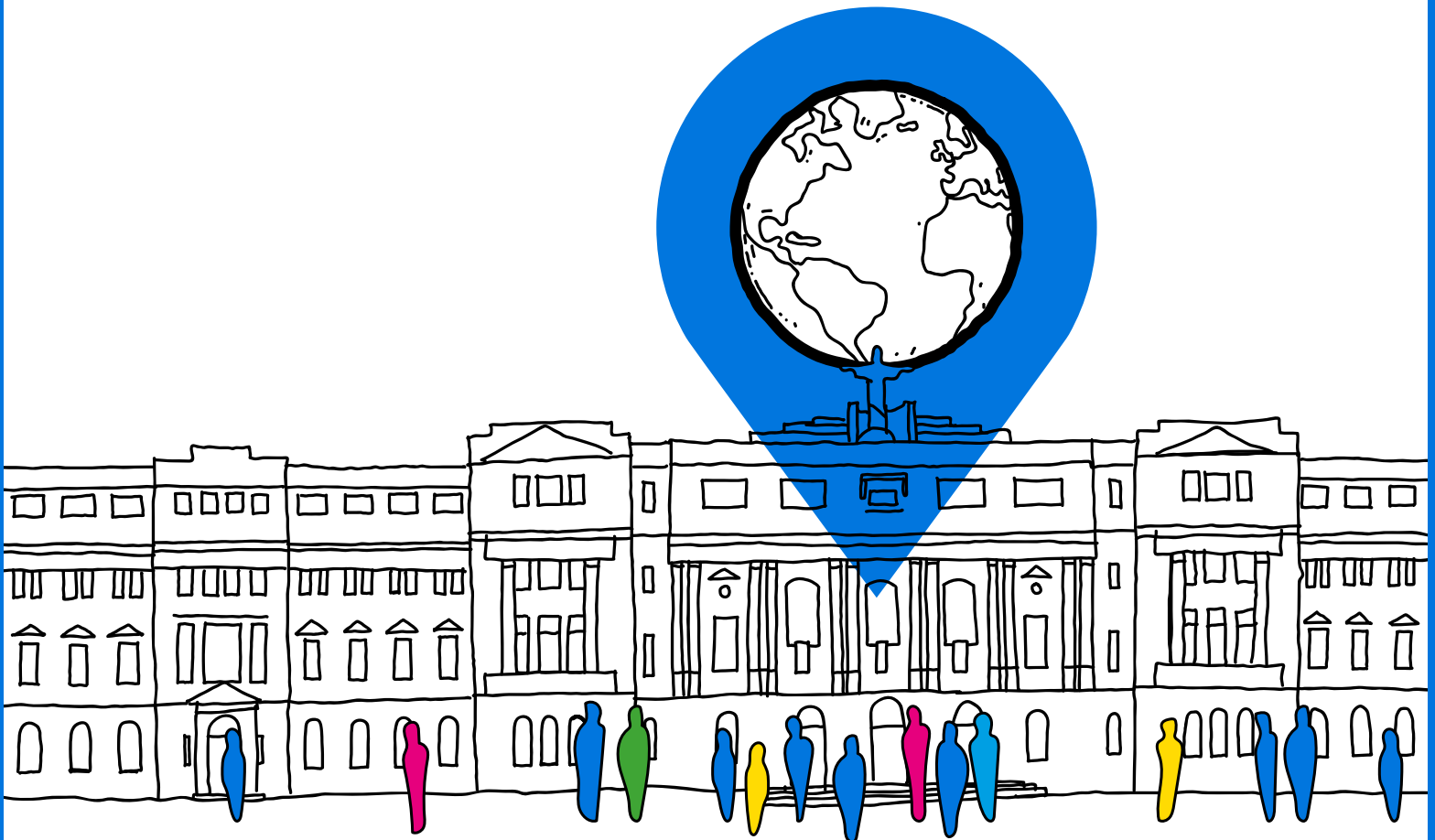




UC | Chile



GUIDE FOR **INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL STUDENTS**

**VICEPRESIDENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS & GRADUATE SCHOOL**

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WELCOME

First of all, we would like to welcome you to UC Chile and wish you the very best in this new journey you are about to begin. We are very happy that you have chosen our University to pursue your doctoral studies, and we invite you to make the most of every moment you spend with us. We hope that you will find here the tools to develop as a researcher and that you will also discover meaningful and enriching learning and life experiences.

At UC Chile you will find an intercultural academic community that focuses on students and supports their career development. We aspire to educate researchers who meet the highest standards of international excellence and who contribute to building a fairer and better society.

We invite you to become part of this institution, to get to know it well, and to integrate into the community that today is very happy to welcome you. We are the International Community Support Team of the Vicepresidency for International Affairs of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and, together with the Graduate School, we have prepared this guide especially for you. We know that during this experience many things will be new – being far from home, adapting to a different culture, and perhaps even speaking another language. We hope that this guide helps you learn a little more about our country, culture, and practical information that we trust will be useful for you.

Please note that this guide is intended to provide recommendations to help you prepare for your arrival and comply with local regulations. It is very important that you carefully review and ensure that you meet the requirements and regulations established both by your doctoral program and the University as well as the Chilean authorities.



SUPPORT NETWORK - WHO WE ARE

Vicepresidency for International Affairs

The Vicepresidency for International Affairs coordinates and promotes international initiatives in education, research, and social engagement in order for the UC Chile community, together with its international partners, to play a leading role in addressing global challenges.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM - UC CHILE

The International Community Support Team of the Vicepresidency for International Affairs is responsible for guiding and assisting incoming graduate students as they join UC Chile. The team provides support for all migration procedures prior to arrival in Chile, as well as for integration into the Chilean civil system and the UC community once students are in the country, focused on understanding and empathizing with the specific needs of international students.



OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 2:00-6:00 p.m.



Julio Gulin

Head, UC Chile International Community Area

@ jgulin@uc.cl

Phone: (+56) 95504 7135

Vicepresidency for International Affairs

Hall Universitario, 2nd Floor, San Joaquín Campus



Hernán Contreras

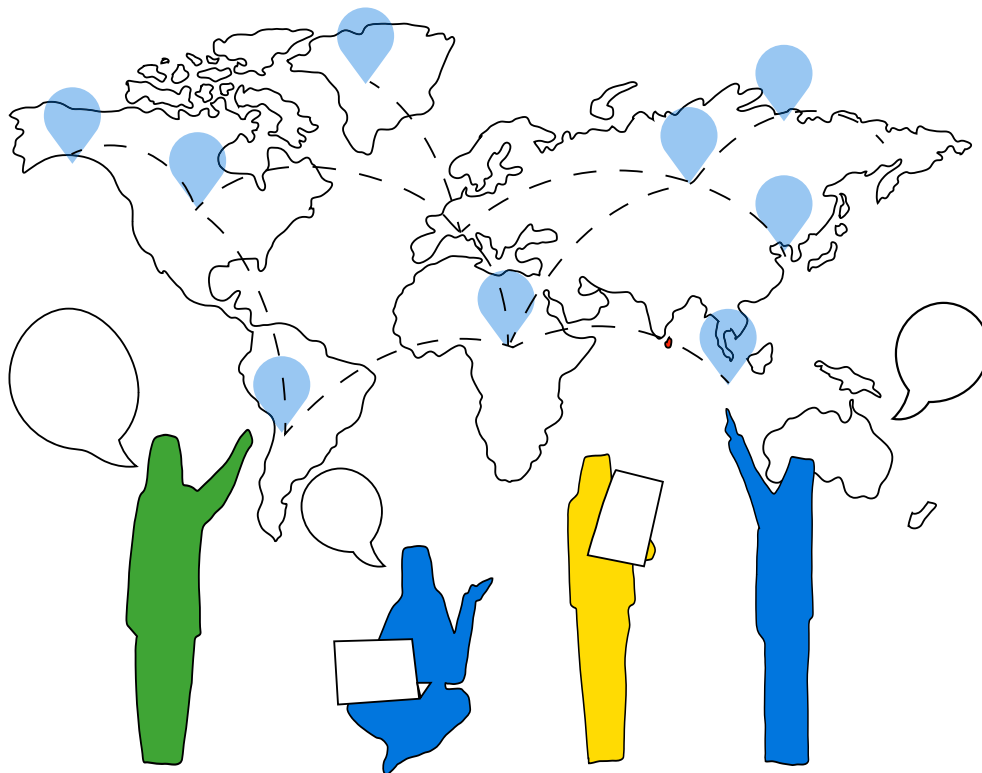
Coordinator, UC Chile International Community

@ hernan.contreras@uc.cl

Phone: (+56) 95504 1211

Vicepresidency for International Affairs

Hall Universitario, 2nd Floor, San Joaquín Campus



Vicepresidency for Research and Graduate Studies

GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School is a unit of the Vicepresidency for Research and Graduate Studies. Its mission is to support the development of doctoral training across the University by contributing to the design and implementation of strategies and mechanisms that ensure the quality of UC Chile's 39 doctoral programs and the implementation of related policies.

We are an interdisciplinary team of professionals who work closely with academic units to ensure the excellence of our academic programs. The Graduate School also has an Advisory Council composed of members of the UC Chile academic community and external experts who contribute to academic and strategic reflection on doctoral education and to strengthening connections with faculties and society.

Our mission is to guarantee the quality of our programs by promoting policies and mechanisms that strengthen doctoral students' training as independent researchers, supporting their career development and well-being. To achieve this, we provide guidance and assistance through scholarships, financial support for academic activities associated with doctoral training (such as conferences, seminars, and international stays), the development of transversal skills, and internationalization — as well as fostering students' integration into UC Chile.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write to us or visit our offices. We are located on the 4th floor of the Casa Central Campus, Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 340. You may also visit our website at <https://doctorados.uc.cl/es/>



Florencia Roncone

Head of Outreach

[@ froncone@uc.cl](mailto:froncone@uc.cl)

Phone: (+56) 95504 2248

Vicepresidency for Research
and Graduate Studies

4th Floor, Casa Central
Campus



Carolina Jiménez

Outreach Officer

[@ cjimenv@uc.cl](mailto:cjimenv@uc.cl)

Vicepresidency for Research
and Graduate Studies
4th Floor, Casa Central
Campus

CADEPUC

CADEPUC is the Academic Council of Graduate Students and brings together Master's and Doctoral students. One of its missions is to support graduate students who come from other universities or countries by providing information about how the University functions, democratic student organizations, and other relevant topics. Among its committees is the International Students Committee, which you may contact at [@ estudianteinternacional.cadepuc@gmail.com](mailto:estudianteinternacional.cadepuc@gmail.com) or follow on Instagram at ([@estudianteinternacionalcadepuc](https://www.instagram.com/estudianteinternacionalcadepuc)).

