 90 days, you must request a student visa. In this handout, you will get a general orientation about what to do in order to request, obtain, and register a student visa.

IMPORTANT: The official information about visas may be found in this website: <https://chile.gob.cl/chile/en/>



WHAT TO DO IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY OR COUNTRY WHERE YOU ARE CURRENTLY LIVING:

You are required to obtain a student visa before you arrive to Chile. To do so, you must go to the Chilean consulate in your country of origin or in the country where you are currently living and present the following original documents:

- Current passport
- Birth certificate
- Acceptance certificate for a study program form a Chilean educational institution (UVM letter of acceptance).

- Document certifying that you'll receive a loan or/and scholarship. In other cases, it is necessary to prove you have the necessary means to live in Chile.

- Medical certificate. You can find the application form in the consulate of your country.

- Criminal records certificate of the country of residence, for students over 18 years old. The application form for this certificate can also be found in the consulate of your country.

- 2 current Passport photographs (4.5 x4.5 cm).

Important: Health requirements and regulations regarding COVID-19 can be found in the last page.

“Required documents may vary according to your home country. Some Chilean consulates may require additional of different documents. It is your responsibility to check the set of documents you must present when applying for a student visa.”

With the required documents, you will be given a student visa in one of the pages of your passport. This visa is valid for your academic period at UVM, and you can enter Chile within 90 days. This visa is for studies-related purposes only and does not allow you to work in Chile unless there is a special authorization evaluated by the consulate and no other.

>>> Obtain information about the nearest consulate, documents, and requirements before you obtain your UVM letter of acceptance!

WHAT TO DO IN CHILE WITH YOUR STUDENT VISA:

For your arrival you will go through the International Police window where they will check your information, stamp your passport, and ask about the purpose of your visit. Make sure that, when they stamp your passport, the date of the stamp can be clearly read. This is important when you carry out the next 2 steps:

1) STUDENT VISA REGISTRATION AT THE POLICÍA DE INVESTIGACIONES (PDI).

Once in Chile, you must register your student visa at the PDI office in the city where you are going to live permanently. You must present your passport and pay \$ 800 (Chilean pesos) in order to obtain a Student Visa Registration Certificate. You have 30 days after your arrival to register your student visa.

WHERE TO GO:

• Viña del Mar: Los Acacios 2140, Barrio Miraflores bajo, Viña del Mar. (Map: <https://goo.gl/o9kJbV>).

• Valparaíso: Uruguay 174, Valparaíso. (Map: <https://goo.gl/dR1lwn>).

WHEN: Within 90 days after your arrival.

WHAT TO BRING AND PRESENT:

- Original passport with the student visa in one of the pages.
- \$ 800 (Chilean pesos), make sure you bring the exact amount since, at the PDI office, they may not have change.
- Your full address in Viña del Mar clearly written on a piece of paper, include also the phone number.



WHAT YOU WILL GET:

A Visa Registration Certificate by the Policía de Investigaciones (PDI).

IMPORTANT: make sure that ALL OF THE INFORMATION in the certificate is correct before you sign the 2 copies. Check carefully your name (spelling) and dates. If there's any mistake you won't be able to request your Chilean ID at the Registro Civil (next step).

You must make a copy of the PDI Certificate to leave it at the Registro Civil

With both the original and the copy of the PDI Certificate, you will be able to request the Chilean ID at the Registro Civil.

2) CHILEAN ID REQUEST AT THE VIÑA DEL MAR REGISTRO CIVIL.

Once you have registered your student visa at the PDI office, you must make a copy of the certificate they gave you there, and go to the Registro Civil to request your Chilean ID that will be valid for the duration of your visa.

WHERE:

• Registro Civil de Viña del Mar:
Address: Eduardo Grove 319, Plaza Parroquia, Viña del Mar.

• Registro Civil de Valparaíso:
Address: Esmeralda 916, Valparaíso.

