The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV)

Semester 1: August to December
Semester 2: early March to mid-July

LOCATION

The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV), founded in 1928, is one of the most prestigious higher educational institutions in Chile. PUCV has more than 14,000 students, and facilities include a modern library system, sport centers, specialized laboratories and recreational centers. The city of Valparaíso is the cultural and legislative capital of Chile, and the main commercial harbor. The region combines beautiful weather, wonderful beaches and the Andes. With a population of more than one million, the city has a multicultural flavor.

HOUSING AND MEALS

Students are housed with host families and receive 21 meals per week from the host family. All international students have access to primary health care services at no cost.

PROGRAM DETAILS

There are three tracks available to students:

Option 1: Regular University Courses
(Spanish Immersion, minimum of five semesters of Spanish required)
Take courses with Chilean students in fields like art, economics and management, the sciences, religious studies, and education. Students may also enroll in Spanish language courses.

Option 2: Contemporary Latin American Studies Program for Advanced Speakers of Spanish
(Offered August – December only, minimum of five semesters of Spanish required)
This program is for international students interested in learning about diverse aspects of the contemporary Latin American reality from a multidisciplinary perspective. Students take three core courses, exclusively for international students, and choose two elective courses, which are taken with Chilean students.

Option 3: Culture Courses Taught in English and Beginner Spanish Language Courses
(Recommended for students with 0 – 2 semesters of Spanish)
This program is designed for international students with a beginner level of Spanish who want to experience Latin American and Chilean culture. The program includes a special orientation in English and field trips to local historical and cultural sites throughout the semester. Apart from beginning level courses in grammar, reading and communication in the Spanish language, students choose from several courses taught in English, including classes like Contemporary Latin American Literature, Contemporary Latin American Films, Pre-Columbian Arts & Society, and Political and Social Change in Chile and Latin America. No Spanish required.