



ACADEMIC
STUDIES ABROAD

Site-Specific Guide – Viña del Mar

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Please see our [Pre-Departure Guide for All Programs](#) for additional important pre-departure information!

PRE-DEPARTURE

Important Phone Numbers

**** PROGRAM THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS INTO YOUR CELL PHONE****

<p><u>ASA Office in Boston, MA</u> Academic Studies Abroad 16 Cohasset St. Roslindale, MA 02131-3013 Tel: 617-327-9388 Lee Frankel Emergency Cell: 413-221-4559 Fax: 617-327-9390 E-mail: info@academicstudies.com</p> <p>Lee Frankel, Director lee@academicstudies.com</p> <p>Chelsea Kaloupek, Assistant Director chelsea@academicstudies.com</p> <p>Cayleigh McCarthy, Programs Advisor cayleigh@academicstudies.com</p> <p><u>Universidad de Viña del Mar (UVM)</u> Universidad Viña del Mar Calle Montaña N° 800, Viña del Mar CHILE – SOUTH AMERICA Tel : (+56) 32 -246-2734 www.uvm.cl</p>	<p><u>Arrival Day Contact – Carlos Torres</u> <i>Carlos will meet you at Santiago airport on arrival day. Contact him if you have a travel delay on your way to Chile.</i></p> <p>► Cell Phone (Save THIS number in your Phone Contacts): +56 9 9576 8846</p> <p>If you save Carlos's number exactly as above and have the app Whatsapp, you can text/call him for free if your phone is connected to WiFi or data.</p> <p>If direct dialing: 011 56 9 9576 8846 (from the U.S.) / 9576 8846 (from a Chilean cell phone) / 09 9576 8846 (from a Chilean landline)</p> <p>Email: ctorres@uvm.cl , Carlos.torres.corro@gmail.com Facebook Messenger: www.facebook.com/ctorrescorro</p> <hr/> <p><u>ASA Site Director in Viña del Mar - Kathleen Lowry</u> <i>Kathleen is your main contact person throughout the semester. If you can't reach Carlos on arrival day, contact Kathleen.</i></p> <p>► Cell Phone (Save THIS number in your Phone Contacts): +56 9 7876 8928</p> <p>If you save Kathleen's number exactly as above and have the app Whatsapp, you can text/call her for free if your phone is connected to WiFi or data.</p> <p>If direct dialing: 011 56 9 7876 8928 (from the U.S.) / 7876 8928 (from a Chilean cell phone) / 09 7876 8928 (from a Chilean landline)</p> <p>Email: klowry@uvm.cl, klowry18@gmail.com</p>										
<p><u>U.S. Embassy in Santiago, Chile</u> Web: https://cl.usembassy.gov/</p> <p>Address: Avenida Andrés Bello 2800 Las Condes Santiago, Chile For emergencies involving U.S. citizens, call +56 2 2330 3716 during office hours. Outside office hours, call +56 2 2330 3000.*</p> <p>* See international dialing instructions on <u>next page</u>.</p>	<p><u>Emergency</u> (Local numbers, as dialed in Chile)</p> <table><tr><td>Police</td><td>133</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">(if calling from a cell phone, dial 911)</td></tr><tr><td>Ambulance</td><td>131</td></tr><tr><td>Fireman</td><td>132</td></tr><tr><td>Coast Guard</td><td>137</td></tr></table>	Police	133	(if calling from a cell phone, dial 911)		Ambulance	131	Fireman	132	Coast Guard	137
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In an emergency, please contact your ASA Site Director or the ASA office immediately. It is of utmost importance that you notify your Site Director of any problems, issues, or concerns that you encounter while you're abroad.

International Dialing Instructions

011 = INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE 56 = COUNTRY CODE (CHILE)

Calling U.S. to Chile

-Calling a Land line in Chile: 011 56 32 (then the 7-digit home number)

-Calling a Cell Phone in Chile: 011 56 9 (then the 8-digit cell phone number)

Calling within Chile

- If you want to call from a land line (“*red fija*”) to another land line, you only have to dial the number. For example, if you want to call the International Office from your home in Chile, just dial: 246 2734.

- If you want to call a cell phone from your home (land line) you must first dial the cell phone code: 09. For example, if you need to call Kathleen Lowry just dial: 09 7876 8928. But, the majority of houses are not equipped to call cell phones from a *red fija*.