One of the support tools offered by this committee is a virtual Slack platform, which operates as an online forum where international students can remain in constant contact and resolve questions with their peers. Discussion channels include topics such as committee announcements, visas, housing, banking procedures, activities and leisure, sales, ideas, and more. Once you subscribe through the Committee, you will receive instructions to join the platform.

ABOUT CHILE

Chile has beautiful landscapes and many different tourist destinations to visit. Because of its geography, the country includes the driest desert in the world (the Atacama), snow-covered mountains, and a long coastal area, among many other places to explore.

Chile is the longest country in the world, stretching 4,329 km from north to south – equal to one tenth of the circumference of the Earth – and, if the Chilean Antarctic Territory is included, this length increases to 8,000 km. At the same time, it is also one of the narrowest countries, with an average width of only 180 km.

It is bordered by the Andes Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, which covers the entire length of its coastline. Because of its length, Chile is a nation of strong climatic and geographic contrasts. In addition to the extreme conditions of the Andes and the Atacama Desert, Chile enjoys a generally mild, temperate climate.

Due to its geography and north–south length, the country includes a wide variety of climates:

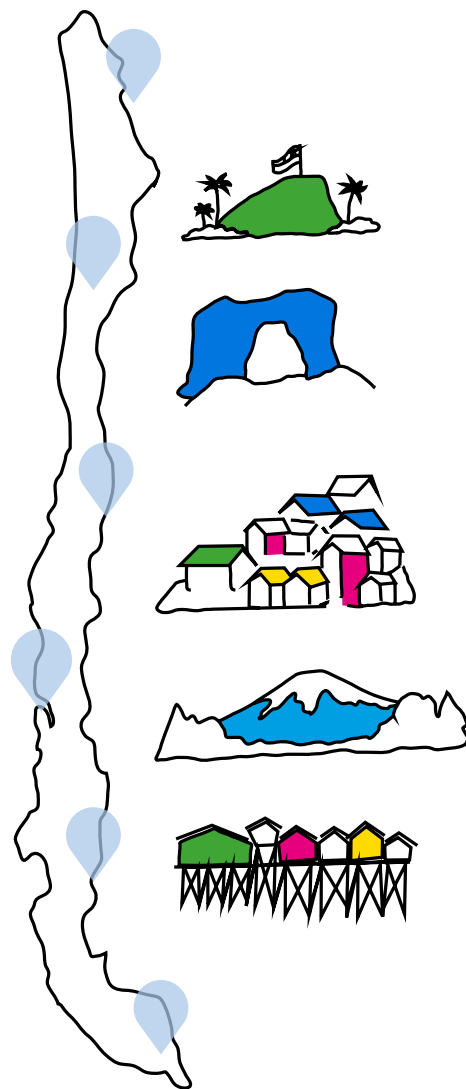
- Desert climate in the north.
- Mediterranean climate in the central area down to Concepción.
- Temperate and rainy climate from south of Concepción to Punta Arenas.
- Polar ice climate in Antarctica.

Since Chile is located in the Southern Hemisphere, students arriving in August may expect mild winter weather, which quickly changes during the spring. Summer begins on December 21. Those arriving in March will experience the end of summer and the beginning of fall. Winter begins on June 21.

Administratively, the country is divided into 16 regions. The national territory also includes several islands, among them the famous Easter Island (Rapa Nui). According to the most recent 2024 census of the National Statistics Institute (INE), Chile has a population of 18,480,432 people.

Santiago is the capital city of Chile and is located in the Metropolitan Region, which has more than 8.4 million inhabitants and offers a wide range of historical, cultural, recreational, and tourist attractions. Santiago is a generally safe city, although it is important to follow the same precautions recommended in any large capital city.

Chile is governed as a presidential republic. Executive power is held by the President of the Republic, who serves as both Head of State and Head of Government. The presidential term lasts four years. The official language is Spanish, the national currency is the Chilean peso, and the international telephone country code is +56.



RELATED INFORMATION

Marca Chile:

 www.marcachile.cl


Government of Chile

 www.gob.cl

Chile es Tuyo:

 www.chileestuyo.cl

Sernatur:

 www.sernatur.cl

TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS (VISAS)

Checklist and guidelines

Maintaining a valid migration status is the personal responsibility of every UC Chile student. However, the Vicepresidency for International Affairs has developed a series of tools to support and guide students throughout their migration processes.

Please review the following guide to learn about the requirements and procedures for applying for a visa:

Application for Temporary Residence for Study Purposes



UC Visa management application form

Recently, and in accordance with the new Migration Law (Law No. 21.325), the Council of Rectors of Chilean Universities (CRUCH), of which UC Chile is a member, signed an agreement with the National Migration Service (SERMIG). Through this agreement, the University submits a registry of UC Chile-sponsored individuals who are applying for temporary residence or renewing their existing permit. This process helps speed up temporary residence applications.

If you are applying for temporary residence or a visa extension, you must complete the UC Visa Management Application Form. Please note that each applicant is responsible for submitting accurate and complete documentation. This registry process does not replace document review or validation that may be requested by the National Migration Service.

For questions regarding migration processes, please email: [@ hernan.contreras@uc.cl](mailto:hernan.contreras@uc.cl)

ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT

Santiago's international airport is called Comodoro Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport. The official website is www.nuevopudahuel.cl. When you arrive, as in any international flight, you must go through both Immigration Control (International Police) and Customs.

International Police

Each time you enter Chile, you must present your valid passport or national identity card, along with your electronic visa approval. We strongly recommend printing this document and presenting it at Immigration Control.

Customs

During your flight to Santiago, you will receive a customs declaration form. Chile has strict agricultural and public health regulations. It is recommended that you do not bring food, seeds, or wooden crafts into the country. Read the form carefully and declare any plant or animal products to the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG). Failure to declare may result in fines. When in doubt, always declare the item.

The declaration form is also available online at sagingresoachile.cl. After clearing immigration, collect your luggage and proceed to the Customs area. Your luggage may be inspected. More information is available at www.sag.cl.

Transfer from the airport to Santiago

Santiago's international airport is located approximately 20 kilometers to the west of the city, and there are several official options for getting into Santiago. We recommend following the official airport transportation recommendations, where you will find information on taxi services, shared shuttle services (transfer), buses, and car rentals. In general, we suggest that you book your service at one of the counters inside the terminal, rather than with an informal representative in the arrivals area.

TAXI

The airport has a controlled taxi system. You may request this service in advance or at the counters located inside the passenger arrivals areas. These counters provide taxi services without prior reservation, either with standard taxis (black and yellow), which operate with a meter, or with tourist taxis (blue), which operate with a fixed fare per destination. The services recommended by the airport are Official Basic Taxi and Official Tourist Taxi.

Fares vary depending on the district (comuna) of your destination. As a reference, a trip to downtown Santiago may cost around CLP 20.000; to Providencia, approximately CLP 22.000; and to Ñuñoa, Vitacura, or Las Condes, around CLP 24.000. A typical upper range is around CLP 30.000.

SHARED SHUTTLE (TRANSFER)

Shared or private shuttle services operate between the airport and your final destination in Santiago. These are safe services, and you can pay in cash (there are several ATMs in the airport) or by card when making your reservation at one of the counters located on the first level of the international terminal, in the arrivals area. The service recommended by the airport is Transvip, which also offers exclusive vans and private taxis.

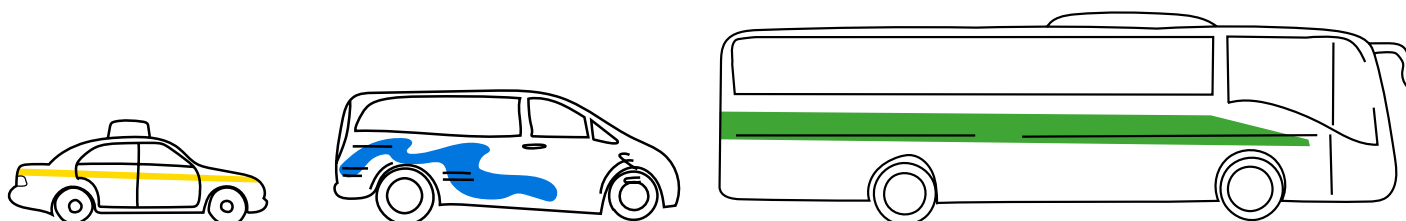
Prices are charged per person and depend on the district of your destination. In the case of shared transportation, you should keep in mind that travel time may be longer than with a private service (for example, between 45 and 80 minutes). As a reference, fares by destination district generally range from approximately CLP 8,000 to CLP 10,000 per person.

BUSES

Buses operate between the airport and several bus and metro terminals in the city. Three companies provide this service: Turbus, Centropuerto, and RED Movilidad (public transportation). You can board these buses immediately after leaving the main airport terminal. You may pay at the company counter or directly to the driver.

In the case of Metbus, which is part of the public transportation network, payment is made using the Bip! card (also used on the metro). You can purchase or top up this card at the Airport Intermodal Station. The Metbus route runs from the Airport Intermodal RED Movilidad stop to Pajaritos metro station, where you can transfer to other districts of Santiago.

Turbus and Centropuerto operate routes from the airport to downtown Santiago, with several stops where you can connect to the metro system (you must pay the additional metro fare separately to reach your final destination). Current fares and schedules can be found on each company's website.



OBTAINING A NATIONAL ID CARD FOR FOREIGNERS

Once your visa has been approved and stamped in your passport, you must obtain your Chilean National ID Card for Foreigners (cédula de identidad para extranjeros). This identification document is essential for carrying out many administrative procedures in Chile, such as signing contracts, opening bank accounts, and accessing a wide range of services.