WHAT TO BRING AND PRESENT:

- Original passport and student visa pasted in one of the pages.
- Student visa registration certificate by the PDI.
- Photocopies of the following documents:
 - Personal information and photo page.
 - Student visa page.
 - Page with the stamp with the date of entrance to Chile (the photocopy must show clearly the date of entrance; if not, you will have to request a "Certificado de Viaje" at the PDI).
 - Student visa registration certificate (given previously at the PDI).
 - Full names of your father(s)/mother(s) from your home country.
 - Full address in Chile and phone number (Chile).
- \$ 4.270.- (Chilean pesos) in cash.

WHAT YOU GET:

A document stating that you are in the process of getting your Chilean ID. This document has your personal information and the date your ID should get to the Registro Civil Office so you can pick it up.

You must return to the Registro Civil office in order to pick up your Chilean ID, which will be your official ID in Chile.

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS



Chile has just one international airport: Aeropuerto Internacional Comodoro Arturo Merino Benítez – SCL. This Airport is at the capital city, Santiago, and it is 90 minutes away from Viña del Mar. When purchasing your tickets, make sure you choose this airport as your flight destination.

To enter Chile, you must check first at the International Police Control and show your identity documents (passport) and the stamped visa (if your program is more than 90 days). The police officer may ask some questions regarding the purpose of your trip, length and other general questions.

After finishing the migratory control, you will accede by means of the shop of free sale of taxes, up to the retrieve luggage, to continue with the controls of customs and SAG. Make sure you do not have any nuts, fruits (dried or fresh), or animal products with you while you pass through customs. They will confiscate the products (claimed or not) and you may also receive a fine.

IMPORTANT: Depending on your home country, you may have to pay a reciprocity tax. Find out if you will have to pay this fee before your trip.

How to get to Viña del Mar from the Santiago International Airport (SCL).

This information is for students who are arriving before or after the official airport pick up date of your program, or if your program does not include airport pick up:

- At the Santiago Airport, outside the first floor, take a bus (companies: “Centro” or “Tur-bus”) that goes directly to the bus station “Pajaritos” in Santiago (2,000 Chilean pesos approx.).
 - At the “Pajaritos” bus station, buy a ticket to Viña del Mar at the Tur-Bus or Pullman Bus window (3,500 Chilean pesos approx.).
 - Once in Viña del Mar, you can take a taxi or local bus to the place where you will stay in your first days.
- >>> Another option is to take a taxi from the airport. Make sure you request a taxi service inside de airport and get the exact price for your service.

>>> UBER cars are not allowed to get to the Santiago Airport.

For your safety, it is recommended to use the official transport offered by the UVM International Office at a specific day and time of the airport pick up (normally for arrivals before 11:00 AM). A UVM coordinator will be at the Santiago de Chile Airport (SCL).

If you are planning to arrive days earlier, you can make the arrangements with the UVM Student Coordinator to join the group at the airport on the official airport pick up date. If by any chance, you arrive on a different day, let the UVM coordinator know in advance in order to coordinate a taxi service with a convenient cost for the student.

GENERAL INFORMATION





about studying
abroad in chile



Safety

- Common sense will be your best partner regarding the decisions you make about the places where you go and the time you do it.
- Always be careful with your belongings, especially the one of high value. Is it necessary to bring “this” article in this place at this time?
- Carry in your backpack/purse just what you need.
- At night, don’t walk alone, especially if you have drunk more alcohol and you don’t feel well enough to walk steadily. Go out in groups.
- Use taxi/Uber to go back home.
- Never accept drinks from any person you don’t know.
- When going out at night, prefer using cash, leave your bank cards at home.
- Avoid wearing necklaces, watches and other flashy jewelry.
- Avoid using your smartphone while walking on the streets (talking and texting).
- Take care of your credit/debit cards. If you have more than one, keep them in different places

Emergency numbers

-  Ambulancia (ambulance) **131**
-  Bomberos (firefighters) **132**
-  Carbineros (police) **133**
-  Guardia costera (coast guard) **134**

HEALTH

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:

UVM recommends private hospitals for any medical attention. We recommend the following private hospitals:



CLÍNICA CIUDAD DEL MAR

Address: 13 Norte 635, Viña del Mar, Región de Valparaíso.