- If you want to call a land line from a cell phone, you must first dial the area code of the phone you are calling. For example, if you need to call the UVM International Office from your cell phone, you must first dial Viña’s area code 032, and then 246 2734. To call a land line in Santiago from your cell phone, you must first dial Santiago’s area code 02 and then the 7-digit number

- If you want to call a cell phone from another cell phone, just dial the 8-digit number. For example, if you need to call Kathleen Lowry from your cell phone, just dial: 7876 8928.

Passport and Visa

All students must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond the day you plan to return to the U.S.

You must have your passport stamped upon your first entry into Chile (e.g. Santiago airport). This will document your entry into the country. Failing to get your passport stamped could cause problems with your visa. Check the stamp to make sure the entry date is easily legible!

- **Students going to Chile on a Semester or Academic Year program who obtained a Student Visa before departure:** After you deplane at Santiago airport and reach the Immigration checkpoint, present your passport with your visa inside it. You won’t need any additional documentation besides this. If asked the purpose of your visit, they will look for your student visa inside your

passport and probably try to explain what you'll need to do to register your visa with the PDF office. Don't worry, during Orientation the UVM will help you with this process.

- **If you are a Semester student and opted NOT to get a Student Visa, you will enter as a Tourist. Here is what you will need to do:** After you deplane at Santiago airport and reach the Immigration checkpoint, you will present your passport. You are entering Chile as a Tourist. **Important: Keep the “*Tarjeta Internacional Entrada Salida*”** (little sheet of paper with the stamp on it where you can clearly read the date of arrival to Chile) **in a safe place. Ensure the stamp on this piece of paper with your entry date AND the stamp in your passport with the entry date can both be read clearly!!** If you lose the sheet of paper or if the entry date can't be read easily, you will have to pay a fine and may be held by International Police when you try to leave Chile. **If the Immigration officer has questions about the reason for your stay (e.g. if you are a student, why are you entering as a tourist), you should:**
1) Explain that you will apply for your Student Visa in Valparaíso after receiving full details from the UVM during orientation. 2) Hand them the 2 UVM letters ASA will send to you. (An acceptance letter from the UVM will be **mailed** to you before you depart. A letter from the UVM letter confirming you will apply for your visa after arrival will be **emailed** to you shortly before you depart. You can give these letters to the Immigration officer as back-up in case of any confusion.)
- Chile is now part of the United States' visa waiver program, so U.S. passport holders no longer have to pay \$160 to enter the country as a tourist.
- **Upon returning home, all U.S. passport holders will have to pay an Airport Exit Tax of about US\$18 or equivalent in Chilean pesos.** (For domestic flights within Chile, this is included in the plane ticket fare.)
- **For full details on the Tourist Visa and Student Visa, please visit**
<http://www.academicstudies.com/helpful-info/information-library>

What should I do if I lose my passport?

Contact the local police, the U.S. Embassy, and your Site Director immediately. Having a photocopy of your passport on hand will make it MUCH easier to have it replaced.

-U.S. Embassy in Santiago: <https://cl.usembassy.gov/>

Budgeting for Your Trip

The Chilean **PESO** is the official currency of Chile and is abbreviated with a dollar sign (\$). The exchange rate fluctuates all the time, so go to <http://www.XE.com> for the current rate.

If you are traveling to rural areas of Chile, **always carry pesos in cash** because credit cards may not be accepted!

► Students who have a Bank of America account can use *Scotiabank* ATM machines and not incur a transaction fee. There are 2 Scotiabank ATMs in Viña del Mar, located at: Plaza Vergara 103 and Avenida Libertad 893

How much money should I bring?

Recommended amount: **US\$150 PER WEEK OF YOUR STAY**

Please note that these are general guidelines based on what past students have reported spending. Some students spend less and others more. The above figures do not allow for traveling every weekend, eating out a lot, or shopping every day.

What expenses are not included in the ASA program that I should budget for?