PRACTICAL TIP

Once you are in Chile, we recommend that you book an appointment with the Civil Registry and Identification Service within the first 30 days of your arrival so that you can complete this process in a timely manner.

We strongly recommend completing the process at a municipality in the city of Santiago, as this is the fastest way to obtain your ID card.

What is the ID card for foreigners?

The National ID Card for Foreigners is an identity document issued by the Civil Registry and Identification Service. It certifies your identity in Chile and assigns you a Rol Único Nacional (RUN), which is the Chilean national ID number. This number is required for most formal procedures in the country.

How and where do I complete the process?

The ID card is issued by the Civil Registry and Identification Service (Servicio de Registro Civil e Identificación). You must book an [appointment online](#) and then attend in person at one of the authorized offices. On the day of your appointment, your photograph and fingerprints will be taken, and your personal data will be confirmed. Once the process is complete, you will be given a receipt indicating the date on which you may pick up your ID card.

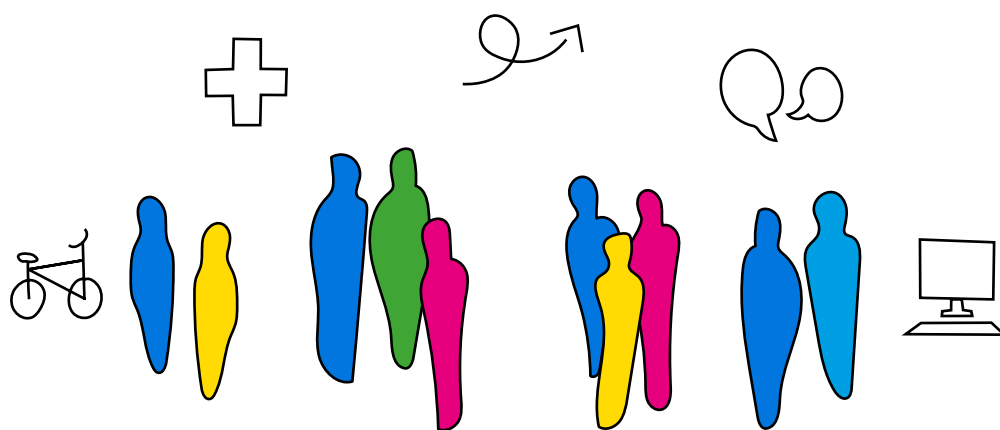
To book an appointment and find offices near your place of residence, visit: www.registrocivil.cl

What do I need for the process?

To obtain your National ID Card for Foreigners, you will generally need:

- A valid passport.
- Your temporary residence visa or residence permit, duly stamped or electronically registered.
- Your entry stamp into Chile (or electronic entry record).
- Payment of the corresponding fee, which will be indicated at the time of the application.

Processing times and specific requirements may vary, so we recommend checking the official information on the Civil Registry website before your appointment. If you have questions, you can also contact the International Community Support Team for guidance.



HEALTH INSURANCE BEFORE TRAVELING TO CHILE

The following information about Chile's healthcare system and insurance is only a brief summary of the details you'll be able to access regarding health coverage by attending the orientation talks that will take place in January and March, which are crucial for your well-being.

Before traveling to Chile, you must have a valid international health insurance policy that covers you during your entire stay, at least until you obtain access to a Chilean health system if applicable. The insurance should cover at least basic medical care and emergency assistance. We strongly recommend that your policy include coverage for medical expenses of no less than USD 30,000.

It is important that both you and any family members traveling with you are protected from the moment you begin your trip. Carefully review the coverage limits, reimbursement conditions, and exclusions so that you know how to proceed if you require medical attention while in Chile.

HEALTH COVERAGE DURING YOUR STAY IN CHILE

Chile has a mixed health system made up of a public system and private insurers. The public system is managed by the National Health Fund (FONASA), while the private system is made up of Health Insurance Institutions (ISAPRES). Workers who are formally employed in Chile must contribute a mandatory portion of their income to one of these systems.

People who are affiliated with FONASA are classified into contribution groups based on their income level, which determines the percentage of co-payment they must make when receiving care. Those who choose an ISAPRE pay a monthly premium according to the health plan they select. In both cases, the specific coverage and out-of-pocket costs will depend on the plan and the type of health care received.

If you are not formally employed in Chile, you will generally continue to rely on your international health insurance. Regardless of your situation, it is very important that you are familiar with the conditions of your health coverage in order to avoid unexpected expenses in case of illness or an accident.

During orientation activities for doctoral students, the University will provide more detailed information on health coverage options and how to access health services in Chile.

STUDENT SERVICES AND BENEFITS

Language

For international students at UC Chile who are not native Spanish speakers, having a good command of Spanish is a key factor for successful integration into the University and into life in Chile. For this reason, non-Spanish-speaking students may take a free placement test to determine their level of Spanish.

Students who take the placement test and obtain a score below level B1 will be referred to a Spanish UC course. You can check your Spanish level for free [here](#).

We live in an increasingly globalized world in which English has become a fundamental skill in any university career. As a UC Chile student, you can enroll in English courses at student rates through [English UC](#), the University's language and training center.

If you enjoy learning new languages and cultures, you will also have access to courses in other languages – such as French, Catalan, Japanese, and even Sanskrit – at student rates. You can explore the available courses offered through the Extension School of the Language Faculty. Find out more, [here](#).

UC card (TUC)

Students may obtain the UC Card (Tarjeta UC, or TUC), which serves as their official UC Chile identification. The card allows you to access campuses, use library services, and access other University services and benefits. You can find detailed information [here](#).

Teatro UC

Looking for cultural activities? Discover Teatro UC, one of the most important and longest-running theater venues in Chile, with more than 80 years of history. As a member of the UC Chile community, you are entitled to a 40% discount on all productions in the annual season. Don't miss out. You can check the program and other details on this [website](#).

Almacén UC

Visit the Almacén UC and receive a 15% discount when you pay with your UC Card. There you will find sweaters, water bottles, USB drives, T-shirts, backpacks, mugs, and many other items with the UC Chile brand. You can view the [catalog](#) and shop online, or visit the store in person to see the products available.

Computer labs (CRISOL)

Do you need to print documents or readings for your courses? In the University's CRISOL ("Cristo Online") computer labs, you may print up to 100 pages per day when you bring your own paper. You can find the CRISOL lab closest to you on the UC Chile [website](#).

UC sports

[UC Sports](#) offers a wide variety of sports and recreational activities to promote physical well-being and a healthy lifestyle. Through workshops, competitive sports, open training sessions, and access to sports facilities, students are encouraged to enjoy exercise, develop healthy habits, and take part in shared spaces for recreation and connection. You can learn more on the UC Sports website and review the list of available sports workshops and their fees [here](#).

Shared bicycle system (SIBICO)

The Shared Bicycle System (SIBICO), coordinated by the Sustainability Office, allows you to borrow a bicycle free of charge, along with all the necessary accessories, so that you can move around the campuses – and through the city – on two wheels. Register and request your bicycle and equipment through the SIBICO platform, [here](#). Always remember to use the safety equipment and follow safe practices when cycling.

Interculturality Program

The UC Chile Interculturality Program promotes respect, dialogue, and mutual understanding among the diverse cultures that coexist within the university community. Through meeting spaces, cultural activities, educational workshops, and student support, the program seeks to strengthen diversity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging.

During the second semester, UC Chile organizes Interculturality Month, which features activities designed especially for the international community. You can find more information on the program's [website](#).

UC Extension

UC Extension is dedicated to bringing culture, the arts, and knowledge closer to the broader community. It offers concerts, exhibitions, film series, lectures, and a variety of events that are open to the public. We invite you to explore the current program at <https://extension.uc.cl/>.

Green Guide for new UC Chile students

Consult the [Green Guide for students who are joining UC Chile](#) in order to learn about sustainability initiatives and recommendations. The guide also includes tips to help you prepare for your arrival in Chile.

Student health and wellness services

Current doctoral students, as well as those in the process of graduation (up to one year from the last term in which they registered courses), who are affiliated with a health system that issues payment vouchers (Fonasa or an Isapre), may access the services provided directly by the [UC Chile Student Health and Wellness Directorate](#).

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Individual counseling and psychoeducational groups, talks, and workshops on sexual health, ergonomics, and healthy eating.
- Rapid HIV testing and nutritional evaluations.
- Guidance and workshops on parenting and respectful caregiving.
- Lactation rooms on all UC Chile campuses.
- Campaigns on the prevention of prevalent diseases.

DENTAL HEALTH

- Consultations and treatment in various dental specialties at preferential rates for students.
- Workshops and talks on oral health prevention.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Psychological counseling services, including the possibility of remote sessions for students who are temporarily outside the country.
- Individual counseling, talks, and psychoeducational workshops on topics such as anxiety, stress and sleep, healthy relationships, depression prevention, adaptation to change, suicide prevention, and substance use.
- Support and accompaniment groups.

Agreement with the UC-CHRISTUS Health Network

There is an agreement between the Student Health and Wellness Directorate and the UC-CHRISTUS Health Network. As a regular UC Chile student, you can access benefits for in-person clinical care in the UC-CHRISTUS Health Network throughout the year, including February, when the University closes for its academic recess.

The agreement provides 100% coverage for in-person medical consultations in Family Medicine, Ophthalmology, Traumatology, and Gynecology at the San Joaquín Medical Center. Doctoral students in the process of graduation, for up to one year after the last term in which they enrolled in courses, may also access these benefits. Students who are not affiliated with Fonasa or an Isapre are excluded from this agreement.

Payment automation for health vouchers is handled directly at UC-CHRISTUS Health Network centers, which simplifies access to services. To use this system, you simply place your fingerprint when paying the voucher. Some exams and procedures may be performed at any center in the network, not only at the San Joaquín Medical Center or the hospital on Marcoleta Street. You can find more details about this agreement, services, coverage, and benefits [online](#).