Phone number: (032) 245 1000.

Web site: www.ccdm.cl



Hospital Clínico del IST Viña del Mar

Address: Álvarez 662, Viña del Mar.

Phone number: (32) 226 2000

Emergencies: 800 20 4000 - 32 226 2133 - 32 226 2179

Web site: <http://www.ist.cl/centros-de-salud/hospital-clinico-ist-vina-del-mar/>

IN CASE YOUR NEED AN APPOINTMENT WITH A DOCTOR:

General doctor: Nicolás Rojas (speaks English)

Medical Center: Centromed

Address: 4 Poniente 332, Viña del Mar.

Phone number: 32 2389000

FOR OTHER MEDICAL SPECIALTIES, YOU CAN CALL:

CENTROMED
AL CUIDADO DE TU SALUD

Medical Center: Centromed

Address: 4 Poniente 332, Viña del Mar.

Phone number: 32 2389000



Medical Center: Red Salud

Address: 3 Norte 464, Viña del Mar

Phone number: 600 425 6000

(it is recommendable to set the appointment personally)

This medical center also offers dental attention.

If Spanish language is a barrier, you can ask the UVM student coordinator to set an appointment for you.

Normally, it is expected that the students pay the attention at the private hospital with credit/debit card or cash, and later request a reimbursement to the insurance company.

Medical Insurance: All international students must obtain health insurance in their home country that is valid in Chile. Proof of the International Medical insurance must be submitted to the UVM International Office.

Check with your insurance company if there are specific medical centers where you should go.

Paying for a Doctor's Bill and being reimbursed:

- You must pay in Chilean pesos and have your passport or copy of your passport with you.
- You must save your receipt in order to request the reimbursement to your insurance company.
- Some insurance companies require that you have a doctor fill out an information sheet in order to be reimbursed.
- Please check with your insurance company before visiting the doctor.

To inform medical emergencies:

- **Carlos E. Torres** (24/7 emergencies)
- **International Office:** 32 246 27 40 (Office Hours 9:00 am – 6:00pm)
- **Cell phone:** +56 9 9576 8846



HOMESTAY VS. RENTING

The UVM offers all international students with the possibility to spend their semester living with a Chilean host family. These families have years of experience receiving international students into their homes, and we try to match students to families based on the housing questionnaire included in their application.

Host families provide students with a private living space, WIFI, laundry, and 3 meals per day, along with the experience of living the daily Chilean lifestyle.

If you would like to rent your own apartment, we suggest looking for one in the following neighbourhoods: Recreo, Agua Santa, Centro or Plano for safety and proximity to the UVM campuses



WHAT TO PACK

- As mentioned before, it is important to bring any medicine you take with you. Bring enough for your entire trip and a few extras.
- It is possible that during the September-April months the weather will be nice enough to use shorts/skirts and sandals. However, starting in May the temperature begins to change, and June-August are cold months. While your families will have a space heater, most buildings and restaurants do NOT have central heating and can be colder than outside. The key to staying warm during the winter here is to be pre-pared and use layers. Bring a jacket/coat appropriate for the cold and rain.
- Students should bring boots (rain and snow) in case they want to travel to the South or the Andes Mountains where they will encounter snow. Students should also bring a jacket/coat appropriate for the rain as June/July are rainy months here in Viña del Mar.
- You should have a photocopy of important documents: passport, credit card(s), debit card, and ID.
- For those who use contacts, eye care solution here is quite expensive in comparison to other countries.
- The sun in Chile is very strong and close to the hole in the ozone layer. So, make sure you bring a good sunscreen (at least 30 SPF).
- Women should bring personal hygiene products with them as some items cannot be found throughout Chile or Latin America.