*** Housing, medical insurance, and all other ASA services are not included during the break between semesters or terms.*

**Accounted for in weekly money recommendation above.*

1. Books and materials for your classes
Budget **US\$250 per semester / US\$100 per summer session.**
2. Local transportation
Budget **US\$150 per semester / US\$50 per summer session.** Local transportation includes getting to and from class, getting around town during your free time, getting to and from where your group is meeting to depart for an excursion and getting home after an excursion, etc. This may include paying for bus, subway and taxi fares.
3. Phone usage (calls and text messages)
Budget **US\$300 per semester / \$100 per summer session.**
4. Spending money / Personal expenses*
Entertainment, shopping, souvenirs, dining out, travel, haircuts, toothpaste, etc. This is accounted for in our weekly money recommendation (see previous page).
5. Meals on excursions*
6. Transportation back to the airport at the end of the program is not included.

ARRIVAL

Airport Pick-up

Please refer to the Departure Dates page under Helpful Info on our website to be sure you book your flight to arrive within the window for airport pickup.

What should I do when I get off the plane at Santiago airport?

► After you de-plane, you will go through Passport Control (also called Immigration). Follow the instructions in the “Passport and Visa” section above!

► After Passport Control and Customs, follow signs to baggage claim. Delayed baggage must be reported to your airline’s lost luggage counter before exiting the baggage claim area. **After claiming your bags, exit into the airport lobby and look for sign that says “UVM / Universidad de Viña del Mar.”** Mr. Carlos Torres or another representative from the UVM will be waiting for you in the airport lobby. NOTE: They **cannot** meet you in baggage claim!

► Once you have found Carlos Torres or another UVM representative, we’ll take you to your program housing.

► DO NOT leave the airport on your own (e.g. in a taxi) or with anyone except Carlos Torres or another UVM representative!

► Address for delivery of delayed luggage:

Please have lost luggage delivered directly to your host family’s address. ASA will email you your housing assignment (including the address) approximately 2 weeks before your program start date. Write their address on your Last-Minute Checklist and pack it in your carry-on, and save their address to your phone’s Notes.

If my flight is delayed, will you still pick me up at the airport?

If you will not be arriving as scheduled, it is YOUR responsibility to notify the emergency contact person indicated on your **Last-Minute Checklist**. They will let you know if you will still be picked up at the airport. We will make every effort to pick you up.

Orientation Week

During *semester* programs, the staff members from the UVM International Office will conduct a week-long orientation after you arrive in Viña del Mar. *Summer* students will also have a detailed orientation, but since they are staying in Chile for a shorter time period, the Summer orientation is shorter than the Semester orientation.

The UVM’s orientation is designed to help you become familiar with your new environment. They will go over host family information, Chilean culture, excursions, safety procedures, policies, and much more. You will also have the opportunity to have all of your questions answered. Always feel free to bring your questions and concerns to your on-site staff! Their job is to help you adjust to life in Viña del Mar.

The following is a typical orientation week schedule for *semester* students. *Your actual schedule may vary slightly.* Once again, orientation for a summer program is shorter. You will receive a detailed orientation schedule upon arrival.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00	Welcome!	Living in Chile Seminar	International Police	Campus Visit	City Tour
11:15	Carnet photos	Health & Safety Seminar			
12:00	Spanish Written Exam				
15:00	-Spanish Oral Exam -Enrollment	International Police: -Visa -Carnet	Living with a Chilean Family Seminar	-Studying in Chile Seminar -Registration	Registration for classes

ACADEMICS

Universidad de Viña del Mar (UVM)

History

The Universidad de Viña del Mar (UVM) was founded on November 21, 1988 and currently has an enrollment of approximately 5,000 students. The Universidad de Viña del Mar is a private institution and is part of the selected Chilean universities that have been accredited by the Chilean Minister of Education, which certifies the quality of higher educational institutions and assures the completion of optimal academic standards.

The UVM's modern campus has characteristics and dimensions similar to higher education centers in Europe and North America. The 50-acre campus is located on the principle access street to Viña del Mar and minutes away from the center of the city. The UVM's educational model emphasizes social responsibility. It is a new institution that is proud of its innovations and flexibility, and strives to create leaders who can be competitive in today's global society. Therefore, the UVM's mission is "to create people who can contribute to the development of their surroundings, by gaining knowledge in an academic environment that is also humanistic, technologically advanced, and integrated." The UVM also stresses the importance of cultural exchange through sending Chilean students abroad and also by welcoming the international students on its campus.

Viña del Mar and Valparaíso

Viña del Mar (or Viña as called by Chileans) is located 70 miles northwest of Santiago. It is the fourth largest city in Chile with a population of 320,000, and being a major vacation destination, the population increases tremendously during the summer months of January and February.