If you would like to learn more about the health benefits available to you as a doctoral student:

- Visit <http://saludestudiantil.uc.cl>
- Follow [@saludybienestaruc](#) on Instagram
- Write to [@daesaludybienestar@uc.cl](mailto:daesaludybienestar@uc.cl)

In case of emergency on UC Chile campuses

If you have an emergency on campus — for example, an accident or a situation that puts your life at risk — you must do the following:

CALL

- From UC Chile landlines: extension 5000.
- From mobile phones: +56 95504 5000.
- From landlines outside UC Chile: +56 95504 5000.
- From Campus Villarrica: +56 22411 830.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

- Remain where you are and wait for the nurse and security staff to arrive.
- Follow the instructions given by the nurse or security officer.
- At Casa Central, San Joaquín, Oriente, and Lo Contador campuses, a clinical nurse is available and will go to the site of the incident. The nurse will provide the care you need and decide whether you must be transferred to an emergency service. This care will have no cost to you.
- At Campus Villarrica, the social worker is responsible for coordinating the referral process to the Villarrica Hospital, activating the State School Insurance.




WHAT ARE THE NURSES' HOURS ON EACH CAMPUS?

- Casa Central Campus: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.
- San Joaquín Campus: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays.
- Oriente Campus: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.
- Lo Contador Campus: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.
- Villarrica Campus: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Among the student services you will find at UC Chile, the following are especially important:

Enrollment Department (Departamento de matrícula)

The Enrollment Department is responsible for guiding you through the enrollment process. If you need a certificate (for example, a certificate of enrollment), you can contact the department directly by writing to


 matricula@uc.cl.

Faculty academic unit

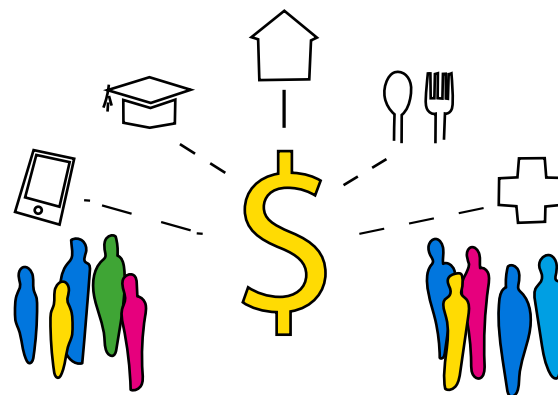
If you have questions about your program, you should contact the academic unit of your faculty. UC Chile currently has 18 academic units. If you need guidance, you may contact your program director or graduate program coordinator.

UC help desk (mesa de ayuda UC)

The UC Help Desk offers both in-person and telephone assistance. In-person service is available in the Central Hall of the San Joaquín Campus and in Patio Juan Pablo II at Casa Central. If you need to print a certificate (such as a certificate of enrollment, ranking certificate, or academic transcript), you can request it there. Staff also answer general questions related to the University.

You can contact the UC Help Desk by calling +56 22354 4000 (from a landline), +56 95504 4000 (from a mobile phone), or by emailing  5555@uc.cl.

UNIVERSITY JOB BANK



Central del trabajo FEUC

The Temporary Residence for Study Purposes (visa) allows you to carry out lawful paid activities for up to 30 hours per week, without the need to obtain additional authorization to do so. These activities may be carried out in the educational entity in which they study, or for any other employer or contractor. In case of exercising this type of activity, they must inform the National Migration Service, attaching a copy of the contract with information in question. These activities must not interfere with the person's status as a regular student, otherwise they may lose their temporary residence permit for study purposes. For more [information](#).

The Student Federation of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile developed a Central de Trabajos (CTR), with more than 46 years of validity. It offers regular students of the university the possibility of working part-time or full-time. It is currently unified to the UC Labor Market platform. You can review the opportunities available on the www.mercadolaboraluc.cl portal, entering your data in the student area and applying for the various part-time jobs and internships that are offered.

LEGALIZATION OF DEGREES OBTAINED IN CHILE TO ACCREDIT THEM ABROAD

How to legalize your degree obtained at the UC?

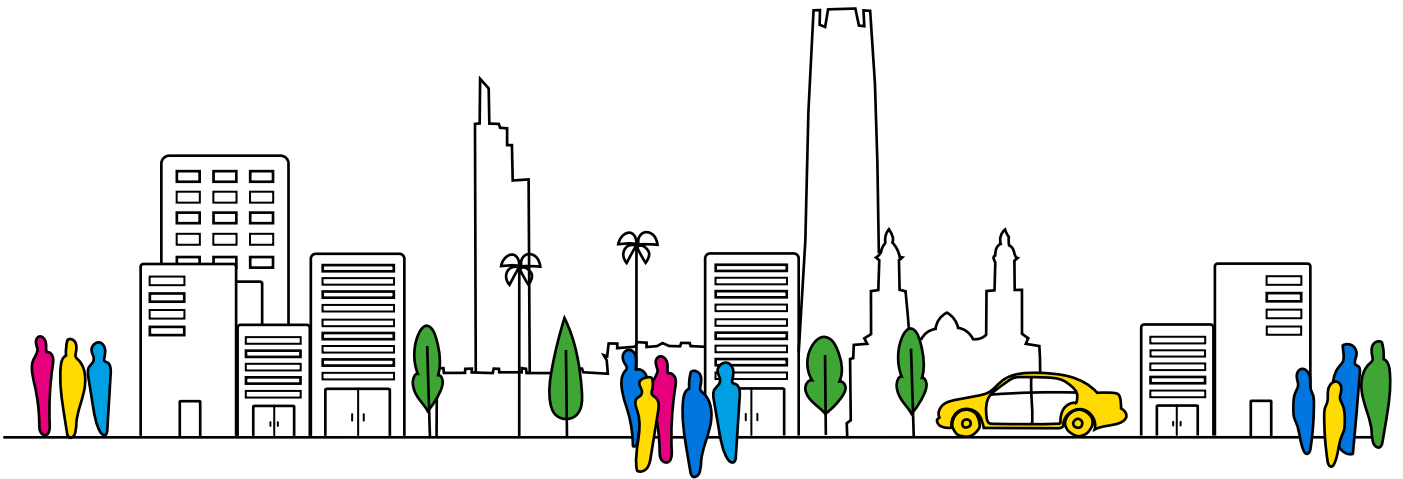
It is possible to legalize and apostille your certificates and/or professional degree, with the aim of accrediting your studies abroad in Chile. The steps are as follows:

- If the country where the certificates of studies will be presented is a member [of the Hague Convention on Apostille](#), the documents must only have the legalization and apostille of the Ministry of Education (Mineduc).
- If the destination country does not belong to the agreement, the documents must be legalized at the Ministry of Education, and then [legalized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MINREL\)](#) and at the consulate of the country where they will be presented.

IMPORTANT

- The documents [must be endorsed or signed](#) by the [Secretaría General UC](#):
- The original documents must contain the name of the competent authority, handwritten and letter, stamp, and corresponding position.
- Those obtained online must contain the name of the competent authority, advanced electronic signature and its respective verification code, with or without the printing of the handwritten signature (graphic aspect of the signature).
- Only original documents (without stains or amendments) with the name, position, signature and handwriting of the corresponding authority are accepted. Digitized signatures are not accepted.

It is recommended to check in advance at the consulate of the country to which you want to present the documents.



ACCOMMODATION

The UC does not have its own university residence, and the university cannot guarantee or be responsible for the services offered by external housing vendors. However, you can consult the list of options of [Residences and agencies as a reference](#). If you are interested in a featured housing option, you should contact the company or residence in question directly. On the other hand, if you are interested in living with a Chilean family, you can access www.homestaychile.cl.

Students who plan to stay over a year may prefer to rent an apartment. There are different websites where offers for sale and rent are published.

TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT HOUSING SEARCH SITES:

www.airbnb.com

www.booking.com

www.portalinmobiliario.com

goplaceit.com

www.propiedades.emol.com

<https://houm.com/>

When signing a rental contract and to avoid conflicts or misunderstandings, make sure you **know the general and specific conditions of the contract**, the mandatory terms, the type and frequency of readjustments to the value of the lease. Require that the rental contract be **signed before a notary** and do not accept contracts made from pre-prepared forms. However, property brokers generally have rental formats which we suggest reviewing carefully.

The rental value can be expressed in Chilean pesos or in Unidades de Fomento (UF). The UF is a unit of account used in Chile, readjustable according to inflation. In this case, the value of the lease in UF is maintained throughout the contract without undergoing adjustments (except for its own adjustments). To find out the value of the UF, check the website of the [Internal Revenue Service \(SII\)](#).

Requirements for renting a home

In addition to the valid identity document (passport or RUT), it is necessary to demonstrate economic solvency (for example, income in national currency, scholarship), stamped visa or Electronic Stamp, and have an impeccable commercial record. Sometimes, a guarantor or co-signer is requested to support the lease contract.

Housing rental conditions

In general, when renting a home, the contract requires the advance payment of the month of rent plus an additional month of guarantee. In the case of furnished apartments, they may request a two-month warranty in addition to the inventory signature along with the lease agreement. If the rental is made through a broker, a commission equivalent to 50% of the first month's lease must be considered.

SUGGESTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

- When visiting an apartment of interest, we suggest coordinating daylight visits to see if it's dark or bright.
- Verify that basic services are paid (electricity, water and green gas stamp).
- Consultation on the payment of common expenses. These expenses refer to the expenses incurred for the maintenance and proper functioning of the building or condominium. These may include salary payment to janitors, cleaning staff, elevator maintenance, for example. Ask what items are included in the payment of common expenses, because in all buildings and condominiums it is different. There are some that include hot water and heating, others, on the other hand, consumption is individual.

AREAS AND NEIGHBORHOODS IN SANTIAGO

Where to live in Santiago?

That will depend on what your priorities are: proximity to the UC campus, if it is close to shopping centers, if it involves transportation or if it is within walking distance, or if you prefer to be far away in a quieter neighborhood. In this regard, you can first define the commune that best suits your needs.

There are very well evaluated communes that are recommended to live in, but that tend to have a higher cost of living: Las Condes, Vitacura, Lo Barnechea, La Reina and Peñalolén, which could be further away from the UC campuses.


