



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Bachelor Economics and Governance
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	04-03-2024 until 06-07-2024
Exchange destination: University	Universidad de Chile
Faculty	FEN (Faculty of Economics and Business)
Country	Chile
City	Santiago de Chile

2. Motivation for exchange

a. Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to explore a new city, culture and language for a longer period (longer than when traveling).

b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

I wanted to improve my Spanish during my exchange. Since I had already lived in Spain in my gap year I wanted to explore South America. Chile was for me the most attractive country to go in South America because of safety mostly compared to the other option (Colombia).

c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

There was no choice between Universities in Chile.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

From the Airport you can take a shared van through Transvip. You book it in advance for a specific time and they pick you up at the airport and bring you to your destination like a taxi, but just also with other people. You only pay €10, way cheaper than an Uber on your own.

4. University and studying

a. Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks

1	Behavior Economics	6	A course in Spanish about human behaviour in economics and the good and services market	3	A bit more difficult if your Spanish isn't that good (like mine)
2	Environmental Economics	10	English course about the environmental side of economics, a different (South American) perspective than we have here	4	
3	Management and Gender Equity	6	A Spanish course about gender inequality in our society and how to solve it	5	
4	Latin America in World's Affairs	10	An English course about how Latin America relates to the rest of the world in intercontinental policies and alliances	2	
5	Chilean Culture and History through Literature and Film	6	English course about the recent history of Chile starting at the dictatorship from 1973, the content is taught through films and books and discussing and analysing them in class	5	Really loved this course, a fun and interesting way to learn about the country you're living in
6					

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): only at the economics faculty they had courses in English, so for me there was enough choice. And I also wanted to take courses in Spanish, which were more interesting most of the time.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): the courses I took were fun, but very different from the courses at the WUR.

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): the courses were less easy than I thought they would be based upon the stories I heard about exchange.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): The courses were interesting and the right level

f. What is it like to study there?

E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?

It felt a bit more like high school. Because the classes were small (about 30 people) and the 70% compulsory attendance. But that way it felt more personal, the teachers really want to get to know you and the classmates are kind and interested. Because you follow 5 courses at once the contact hours per week are quite much but when you get home there is not much more workload. The exams were on paper, and most of the time not too hard.

g. What is the culture of the university?

E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?

Like I said above, more personal and a high-school feeling.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?

There are free sport facilities which were very nice. I did Zumba classes multiple times which I loved. There are also sport teams you can join or other sport classes, also a gym. There are a few catering facilities at the FEN.

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?

I rented a room through Chilean Way Houses, the rent out rooms for exchange student. It was great and options for living close to the campus.

b. What is the culture like?

E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?

Very warm and open culture, everyone is very nice to strangers. They love dancing and music and like to do things on the street or in parks. The Spanish is quite different than normal Spanish, they have a lot of slang and a different accent so that takes some time to get used to.

c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?

They have a very good working metro network (but very busy always) and busses going through the city. Also some bike lanes, but not like in the Netherlands. Busses also go through the country to travel to the South or North.

6. Expenses

a. Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	
Visa - if applicable	free
Vaccinations - if applicable	x
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	I paid 12€ a month for travel insurance
Daytrips/sight-seeing	Depends
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	€370
Grocery costs per month	Aprox same as in holland, bit more expensive
Public transport costs per month	€20
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	€60 for eating out once a week

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:

Some things are more expensive (the western products like cheese) but local products can be very cheap.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

E.g. Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?

Valparaíso, Pucón, Pichilemu, Cajón del Maipo, Buenos Aires, Chiloé, skiing for a day in El Colorado. All reachable by bus. Buenos Aires should be in summer otherwise the borders are closed due to snow, and it's a long travel of 22 hours. Chiloé also in summer, otherwise it is too cold.

b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?

Salsa and Bachata classes at Santiago Baila Salsa, on a square in front of cultural centre GAM. Also for very beginners and internationals!

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?

Getting to understand the Chilean Spanish, by practicing a lot and it just happens over time.

b. Best memory?

I went skiing one day. With the bus it is only an hour driving, so from the slope we saw the city. It was so cool to go from the warm and sunny city within an hour to a complete different world.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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