Viña del Mar is in the Region (state) of Valparaíso and actually 5 miles from the famous UNESCO World Heritage City of Valparaíso. These two cities together form the second largest urban center in Chile, with a combined population of over 600,000. Viña del Mar is famous for its beautiful beaches and its artistic performances at the Quinta Vergara.

Valparaíso is recognized as the cultural and legislative capital of Chile. The uniqueness of both cities has turned area into the preferred destination for college students. Around 60.000 students from all regions in Chile and various countries make up the student population.

Viña del Mar was founded in 1878 as a place for the rich to get away from the cities of Santiago and Valparaíso. It has become much more than a town for the wealthy, as major Chilean and international companies have established their business here, helping the local economy boom. The town originally was an extension of the neighboring city of Valparaíso, but because of the growth, it was authorized to be a separate city in 1874.

Sports

At the UVM, you may choose to participate in soccer, rugby, tennis, Tae Kwan Do, volleyball or ping pong. If you're interested, inquire during orientation week.

Volunteer Opportunities

Participation in volunteer or internship opportunities in Chile is an excellent way to immerse oneself in our country's way of life. Volunteering adds another dimension to the study abroad experience through daily exposure and interactions, resulting in a greater understanding of the language, culture, and community of the host country.

During the third week of classes, the UVM International Office will have an information session about Volunteering, where you'll have the chance to find out more and sign up if you want. Also, there may be internship opportunities available as well, for an additional fee. Feel free to ask about this during the information session.

English Opens Doors Program

This Government sponsored program is designed to compensate for the lack of exposure to native English speakers faced by most students in Chile's public/subsidized school system. Volunteers work 4-16 hours a week in a local public/subsidized school. They work alongside Chilean EFL teachers in the classroom, and have the opportunity to lead their own lessons and activities that focus on listening and speaking.

http://www.centrodevoluntarios.cl/programas_en.html

English Alliance Program

This program started as a branch of the UVM's *Cultures in Contact* course. The objective of the Cultures in Contact course is to expose International Students to different aspects of Chilean Culture. One way this can be achieved is by giving International Students the opportunity to volunteer in the community. As a way for UVM International Students to become involved in their surrounding community, the English Alliance Program was formed in 2005. International Students can choose from different High Schools, Middle Schools, Elementary Schools, and Preschools. Each student is placed in a Classroom with an English Teacher where they serve as Teacher's Assistants. Students are required to volunteer for an hour and a half once a week.

Hogares de Niños (Orphanages)

Another volunteer opportunity to work is in one of the many orphanages in the Viña del Mar and Valparaíso area. There are children of varying ages, and they are there for a variety of reasons (orphans, taken away from family for abuse). It is a wonderful way to give back to the community and help children in need. A typical student goes to the orphanage for several hours once a week and helps the “tía” (paid person in charge of the children) and plays with the kids while helping out with daily tasks.

Medical Care / Clinic

The Universidad de Viña del Mar has a special agreement with the Clinica Miraflores (www.clinicamiraflores.cl). It is located in Miraflores Bajo on Calle Los Fresnos #276; Tel: 238-9900. All UVM international students will receive a free doctor’s visit but must pay for other examinations and prescriptions. In order to receive your free doctor’s visit, you have to first obtain a special letter from the UVM International Office and bring it with you to your appointment. To obtain this letter, contact Kathleen Lowry or Carlos Torres. Be sure to bring your passport or photocopy of passport with you to any doctor visit. Also, be sure to keep your receipts so you can be reimbursed by CISI.

Academic Calendar

Please note: Calendar is subject to change. Excursion dates and locations will be announced by **email** shortly prior to departure. **All Orientation meetings are mandatory.**

At the following link, you can see the Academic Calendar for your program:

<https://www.academicstudies.com/vina-del-mar-chile-program-calendars/>

EVERYDAY LIFE

Living with a Chilean Host Family

ASA will email you your housing assignment **approximately 2 weeks before** your program start date.

As a college student, the transition to living with a family again may be challenging at the beginning. Most likely your Chilean family, especially your host mother, will want to do a lot to help you. Expect that they will do all the laundry, cooking, cleaning and other household chores. **Try to integrate into the family as much as possible, as this is the best way to learn about the culture, language and customs of a country!** For the sake of courtesy, try to keep your room neat and advise your family when you will be staying out very late or staying at a friend’s house. It is typical for college students to go out and “*carretear*” (party) on the weekends until late, so just keep your family advised of your plans. Your family will worry about you...so keep them informed!