We suggest you first visit the neighborhood to see what it's like; whether or not there is a lot of traffic congestion, what type of commerce it has, is it close to a mall or small stores that would not contribute to heavy traffic, if you would be close or very far from the campus.



Safety

In general, Santiago is considered a relatively safe metropolis. It is advisable, however, to take a series of basic common-sense precautions, especially in the case of certain neighborhoods and at night.

Robberies and thefts are not uncommon, so it is advisable to be vigilant, have backpacks and bags firmly held close to your body, and if possible, keep documentation and money separately. It is not recommended to display mobile phones, notebooks, video and photographic cameras, jewelry, watches, cash and very conspicuous bags, while walking on the sidewalk, in crowded areas or open spaces.

Car thefts have increased and can occur in any area and at any time. Each municipality (commune) is responsible for implementing strategies to improve the safety of its residents. In addition, some municipalities have emergency security services, which have their own telephone number. It is recommended to consult the website of your commune to register specific information about the measures implemented and the recommendations in each case. Digital apps such as “ So Safe” can be a helpful resource. Emergency telephone numbers are at the end of this guide.

COST OF LIVING

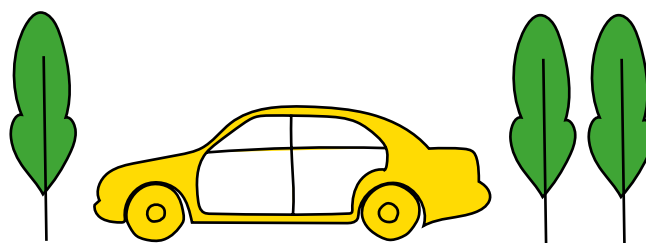
ESTIMATED MONTHLY COSTS*		
Accommodation (these costs do not include common expenses)	Shared apartment	From 225,000
	Furnished apartment	From 250,000 plus common expenses
	Student residence	From 260,000
	I am a student	From 250,000 plus common expenses
	Room (inside a house or apartment)	From 200,000
Personal and recreational expenses	Monthly Wireless Plan	From 9,000
	Monthly Home Internet Plan	From 16,000
	Admission to the cinema	From 4,100
	Monthly gym membership	From 22,000
	Lunch at UC campus	Between 4,000 and 7,000
	An espresso coffee	Between 2,000 and 2,900
	Passage on public transport	From 710

Average values calculated in January 2026.


OBSERVATIONS



In Chile there are open air farmer´s markets, where fresh products are sold, such as fruits and vegetables, usually at more affordable prices than in supermarkets.



Also, lookout for municipal pharmacies, which are usually cheaper than traditional ones.



TRANSPORTATION IN THE CITY


To get around within Santiago you have several options, such as buses, subways, taxis, radio taxis or applications such as Uber and/or Cabify. The public transport system in Chile is called the Metropolitan Mobility Network, known as  RED or ex Transantiago. It is an integrated public transport system, which has intercity buses (colloquially called micros) and metro lines, which connect the city.

To travel on Santiago's public transport, both on RED buses and on the Metro, you need to have the "bip!" card. You can buy it in some metro stations or in bip! (CLP 1.550 - reference value of  tarjetabip.cl) and then recharge it at the checkouts of all metro stations, or load online in the  Redbip application and validate your charge when you arrive at the station.

To make your trips more efficient, we recommend that you search for the best route through  Google Maps, entering your place of origin and the destination campus. Or, by downloading the  Moovit application, which allows you to see maps of the city, updated information on bus and subway schedules and routes.



Metro de Santiago

The Santiago Metro has seven lines of routes (lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5 and 6), in addition to having combinations with RED buses. Line 1 runs in an east-west direction, on the axis of Alameda-Providencia-Apoquindo avenues, covering the center, as well as the communes of Providencia and Las Condes.

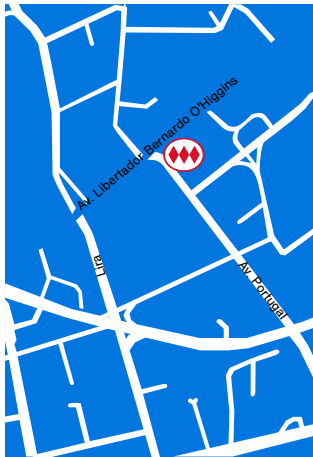
The cost of the trip has a value of between 680 - 840 Chilean pesos, depending on the time of day. In the case of students who have their school pass (TNE), the value is 250 Chilean pesos (reference value of  metro.cl). The Santiago metro does not have fixed schedules for each trip; Trains usually run every 2 to 3 minutes.

During the morning, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and in the afternoon, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Metro Lines 2, 4 and 5 operate express routes (red stops and green stops) so some trains skip stops. All trains are marked in the cabin and on their doors with the color of the travel route taken by that train during rush hours.

On the official Metro website you can find all the information to get around, such as maps, line combinations, trip planning, schedules, etc.:

-  www.metro.cl
- We also recommend you follow them on X [@metrodesantiago](https://twitter.com/metrodesantiago), where they update information in case there are closed stations.
- Other useful links:
- Network Status:  <https://www.metro.cl/el-viaje/estado-red>
- Plan your trip:  <https://www.red.cl/planifica-tu-viaje/>

Map of the Santiago metro



CAMPUS CENTRAL

📍 Off. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 340, Santiago.

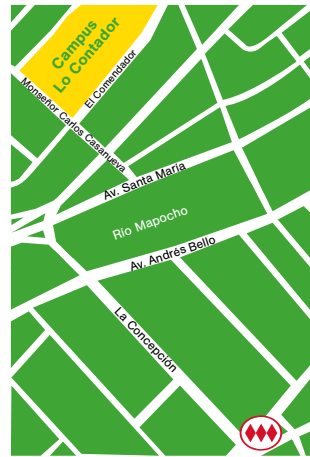
🚇 One block from the Universidad Católica Metro, Line 1.



CAMPUS ORIENTE

📍 Av. Jaime Guzmán Errázuriz 3300, Providencia.

🚇 A 15-20 minute walk from the Chile-Spain Metro, Line 3.



CAMPUS LO CONTADOR

📍 El Comendador 1916, Providencia.

🚇 A 10-15 minute walk from Metro Pedro de Valdivia, Line 1.



CAMPUS SAN JOAQUÍN

📍 Off. Vicuña Mackenna 4860, Macul.

🚇 In front of Metro San Joaquín, Line 5.

Buses

The city buses are called “micros” and operate within the framework of the RED system. The most important points on the route are on the windshield. In www.red.cl, you can search for the lines you need for a specific route.

The [standard fare](#) is 770 Chilean pesos (reference value of red.cl) and allows transfer to other buses or the metro, changing the fare to a maximum price of 870 Chilean pesos. You can hop on three buses in a row (of different numbers), at no extra charge, within the first 120 minutes, or get on a metro and then take two buses without paying an extra charge.

School pass (TNE)

Students can obtain the TNE (National Student Card), which is a benefit granted by the Ministry of Education of the Government of Chile, and which considers a lower fare on metro and bus tickets for students. For more information on the steps to follow, you can consult [here](#).

Applications for public transport

For those who do not meet the requirements to apply for the TNE, it is recommended to use bip! QR, which will allow you to pay a maximum of \$41,000 per month. You can find more information [here](#). It is recommended to use the [Red Movilidad](#) app or the [Banco Estado](#) app if you have a Rut Account.

Taxis

Regular taxis are black, yellow-roofed vehicles that pick up passengers anywhere. In Santiago, there is a base rate of 400 - 450 Chilean pesos plus around 150-190 pesos for every 200 meters of distance traveled (or per minute of waiting). Fares are indicated on the windscreen, and the taximeter must always be in view

of the passenger. There are also radio taxi companies, or you can use a mobile app like [Easy Taxi](#). In Chile there is also the option of boarding vehicles with applications such as Uber, Cabify and Didi, although there is no regulation on the legality or illegality of these applications so far. We do emphasize that these applications do not have passenger transport insurance.

Intercity bus terminals

If you're traveling outside of Santiago, keep in mind that buses run through Chile daily at different times. Fares will depend on the bus company, destination city and the season in which you travel (long weekends, summer and winter vacations, for example). The regional bus system covers all of Chile, from Santiago to Arica (approximately 30 hours), and from Santiago to Punta Arenas (approximately 40 hours).

For information on the rights and duties of passengers and bus entrepreneurs you can consult [here](#). Among the duties of a passenger, is to wear a seat belt at all times. In case of control, if you are not wearing a seat belt, you will be subject to paying a fine directly to the municipality of the town where you are at that minute.

The most common bus terminals located in Santiago are the following:

TERMINAL BUSES SANTIAGO (O TERMINAL SUR)

Alameda 3850, Metro Universidad de Santiago, Estación Central commune.

From this terminal, buses leave throughout Chile and also to countries such as Argentina, Peru, Brazil and Colombia, among others.

TERMINAL SAN BORJA (EX TERMINAL NORTE)

San Borja 235, Metro Estación Central, commune of Estación Central. From here, buses leave for the central and northern areas of Chile.

TERRAPUERTO LOS HÉROES

Tucapel Jiménez 21, Metro La Moneda, Santiago commune. With departures to the north and south of Chile and abroad.

TERMINAL ALAMEDA

Alameda 3750, Metro Universidad de Santiago, Estación Central commune.

This terminal is owned by two of the largest companies in the country, Tur Bus and Pullman Bus, which travel throughout Chile.