COMMUNICATION

- Internet is widely used in cities and towns throughout Chile. The International Office at the UVM has a wireless Internet connection that is free for all international students and interns. Cyber cafes can also be found in most towns where students can make international phone calls or use the Internet. WIFI can also be found at several establishments (i.e. Starbucks), but make sure to ask for their password

- Cell phones if you're going to bring your cellphone, make sure it's unlocked. SIM cards are relatively inexpensive, or you can buy an affordable prepaid cellphone package from several providers such as Entel, Movistar, etc.



MONEY

The use of credit cards is extensive in large cities, but it is preferable to carry local currency if you visit small towns or the countryside. Other than banks, few places accept traveler's checks. Students can also obtain money from ATM machines, located throughout the cities (however, each withdrawal is charged a transaction fee both here and back home) and receive money transfers through Western Union. There are many places where students can exchange Euros and US dollars, including shopping malls. Casas de Cambio in Viña del Mar: AFEX www.afex.cl CAMEX American Exchange: Mall Marina



TRANSPORTATION IN VIÑA DEL MAR AND CHILE

IMPORTANT: In order to drive or rent a car in Chile, foreigners should get an International Drivers' License before coming to Chile. Students are not allowed to drive/rent a car unless they have this document.

TAXI: A taxi is an easy way to travel but it is also the most expensive. Taxis charge by kilometer and they have a meter that marks the price. If a taxi does not have a meter, beware!!! It is recommended that, if students go to the same place at night and have no other way of returning, they should call a taxi.

A safe and reliable taxi company is: Radio Taxi

UBER is also a good option!

MICROS - LOCAL BUSES: <http://www.tmv.cl/> - "Tu Bus"

COLECTIVO: A "colectivo" is a taxi that has a fixed route and set fares. "Colectivos" have a sign on the top of the car that indicates the major

streets they pass and the number of the "colectivo" company. A "colectivo" can pick up to four people along their route; people get in and out of the "colectivo" just like a "micro". You should let the driver know where you would like to be dropped off when you get in.

METRO VALPO - LOCAL TRAIN: (www.merval.cl/): The metro runs between Valparaíso and Limache. Prices vary depending on where you get on and on where you get off. Hours of operation are: 07:00 - 22:30.

BUSES: Viña and Valparaíso have major terminals with buses going to most large towns in Chile. Buses to Santiago leave from both terminals and some companies give discounts to students with the "Pase Escolar" and ISIC Card, just show your card. Buses to Mendoza, Argentina also leave from both bus terminals. The best bus companies to travel with are the following:
Tur-Bus: www.turbus.com
Pullman Bus: www.pullman.cl

Health requirements for Chile COVID-19

1

Requirements to travel to Chile

1. Negative PCR Test: Collection time cannot be longer than 72hrs when you arrive.
2. Present Health Declaration [C19](#) (mandatory)
3. Medical Insurance with COVID coverage: \$30.000USD minimum

2

Vaccination is required

You must register the vaccines [here](#) at least 30 days before departure. They could be requested for visa requirements

3

Regulations

Chilean government has implemented 2 plans:

1. A plan to enter to Chile which is updated regularly. Please verify the official information prior to departure [here](#).
2. "[Step by Step](#)" Plan: strategy to face the pandemic according to the health situation of each particular region and/or neighborhood. There are 5 stages which determine the level of mobility and commerce operation that range from strict restrictions. Information will be explained and delivered by coordinators during orientation.

Important websites

Ministry of Health: [COVID Info](#)
Travel to Chile: [Plan](#)

Chilean Consulate near you: [Here](#)
UVM Covid Info: [Here](#)



SEE YOU IN VALPARAÍSO AND VIÑA DEL MAR!