- ▶ **All students must abide by the ASA Code of Conduct that they signed prior to departure. Violating the Code of Conduct may lead to expulsion from your housing and/or from the ASA program.** Any student removed from ASA housing will be responsible for finding their own housing and will receive no refund.
- ▶ **Overnight guests are NOT allowed under any circumstance.** Do not bring over guests of any kind without permission. Your host family will be upset if they find out you have brought guests over while they're not home.
- ▶ **Drug use and alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited** and may lead to you being removed from your housing and/or the program. Being drunk is considered abuse of alcohol.
- ▶ Always let your host family know that you appreciate everything they do for you! An occasional gift (flowers, dessert, etc.) is always appreciated.
- ▶ Ask before using the house phone. Outgoing calls are probably not allowed, but incoming calls may be.
- ▶ **If you're going to miss a meal, let your family know ahead of time so they won't go to the trouble of making one for you!**
- ▶ Let your family know if you'll be staying out late or spending the night elsewhere, so they won't worry. If you're traveling, let your host family know if you're leaving and when you plan to return.
- ▶ **Be quiet and courteous when returning home late at night.**
- ▶ Do not take food from the kitchen or refrigerator without permission.
- ▶ You will receive ONE set of keys. It is forbidden to make copies of these keys. Be careful not to lose them! If you lose your keys, you will be required to change the locks and issue brand new keys for everyone, at YOUR expense.
- ▶ Out of respect for your host's home, please keep your room tidy and remember it is a home, not a hotel.

Local Transportation & Traveling

Viña del Mar has excellent public transportation which you'll surely take advantage of.

LA MICRO (Buses in Viña del Mar and Valparaíso)

With the "*Pase Escolar*," you can travel anywhere in Viña and Valparaíso and only have to pay 180 pesos (approx. US\$.40). However, on weekends and holidays after 9pm, you have to pay the local fare (300 pesos, approx. US\$.65), which depends on each bus. As you can see, the Micro is a super inexpensive way to get around!

Micro Fares:

Pase Escolar (Viña – Valpo): 180 pesos

Viña – Valparaíso – 360 pesos

Pase Escolar (Viña – Campus): 180 pesos

Viña – Reñaca – 360 pesos

Local: 300 pesos

COLECTIVO (A shared taxi with a fixed route)

A "*colectivo*" is a taxi that has a fixed route and set fares. Colectivos have a sign on top of the car that indicates the major streets they pass and the number of the colectivo company. A colectivo can hold up to 4 people along its 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 into the colectivo.

Important Colectivo Etiquette!!

- Greet the driver: “*Hola, Buenos días*” etc.
- Tell him where you are going: “*Voy a ...*”
- Ask the price if you don’t know already: “*¿Cuanto cuesta?*”
- Say: “*Se paga*” when you hand your money to the driver (this is to be done at the BEGINNING of the ride, not at the end!)
- If you don’t know exactly which street you’re going to, you can ask the driver for help. Say: “*Me avisa en...*”
- Tell the driver when you want to get out. Say: “*Me bajo acá, por favor*” or “*Aquí, por favor*” or “*En la próxima esquina, por favor.*”
- As you leave, say: “*Gracias*” or “*Que te vaya bien.*”

SUBWAY

There is a subway called Metro Valpo (www.merval.cl), which runs between Valparaíso and Limache. Prices vary depending on where you get on and where you get off. Prices range from 200-780 pesos. You must buy a rechargeable student card in order to use the Metro.

Metro Hours of Operation:

06:30 – 22:30 (*peak hours are 07:30-09:30 and 18:00-19:30*)

Puerto – Sgto. Aldea line: every 6 min.

Puerto – Limache line: every 15 min.