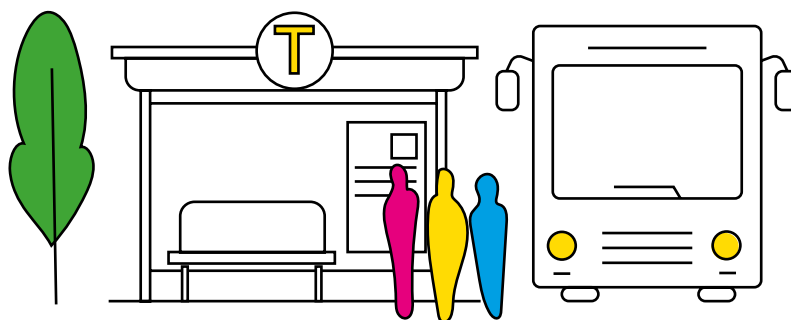
PAJARITOS BUS TERMINAL

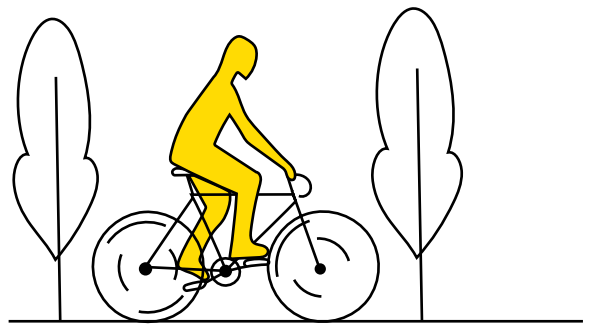
Avenida General Bonilla 5600, Metro Pajaritos, commune of Pudahuel.

It is an intermodal station and from there buses leave for the coast, Viña del Mar and Valparaíso specifically.

PURCHASE OF INTERCITY BUS TICKETS

You can buy bus tickets directly at the bus terminals, at the offices of the companies or their websites, or through the www.recorrido.cl





Bicycle

The use of bicycles as a means of transportation is a reality that is gaining more and more interest in the city of Santiago, especially as a way to avoid crowds and traffic congestion.

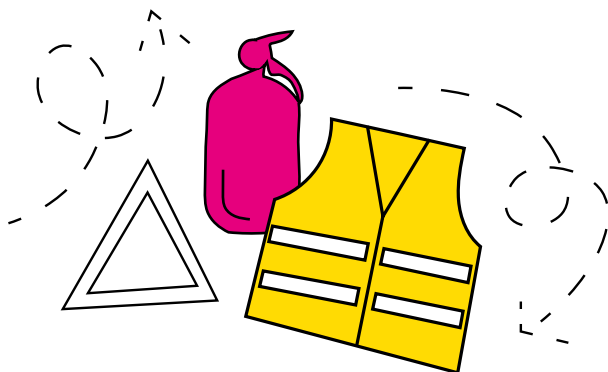
The network of bike lanes is mainly concentrated in the districts of the center and east of the capital, which are associated with the Metro network. The communes with the largest extension of bike lanes are Santiago, Las Condes, and Maipú and, on the other hand, La Reina and Providencia are the ones with the greatest coverage (the largest number of people per km). The connectivity of Santiago's bike lanes has improved recently, although their state of maintenance and safety not assured. Therefore, it is recommended to exercise caution in the use of bicycles and skateboards for everyday transportation purposes and to always wear full personal protective equipment, in addition to maintaining defensive driving.

The UC has a [Sibico bike-sharing system](#) that seeks to encourage the use of this means of transport free of charge. Also at the UC there are bike racks or "cicileteros" <https://sustentable.uc.cl/> for the safe parking of bicycles on all campuses in Santiago. In addition, the San Joaquín Campus has the [El Container Collaborative Bicycle Workshop](#) where services are provided and the creation of a community of cyclists at the UC is favored.

The use of bicycles during weekends is suggested on [recreational routes](#) specially designed for this purpose. In addition, given the topographical characteristics of the country, mountain biking is highly appreciated as a sport and spectacular [mountain routes](#) are found both in Santiago and throughout Chile. Bicycle [tourism](#) is also an interesting way to travel and get to know the natural landscapes and cultural aspects of the country.

LINKS OF INTEREST AND COLLABORATIVE MAPS

- [Legal guide on bike lanes](#)
- [Regulations Cyclist](#)
- [Collaborative Bike Path Map](#)
- [Map of bike shops and workshops](#)



Driving in Chile

The minimum age to drive is 18 years old. If you do not have an international driver's license, which usually lasts for one year, you will be able to obtain a driver's license in Chile after you have obtained your RUT. For more information on this and how to take the relevant driving test, see [here](#).

Note: Chile has **agreements with some countries** that allow citizens to obtain driver's licenses with a simplified procedure, without the need for exams. These countries include: **Spain, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, South Korea, Japan** and **Argentina**. To change their license for a Chilean one, people from the aforementioned countries must go to the Department of International Affairs of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications (MTT) carrying the following documents:

- Copy of your country's driver's license. In the case of South Korea or Japan, a copy translated into Spanish is required.
- Valid Chilean identity card.

For the other countries, there is a possibility to obtain an International Driver's License before entering the country, issued in your home country. This type of license is generally valid for 1 year.

TOLLS

In Santiago it is practically mandatory for the car to have the TAG device. The TAG is an electronic device that is installed on the front windshield of the vehicle. This allows detecting the passage through the toll gates of the private urban and interurban highways, with the purpose of making automatic charges for the transits made on each of these roads. There are different dealerships that offer the device, and it can be activated for a large number of interconnected toll road companies. As an example, there are: [Costanera Norte](#), [Vespucio Sur](#), [Autopista Central](#), [Vespucio Norte](#), etc.

The main access roads to Santiago are:

- If you're traveling from the north, take Route 5 North that crosses Santiago from north to south.
- If you are traveling from Argentina, you must do so by International Route 57 that accesses Santiago.
- If you are traveling from the south, you must do so on Route 5 South that crosses the city and joins Route 5 North.
- If you are traveling from the coast, there are two alternatives; for the section between Quintero, Viña del Mar, Valparaíso and Algarrobo, which accesses Santiago through Route 68; or by the section between El Tabo and Santo Domingo, which reaches the capital by the Autopista del Sol (Route 78).

Not all of these routes accept TAGs, so it is recommended to always have cash to be able to pay manual tolls, such as on Route 5 North and Route 5 South.

ZERO TOLERANCE LAW

Chile is governed by the law known as the "Zero Tolerance Law". Driving under the influence of alcohol is considered when the breathalyzer shows between 0.31 and 0.79 milligrams of alcohol per liter of blood. Meanwhile, you drive while intoxicated when the test shows from 0.8 milligrams. The advice is "if you're going to drink, don't drive."


NO CHAT LAW

Sending electronic messages (what in Chile is called "chatting") through mobile devices and driving simultaneously is considered a very serious infraction for drivers who engage in these behaviors, with fines between 1.5 and 3 UTM (CLP 80,000 to 160,000 approximately). In addition, it entails the suspension of the driver's license for a period of between 5 and 45 days, which can be increased from 45 to 90 days in case of a repeat offense; that is, 2 very serious infractions committed within the last 12 months.

MANDATORY SAFETY FEATURES

In accordance with the provisions of the Chilean Traffic Law, all motor vehicles must carry a fire extinguisher and devices for emergencies, such as safety triangles and reflective vests. Additionally, in the case of

collective locomotion, cargo and school transport vehicles, the law requires carrying two safety wedges and a first aid kit with first aid elements.


Regarding the specifications of the  **reflective vest**, it must be made of yellow fluorescent material, with bands of retro-reflective material of a width of not less than 50 millimeters. It should always be worn in an accessible place inside the vehicle, such as in the glove compartment, for example, so that the driver, or another companion, in case of getting out of the vehicle (due to an emergency), does so already wearing the vest.

In private cars, since 1985 it has been mandatory to wear **seat belts** in the front seats. All cars manufactured from 2002 onwards have to be fitted with seat belts in the rear seats as well. Currently, the use of seat belts is mandatory for all occupants of the vehicle, both in the front and back seats.

In taxis and buses, the use of seat belts is the responsibility of the passenger. If the seat belt does not work, the responsibility lies with the owner of the vehicle.

On intercity buses, it is mandatory for all passengers. Sometimes they carry out roadside checks; If you are without a seat belt, you will have to pay the fine in the municipality where the control is carried out.

TRANSPORTING CHILDREN IN SMALLER VEHICLES

It is forbidden for children under 12 years of age to occupy the front seat of cars, vans and the like, except in single-cab cars. Children under 9 years of age travelling in the back seats of light vehicles must use  **child seats**. The driver will be responsible if they are not used. Taxis are exempt from use, in any of their modalities.

CURRENCY AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE

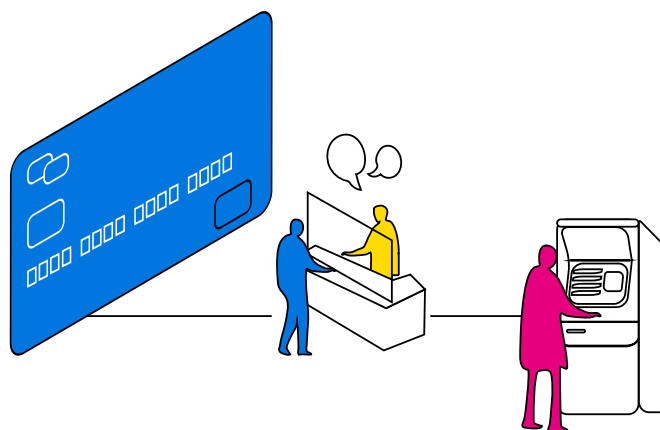
Currency

In Chile, the local currency, the Chilean peso, is mostly used for any procedure or activity that depends on a payment in money. Foreign currencies, such as dollars or euros, might be accepted only in very specific places dedicated to the tourism industry.


Payments and ATMs

In commercial and banking areas it is easy to find ATMs (Redbanc), as well as in gas stations (gas stations), metro, pharmacies and shopping centers. In general, you can pay with cash or debit or credit card systems everywhere. However, in some rural areas they work mainly with cash, so keep that in mind if you leave Santiago.

Also keep in mind that the maximum daily withdrawal amount at ATMs and the charge (commission) for the transaction varies depending on the bank. You can review the specific information on the bank's website.







EXCHANGE RATE

You can check the exchange rates and other indicators at the  [Central Bank of Chile](#). This page is updated daily, so it provides the most reliable information.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE OFFICES

There are exchange offices, in different parts of the city, but especially in the center of Santiago or near metro stations, such as Manuel Montt, Pedro de Valdivia, Los Leones and Tobalaba. There are also exchange offices in some shopping centers or malls. It is not recommended to exchange currency for individuals who offer it.