TAXI

A taxi is an easy way to get around, but it’s also the most expensive. Taxis charge by the kilometer, and they have a meter to keep track of your fare. **Always check first to make sure your taxi has a meter! If it doesn’t, get out and find another taxi with a meter. When you’re out after 10pm, we strongly recommend you take a taxi home.**

Recommended Taxi Company: Radio Taxi. Tel: 278 0566 or 278 0568

When taking a taxi in a foreign country, it is very important to follow these guidelines:

If you’re going to take a taxi from the airport, it is very important to go straight to the taxi stand. There may be more than one. Beware of “independent” drivers who may offer you a ride; never accept a ride from a taxi driver who approaches you inside the terminal. Even if they have a meter in their car and/or an official business card, it is safer to go to the taxi stand, or to the transportation desk inside the terminal. When in doubt, look for the taxi stand outside of the airport exit. At certain times of the day, there may be a long line of people with their luggage waiting for a taxi. Make sure that the taxi has a meter inside that is working.

For getting around on a regular basis, you'll probably want to take advantage of your host city's public transportation, since taking taxis can add up.

BUSES (for traveling, not commuting)

Viña and Valparaíso have major terminals with buses going to most large town 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 to ask for a discount. Buses to Mendoza, Argentina, also leave from both bus terminals. The best bus companies to travel with are:

- Tur-Bus (www.turbus.com)
- Pullman Bus (www.pullman.cl)

RAIL

Trains leave from Santiago daily, but only go as far South as Temuco. Santiago Train Station Website: www.efe.cl.

TRAVEL

Former students have recommended these places in South America to visit:

Easter Island, Machu Pichu (Cuzco, Peru), Torres del Paine (in Patagonia of Chile), Buenos Aires (Argentina), San Pedro de Atacama (Chile), Mendoza (Argentina), Chiloé (Chile), Brazil (*requires a visa*), Pucón (Chile).

Links:

- National Tourism Service: www.sernatur.cl/inicio.htm
- Official Viña del Mar Tourism Web page: <http://www.visitevinadelmar.cl/>
- ISIC (International Student Travel Confederation): www.isic.org

Student Flight Center

Villanelo 180, Oficina 514
Viña del Mar
Tel: 56-32-88-13-30
Fax: 56-32-88-11-71

Airlines

- Lan Chile: www.lan.cl . Lan Chile offices are located on Calle Valparaíso
- Sky Airlines: www.skyairline.cl . Sky offices are located in Calle Ecuador
- www.kayak.com

Snow Skiing

- Portillo: www.skiportillo.cl
- La Parva: www.laparva.cl
- El Colorado: www.elcolorado.cl
- Valle Nevado: www.vallenevado.com

****Travel Tip:** The water is safe to drink in the majority of Chile. But when you travel or are in rural areas, always ask, “*¿Es el agua potable?*”

Tipping

The standard rate for tips in Chile is 10%. **You do not tip taxi, colectivo or micro drivers.** You should tip a few hundred pesos to the grocery bagger at the supermarket, the pizza delivery guy, and the parking attendant

Weather

Sun Warning

The sun in Chile is very strong, being close to the hole in the ozone layer, so even if you tan easily, you will still sunburn if you don't wear sunscreen. Bring a sunscreen of at least 30 SPF and put it on every morning.

The weather in Viña del Mar is favorable practically year round. But no matter which time of year you come to Chile, you'll encounter a mix of cold AND warm weather.

Also, Chilean households are NOT equipped with heating or air conditioning!! When it's cold, homes are not heated as well as they are in the States. So, please bring clothes you can layer.

Since Chile is in the southern hemisphere, the seasons are *opposite* of North America:

Spring: September - December

Summer: December - March

Autumn: March - June

Winter: June - September

If you'll be in Viña del Mar for their Winter season (June - September), bring warm clothes including an overcoat, scarf and gloves. The Summer (December - March) is hot and humid, so light clothes are essential. In the summer, temperatures remain mild even at night.

Average Temperatures:

Spring (September - December)

Low: 10°C (50°F)

High: 20°C (68°F)

Summer (December - March)

Low: 13° C (55°F)

High: 27°C (80°F)

Fall (March - June)

Low: 5°C (41°F)

High: 17°C (63°F)

Winter (June - September)

Low: 0°C (32°F)

High: 15°C (59°F)

Chilean Holidays

January 1- New Year's Day

Floating – Easter / Holy Week

Floating – Sunday after Easter

May 1 – Labor Day

Floating (end of May) – Corpus Christi

May 21 – Glorias Navales

June 29 – San Pedro y San Pablo

August 15 – Asunción de la Virgen

September 11 – 1973 Military Coup

September 18 – Fiestas Patrias, also called the Dieciocho

September 19 – Armed Forces Day

October 12 – Columbus Day, also called Día de la Raza

November 1 – All Saints Day

December 8 – Immaculate Conception

December 25 – Christmas Day

STAYING IN TOUCH

- For information about cell phones abroad, please see the [ASA PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE FOR ALL PROGRAMS](#)

Time Difference

What is the time difference between Chile and where I live?