SENDING OR RECEIVING MONEY

In Chile, there are several international companies that facilitate this need quickly and effectively. These include: , ,  and .

BANKS AND BANK ACCOUNTS

There are a variety of banks in Chile. Only some allow foreigners to open accounts in their first year. Among the requirements are already having the identity card for foreigners (not only the number but the plastic itself). In this context, the most relevant benches for doctoral students are:

Banco Estado

At BancoEstado you can access a “RUT Account” which is a Vista Account, which includes a Debit Card, with which you can access the benefits of managing your money safely. The number of your CuentaRUT is your RUT without a verification digit. It is free of monthly maintenance fees, however, it charges fees for transfers at non-BancoEstado ATMs and for making transfers to other banks, and has a balance limit of \$5,000,000. To obtain it, you only need to present your valid Identity Card at any ServiEstado office or BancoEstado Branches. Requirements: Have a valid Identity Card for Foreigners. It does not require income or business history.

Itaú bank

It has a plan for foreigners with Temporary Student Residence that includes a checking account, debit card and credit card: ITAÚ Current Account Plan with no maintenance cost. Requirements: Valid RUT and scholarship (ANID, VRI or similar). You can open it by going to the bank’s branch located within the San Joaquín Campus.

Contact

Emily Wood F. - Tel. +56 9 1234 5678 -  emily.wood@itau.cl

Isabel Escobar - Tel. +56 9 75825543 -  isabel.escobar@itau.cl

Banco Santander

For foreign students with a student visa, they can access the Life Current Account, which includes a debit card, and has a monthly maintenance cost of 0.21 UF. It does not have the alternative with a credit card for foreign students without permanent residence. You can open it by going to the bank’s branch located within the San Joaquín Campus. Students with an ANID scholarship can consult the possibility of opening a credit card. Each case is subject to the bank’s evaluation criteria. Among the requirements are to have a valid RUT and scholarship (ANID, VRI or similar).

Contact


Mariangel Ferrer - +56 9 5390 3794 -  mariangel.ferrer@santander.cl


Jessica Castillo - +56 9 1234 5678 -  jessica.castillo@santander.cl

COMMUNICATIONS

Mobile service

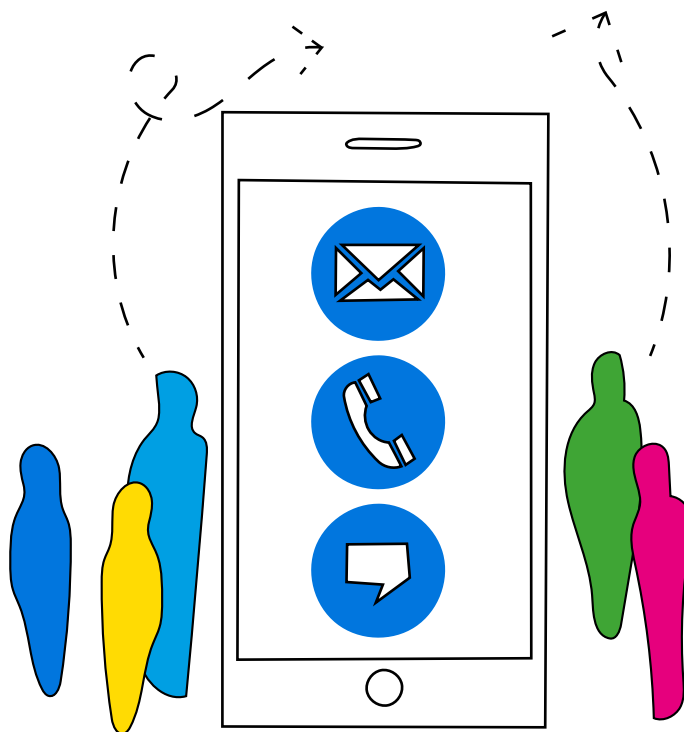
If you have an unlocked mobile phone and prefer to use a local chip/SIM, you can buy it at the airport or in phone shops or in general commerce, where it may be the most convenient option. If you want to take out a plan, you must first have obtained your identity card for foreigners.

If you use your phone only in roaming or Wi-Fi mode, it is not necessary to register the device. But if you want to use a local SIM card, you must register your phone in the system so that you can continue operating in Chile after 30 days of activating the equipment on the network. To make this registration you have a period of 60 calendar days, counted from the entry of the team into the country. However, the equipment will work for 30 calendar days from activation on the network before being blocked, if it has not been registered. To enroll your device, even if your device is locked, you'll need to contact your mobile company or a certifying company  (www.multibanda.cl/ia) and perform an administrative enrollment. For this purpose, once your phone is activated, you will receive an SMS leading to make such online registration. To do this, you must provide some background information about the phone and your personal information, as well as prove that you brought the phone from abroad, making a statement that recognizes this circumstance and the effects of your phone not having been approved.

There are plans with  **number portability** (the local number is maintained) or plans for new numbers. Below, you can see a reference table of plan values of the main companies. Most include free navigation on social networks. The values mentioned may be discounted in the first months of the contract.

Company / Plan / Value in CLP		
Entel	150 GB	\$12.990
Movistar	200 GB	\$10.990
Wom	150 GB	\$11.990
Of course	200 GB	\$12.990
Virgin	35 GB	\$5.990

November 2025 values.



Internet

All the university's campuses have Wi-Fi connection for cell phones and notebooks under the Eduroam network. To connect to the signal, you must use your email address (usuario@uc.cl) and UC password as a user. You can occupy up to 3 devices at the same time per account.

Important: Before setting up Eduroam, you must delete (or stop remembering) all other Wi-Fi signals from the UC, such as "UCInvitados" and "UCeventos".

You can find more information at the following [link](#). In addition, many places in Santiago also have Wi-Fi (e.g., cafes, museums, and in some public spaces such as metro stations or public transport buses).

It is also very likely that the place you rent for

live has some internet or cable service. Remember to look at those details before leasing. In any case, these are some

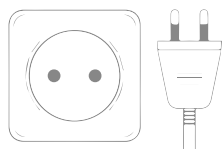
companies and minimum fiber optic plan reference plans per company.

Internet Home	Movistar	Entel	VTR	WOM
Fiber Optic Plan	600 megabytes	600 megabytes	500 megabytes	600 megabytes
Fee	CLP 14,990	CLP 15,990	CLP 16,990	CLP 14,990
	(first 6 months)		(first 12 months)	(first 12 months)
	Then CLP 22,990 per month	Then CLP 21,990 per month	Then CLP 21,990 per month	Then CLP 21,990 per month

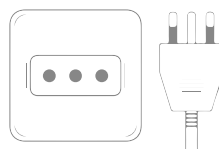


PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Voltage and plugs



The voltage in Chile is 220 V and the frequency is 50 Hz.



The plugs are type C and L.

Supermarkets

There are eight main supermarket chains, focused on different consumer profiles with different store formats, throughout the country. Some of them are: [Lider](#) (Owned by Walmart), Cencosud ([Jumbo](#) and [Santa Isabel](#) supermarkets), [Unimarc](#) and ([Tottus](#)). Most have a home delivery system.

Pharmacies

There is a wide variety of pharmacies, where the cheapest are usually [Dr. Simi](#) or municipal pharmacies. Check if your neighborhood has one of these on the municipality's website.

Delivery apps

Outside of the supermarkets mentioned above, there are several applications that make home delivery of different supplies (food, clothing, for example). The most popular are: [PedidosYa](#), [Rappi](#), [Uber Eats](#).

Commerce and malls

The pedestrian areas of Santiago are full of life and invite you to walk and look at the shop windows. You can find stores in neighborhoods such as Manuel Montt, in the commune of Providencia; Barrio Italia, in the commune of Providencia; Bellas Artes, in downtown Santiago; and Bellavista, in the communes of Providencia and Recoleta. In the latter, there are many gastronomy venues, as well as cultural sites, such as one of Pablo Neruda's houses called "La Chascona". Although the commerce of the different districts of Santiago is open from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. (11:00 a.m. in some cases) to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the malls or large shopping centers are open from Monday to Sunday until 8:30 p.m. All prices displayed in stores include taxes.

Main shopping centers

Chain of [Mall Plaza centers](#) distributed in different districts of the capital, Paseo Ahumada and Paseo Calle Estado in downtown Santiago.

[Parque Arauco](#) - Avda. Kennedy 5413, Las Condes.

[Costanera Center](#) - Avda. Andrés Bello 2425, Providencia.

Local crafts

Santa Lucía [Craft Fair/Center](#): Santa Lucía Metro (Line 1).

Pueblo Los Dominicos [Artisan Center](#), Los Dominicos Metro (Line 1).

Central markets

The Central Market of Santiago is a heritage site that offers a series of products, such as: seafood and fish, fruits and vegetables, butcher and some restaurants.

La [Vega Central](#), also called “La Vega”, is a market located at the southern end of the commune of Recoleta, Santiago, almost reaching the north bank of the Mapocho River. Its mostly famous for selling fruits and vegetables, fresh from the fields of Central Chile.

You can also find these products near the neighborhood where you live at the [Farmers Markets or “Ferias Libres”](#). These are usually small stalls that are set up on closed streets where you can find fresh products.

Entertainment and culture

Our country has a great cultural diversity. Different activities are carried out throughout Chile, and there are numerous interesting places to visit.

Traditional festivals, theater, film and song festivals, as well as adventure tourism, are part of the varied offer that our country offers to tourists. Outside of Santiago, there are, for example, the traditional festivals of the island of Chiloé, in the south, and of the grape harvest in the central zone, in cities such as Curicó and Santa Cruz. Also, near Santiago there are numerous vineyards that you can visit throughout the year.

In terms of song festivals, the best known nationally and internationally is the Viña del Mar Festival, which takes place during February. In terms of theater, the Santiago a Mil festival stands out, a theatrical and artistic proposal with outstanding companies from Chile and abroad that takes place in January of each year and enjoys great quality and variety. Most of its activities are concentrated in Santiago, but year after year other cities in the country join. Some of its shows are mounted in municipal squares and gymnasiums where the public can see them for free.