The following are the number of hours BEHIND Chile each region is **during Daylight**

Savings Time (March-November):

Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
3 hours	2 hours	1 hours	0 hours

So, during Daylight Savings Time, Chile and EST have the same time. If it is 6pm in Chile, then it is 6pm Eastern, 5pm Central, and 3pm Pacific.

The following are the number of hours BEHIND Chile each region is **NOT during Daylight Savings Time (November-March):**

Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
5 hours	4 hours	3 hours	2 hours

So, NOT during Daylight Savings Time, if it is 6pm in Chile, then it is 4pm Eastern, 3pm Central, and 1pm Pacific.

Computers and Internet

Should I bring a laptop?

YES. The UVM has free wireless Internet on campus, and you will have Internet access at your host family's as well. There are free computer labs on the main campus, if you need them.

► **For information about using a plug adapter with your laptop, SEE [PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE FOR ALL PROGRAMS](#)**

HELPFUL INFO

Brief Guide to CHILEAN SPANISH!

Chilean Spanish is different than the Spanish you will have learned in school. The people speak quickly and with a lot of slang. At first, the Spanish will be incredibly challenging, but with time you will grow to love all the “modismos.”

Some tips to understanding Chilean Spanish:

- The final ‘s’ is often not annunciated

Example: “Gracias” is pronounced “*Gracia*”

- The informal “tú” form of verbs when conjugated is changed from endings (in present tense) of **-as** to **-ai** and **-es** to **-i**. (*This is a very informal way of speaking and is mostly used between close friends*)

Examples: ¿Cómo estás? >> ¿Cómo estai?

¿Dónde vas? >> ¿Dónde vai?

¿Cuántos años tienes? >> ¿Cuántos años tení?

Modismos (Sayings)

ACTIONS

CACHAR: to understand ¿CACHAI?: informal “tú” form- to ask the person that you are talking to if they understand

CHATEAR: chat online HINCHAR: bother

PELAR: to gossip PELAR CABLES: to bicker or to say silly things

SACAR LA VUELTA: procrastinate

ADJECTIVES

CALETA/ ENE/ HARTO: a lot
FOME/ PENCA: boring, lame
¡QUÉ LATA!: that sucks!
RASCA: bad quality, ordinary

BACÁN/ FILETE : really good, cool
PIOLA: quiet, nice
LATERO: someone who makes others bored
TÓXICO: someone or something that is bad

CHILEAN EXPRESSIONS

ALTIRO: immediately, soon
PORFA / PORFIS: por favor
YA: O

CHATO/A: tired
QUE TE VAYA BIEN: I hope it all goes well for you

PARTIES - CHILEAN STYLE!

ASADO: BBQ
CAÑA: hung-over
CHELA: beer

CARRETEAR: Party
COPETE: alcoholic drink
TOMAR: to have a drink

PEOPLE

AMIGOS CON VENTAJA: friends with benefits
BUENA ONDA: good person
MALA ONDA: bad person
PESADO(A): disagreeable person
CHOCOPANDA: guy with a mullet
CUÁTICO: complicated (a person or a thing)
CUICO (A): a rich person, someone from a high socioeconomic class
FLYTE (FLAITE): a sketchy person
GALLO: guy
GUATON: a fat person
GUAGUA: baby, infant
GRINGO/A: a foreigner not from a Spanish speaking country
MINA: woman
HUEVÓN: dude (*curse word, vulgar!!*)
MACABEO: a guy who is whipped by his girlfriend
POLOLO/A: boyfriend/girlfriend
VIEJO (A): an older person

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BOLETO: ticket
“LA” MICRO: bus
heels too

PASAJE: tariff or ticket
METRO: train, subway

COLECTIVO: shared taxi
TACO: traffic jam (*high*)

TROLE: trolebús; only found in Valparaiso’s downtown

UNIVERSITY EXPRESSIONS

ASIGNATURA: class
MATRICULA: Registration
PROFE: professor

CLAVE: the schedule or period of a class
MECHÓN(A): freshman
RAMO: class