Places to visit in Santiago

The capital has among its attractions: parks, museums, art galleries, palaces, monuments, etc. The city center still maintains some of the old buildings and the colonial layout, which can be distinguished in the Plaza de Armas, where the Cathedral Church of Santiago, the National Historical Museum, the Post Office of Chile and the Municipality of Santiago are located.

Also in the center of the capital are the National Museum of Fine Arts, the National Library, the Casa Colorada Museum, the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, the Municipal Theater and the La Moneda Palace, which is the seat of government. Another option to visit are the [ski resorts](#) near Santiago that have very good infrastructure.

Artistic-cultural shows

There is a wide range of shows and artistic-cultural activities that can be attended, from free panoramas to the most sophisticated national and foreign shows. In Santiago, the offer is diverse and numerous: concerts of learned music, as well as outstanding national and foreign popular artists, theater, ballet, opera, cinema and recreational activities. It is worth visiting the cultural centers that exist in the various districts of the capital. Among the main ones are the Palacio de La Moneda Cultural Center and the Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center (GAM), among others. In addition, the UC has [Cultural Extension](#) and the Directorate of [Arts and Culture](#), which promote a wide variety of artistic and cultural activities designed so that the university community can enjoy, explore and have an enriching university experience.

LINKS OF INTEREST

- “Santiago and Culture” of the Municipality of Santiago: <https://www.santiagocultura.cl/>
- Where to go and what to see: <https://chile.travel/>
- Cultural centers in Santiago and Chile: <https://www.amarillas.cl/>
- Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral: <https://www.gam.cl/>
- Palacio La Moneda Cultural Center: <http://www.cclm.cl/>
- UC Museum of Visual Arts: <https://mavi.uc.cl/>

Our idiosyncrasies

In Chile, personal hygiene habits are highly valued and are considered essential to demonstrate respect for others and maintain a professional appearance. Proper hygiene also favors coexistence in shared spaces, such as classrooms, offices and/or student residences. Considering this, it is worth mentioning that Chileans usually bathe every day and use deodorant. Some also use mild fragrances. Locals tend to brush their teeth at least twice a day, with a toothbrush and toothpaste. It is also customary to wash clothes frequently to prevent them from retaining body odor, and thus maintain a tidy and well-groomed appearance. In addition, in Chile it is common for people to eat in designated spaces, such as dining rooms or food courts. It is not a strict rule, but it is a well-valued custom, to avoid eating in places that are not tailored to that purpose, such as public transport, classrooms, auditoriums or areas with heavy foot traffic.

Water

Although Santiago's drinking water is completely safe to be ingested directly, foreigners are recommended to drink bottled water for the first few days of their stay, because the high mineral content of drinking water could cause stomach discomfort. It is also very common for taps or kettles, for example, to show traces of tartar when they are going to rent a place. This is again due to the characteristics of the water in Santiago. As a suggestion, you can boil vinegar with water in the same kettle from time to time to remove tartar.

Raw foods

It is not advisable to eat raw seafood or vegetables that are not very well washed, especially those that grow close to the ground (lettuce, carrots, cabbages, strawberries, etc.). Established restaurants also offer this guarantee.

Holidays

There is a varied list of [🌐 holidays in Chile](#) that includes: the National Holidays, Glories of the Army, Naval Glories, Labor Day and religious holidays, among others. Some of them are “mandatory and non-waivable” holidays, which include those dependent on commerce, with the exception of those who work in clubs, restaurants and entertainment establishments. It is also not applicable to dependents of fuel dispensers, emergency pharmacies and pharmacies that must comply with shifts set by the health authority, as well as those premises attended by their own owners and direct relatives.

The Catholic University also has some holidays during the year, which vary from year to year and whose information can be found on the UC website and in the [🌐 academic calendar](#).

Gastronomy

Marked by the variety and quality of fish and seafood, along with its world-renowned and award-winning wines, Chilean gastronomy offers quality exponents of both local and international cuisine. Typical Chilean cuisine varies in each region of the country, due to the climate, traditions and culture of the area. You can enjoy the typical pine empanada, mote con huesillo and corn cake, seafood chupe, crab cake, among others.

If you want to eat in a very simple and popular environment, at very convenient prices there are the “picadas”. There is always more than one in each city. They are small restaurants – generally located outside the known circuits of tourist gastronomic establishments – at low prices and food made by their own owners.

In Chile, the tip is not included in the bill and it is customary to leave 10% of the value of the consumption.

LINKS OF INTEREST

- End of the third: [🌐 https://www.latercera.com/canal/finde/](https://www.latercera.com/canal/finde/)

Time zone

Chile's official time is made up of three time zones: Western Insular Chile (Easter Island and Salas y Gómez Islands), Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica, and the rest of Continental Chile. Generally, from the first Saturday of April to the first Saturday of September, Winter Time (UTC/GMT -4) is implemented in mainland Chile. From the first Saturday of September to the first Saturday of April, Daylight Saving Time (UTC/GMT-3) is implemented in mainland Chile. [🌐 Chile's Official Time](#)

Earthquakes

Chile is one of the most prone in the world to suffer earthquakes, this, because it is in the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire and much of its territory is exposed to the constant clash of the Nazca and South American tectonic plates .

In Chile there is a very particular culture associated with its natural characteristics. A distinction is made between a "tremor or earthquake" and an "earthquake", the former being only a brief tremor, with mild to moderate intensity.

In the country, movements that may be imperceptible are recorded daily, but they are usually noticed when living on high floors or when the tremor is a little more intense, in addition pets are generally restless even before the movement is perceptible to people. It should be noted that in general tremors do not constitute any type of human, environmental or material risk and for most of the local population it is nothing more than something anecdotal.

In this context, and considering that earthquakes of great magnitude have developed in Chile with some historical regularity, that is, greater than 8 degrees on the Richter scale, there is also a strong culture of disaster risk management with the construction of anti-seismic buildings and constant prevention and warning work. It is suggested to carefully check all official recommendations on natural disasters: [🌐 What to do in the face of natural disasters?](#)

Language

Spanish is the official language in Chile, also known as Castilian, and there is also due protection and respect for native languages such as Mapudungun and Rapanui, among others.

The pronunciation of Spanish in Chile has particular characteristics: it is usually spoken very fast and with ups and downs in tonalities and it is common in everyday speech to aspirate the /s/ when it is at the end of a syllable. As in the rest of the continent, there is no difference between /s/, /c/ and /z/. Also, most don't distinguish between /ll/ and /y/.

Chilenisms

Generally, Chileans are friendly and cordial. Perhaps, what can complicate the foreigner the most is our speed of speech or the idioms (“chilenisms”) used and that are not found in dictionaries.

EXAMPLES:

- **Al lote:** messy, relaxed.
- **Al tiro:** immediately, immediately.
- **Apestado:** angry, disgusted.
- **A pata:** walking.
- **Achuntar:** to get it right, to get to the point.
- **Arrugar:** to take back, to repent, to give up.
- **Bacán:** spectacular, very good.
- **Brígido:** strong, shocking, impressive (positive or negative).
- **Cachar:** to look and see something. It can also be understanding, grasping. Cachai?
- **Carrete:** panorama. Go out for a ride, go out and have a good time.
- **Chanta:** fake.
- **Cuático:** exaggerated / intense / complicated / surprising.
- **Empelotado:** angry, annoyed, fed up.
- **Cabra(o):** muchacha(o).
- **Cabreado:** bored, tired.
- **Choreado:** boring, annoying.
- **Embarrarla:** to ruin something or a situation.
- **Guagua:** baby.
- **“La papa”:** the best, a good fact, a good offer.
- **Lata:** boredom, demotivation, sometimes anger.
- **Latoso o latero:** a person who causes boredom to others.
- **Lenteja:** slow, calm, leisurely.
- **Lesear:** to annoy, to entertain, to fool around.
- **Luca:** one thousand pesos.
- **Lolo(a):** boy(a).
- **Fome:** Boring, unfunny. Attributable to a person or situation.
- **Gallo(a):** Used to refer to a person.
- **Guata:** belly, belly.
- **Hinchar:** to annoy, to insist.
- **Huaso:** Chilean peasant. He relates to somewhat shy people.
- **Huevón o weon:** fool / person / friend.
- **Inflar (a alguien):** pay attention.
- **“Irse al chancho”:** to overdo it, to overdo it, to abuse.
- **Pega:** work.
- **Piola:** unnoticed or calm.
- **Po:** well. A catchphrase in everyday use that accompanies an affirmation or denial.
- **Taco:** traffic congestion.
- **Tiene pituto:** someone who has good contacts and achieves goals through them.
- **Polola(o):** girlfriend, but without commitment to marry.
- **Manso:** tremendous, immense.
- **Marraqueta:** type of bread.
- **Mina(o):** Attractive Woman / Attractive Man
- **“No estoy ni ahí”:** “I don’t care”.
- **Tener tuto:** to be sleepy.
- **Hacer una vaca:** raise money among several.
- **Viejito Pascuero:** Santa Claus.
- **Volado:** unfocused, unprepared, forgetful. It is also used when someone is under the influence of a drug.
- **Yunta:** best friend.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Emergency numbers and services

- Ambulance: 131
- Firefighters: 132
- Carabineros de Chile: 133
- UC Toxicological Information Center:
• 22635 3800
- Health Answers: 600 360 7777
- UC Campus Emergencies: +56 95504 5000
- Police information: 139
- Violence Against Women Guidance Phone: 1455
- Investigative Police: 134
- Air Rescue: 138
- Maritime Search and Rescue Service: 137
- Suicide Prevention Phone: *4141
- Fonoayuda UC Guidance and support in cases of discrimination, gender violence or sexual violence: 800 001 222
- Security phone number Municipality of Santiago: 1406
- Security phone number Municipality of Providencia: 1414
- Security phone number Municipality of Macul: 1444
- Security phone number Municipality of Las Condes: 1402

Before your arrival in Chile, please keep in mind that the embassy or consulate of your country can be an important source of support. We encourage you to contact them. Please review this website with info on the diplomatic missions present in Santiago.

[Embajadas y consulados en Santiago, Chile](#)



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