



PONTIFICIA  
UNIVERSIDAD  
CATÓLICA  
DE CHILE

# GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL PHD STUDENTS

GET READY TO ARRIVE IN CHILE 2022-1





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## WELCOME

# ¡Hola!

We would like to welcome you to UC and wish you the best in this adventure you are about to undertake. We are honoured that you have chosen our university to develop your doctoral studies, and we invite you to take advantage of every moment of your time with us. We hope that you will find here the tools to become an independent researcher and that you will also discover significant and enriching learning and life experiences.

At UC Chile you will find an intercultural community that focuses its training on the student and his or her career development. We aspire to train researchers with the highest standards of international excellence, and to contribute to the development of a better and fairer society.

We invite you to be part of this institution, to get to know it and to become part of this community that today is happy to welcome you. We are the area of Student and Scholar Support Program at the Vice Presidency for International Affairs of UC Chile, and along with the Graduate School, we have prepared this guide especially for you. We know that in this experience there will be many new aspects, being far away from home, in a different culture, and even speaking another language. So, we hope that this guide will allow you to learn a little more about our country, culture, and practical information that we hope will be useful.

Please note that this guide is intended to provide you with recommendations to prepare and facilitate your arrival but does not replace local regulations. It is important that you check and make sure that you comply with the requirements and regulations established by the programs, the university, and the local authorities.



## SUPPORT NETWORK – ABOUT US

### VICE PRESIDENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Vice Presidency for International Affairs manages and plans training, research and social commitment initiatives to ensure that the UC Community leads the resolution of international challenges, together with its partners around the world.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES TEAM

The Scholar and Student Services team is in charge, among other purposes, of guiding and assisting in the arrival of international academics and professionals who join the UC, supporting them in all the immigration procedures before and after arriving in Chile, and ensuring their insertion in the Chilean civil system and in the UC community, understanding and empathizing with their needs.

**Business hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.**



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### ESCUELA DE GRADUADOS

The Graduate School ("Escuela de Graduados") is a unit belonging to the Vice Presidency Office for Research, which aims to ensure the development of doctoral training at the University, contributing to the design and implementation of strategies and mechanisms to ensure the quality of the 39 UC doctoral programs and the implementation of policies related to them. We are an interdisciplinary team made up of professionals from Costa Rica, France, Peru, Poland, and Chile, who work together with the Academic Units to ensure the quality of our academic offerings. We also have an Advisory Council composed of members of the academic community of the UC and external members, which contributes to the academic and strategic reflection on doctoral training and the link with the faculties and society.

Our mission is to ensure the quality of our programs, promoting policies and mechanisms that strengthen the training of PhD students as autonomous researchers, ensuring their career development and welfare. To this end, we guide and support students with scholarships and financial support for academic activities



associated with training (conferences, seminars, international stays), strengthening the development of transversal skills and internationalization, as well as promoting their integration in the UC.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to write, or come and talk to us. Our offices are located on the 4th floor of the Casa Central Campus, Avda. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 340. You can also check our web page <https://doctorados.uc.cl/es/>

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## CADEPUC

CADEPUC is the Academic Council of Graduate Students that brings together Master's and PhD students. One of their objectives is to welcome graduate students from other universities or countries, providing information regarding the functioning of the university, democratic student organizations and other issues. Among its commissions, it counts with the International Student Commission, which you can contact by writing to [estudianteinternacional.cadepuc@gmail.com](mailto:estudianteinternacional.cadepuc@gmail.com), and follow-on Instagram (@estudianteinternacionalcadepuc).

One of the commission's support tools is *Slack*, a space used as an online forum where international students can be in permanent contact and resolve doubts among peers. Within the channels there are topics related to: commission announcements, visas, housing, banking procedures, activities/leisure, sales, ideas, etc.

## ABOUT CHILE

Chile has beautiful landscapes and different tourist places to visit. Due to its geography, the territory has the driest desert in the world (Atacama), snowy mountains and a long coastal area, among many other alternatives to explore.

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**GEOGRAPHY** With 4,329 km in length, it is the longest country in the world. This is equivalent to a tenth of the circumference of the Earth and, considering the Chilean Antarctica, this length increases to 8,000 km. Moreover, it is one of the narrowest countries in the world, with an average width of only 180 km.

It is bordered by the Andes Mountains in the east and the Pacific Ocean in the west, which bathes its coasts entirely. Given its length, it is a country of climatic and geographical contrasts.

**CLIMATE** In addition to the extreme climatic conditions of the Andes mountains and the Atacama Desert, Chile also has a comfortable temperate climate. Due to its topography and length from north to south, it has a wide variety of climates:

- Desert climate in the north.
- Temperate Mediterranean climate with a long dry season in Central Chile up to Concepción.
- Temperate and rainy climate in the south from Concepción to Punta Arenas.
- Polar ice in Antarctica.



**SEASONS** Since Chile is in the southern hemisphere, summer begins on December 21 and winter begins on June 21. Those who come to live in Santiago will find a stable climate with low rainfall and four well-defined seasons. A moderate winter can be expected in August, with temperatures varying between 3 °C and 15 °C. Those who arrive in March will enjoy the end of summer and the beginning of fall with variable temperatures between 9 °C and 28 °C. **TERRITORY** Administratively speaking, the country is divided into 16 regions and the insular territory

includes several islands, including the well-known Easter Island. **POPULATION** According to the *Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas* (INE), the projected population as of June 2020 was 19,458,310 inhabitants. **SANTIAGO** is the capital of Chile and is located in the Metropolitan Region. It has more than 7 million inhabitants and it is full of varied and interesting historical, tourist and leisure sites to visit.

**MAPS OF SANTIAGO:** [www.mapcity.com](http://www.mapcity.com) | [www.planos.cl](http://www.planos.cl) | <https://www.google.cl/maps>

**GOVERNMENT** Chile has a republican democratic system of government. The Executive Branch is held by the President of the Republic, who is, at the same time, head of Government and State. The term of office lasts 4 years. **CURRENCY** The Chilean peso (CLP) **PUBLIC BUSINESS HOURS** It varies depending on the type of service offered. Supermarkets and food fairs open from Monday to Sunday at 8 a.m. Public services, private offices, cafes, and fast-food start at 9 a.m. Commercial establishments of household goods, clothing, footwear start at 10 a.m., from Monday to Saturday, and shopping centres even open on Sundays. Restaurants and bars open between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. **PUBLIC CLOSING TIME** The closing



time of the different services is also variable, between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Due to the current state of emergency, closing times are restricted by the "curfew" schedule, which must be checked periodically. Saturday is a commercial day, but commerce closes at 2 p.m., except supermarkets, shopping centres, pharmacies. **TIME ZONE** From the first Saturday of April to the first Saturday of September, Wintertime (UTC/GMT-4) is implemented in Continental Chile. From the first Saturday of September to the first Saturday of April, Summertime (UTC/GMT-3) is implemented in Continental Chile. See: [Official Time of Chile](#)

**LANGUAGE** Spanish is the national language, also called Castilian Spanish. However, there are also various languages of the indigenous peoples of Chile, which are still in force today and have contributed countless words and expressions to the Spanish language. These are: Aymara language, Quechua language, Kawésqar language, Yagán language, Rapa Nui language and Mapuzungún language (with different territorial variables: Mapuzungún, Chedegún, Veliche and Mapudungún).

Chilean Spanish pronunciation has some characteristics; it is usually spoken very quickly and with fluctuations in tonalities. The aspiration of /s/ when it comes at the end of a syllable is common in everyday speech. As in the rest of the continent, the pronunciation between /s/, /c/ and /z/ is not differentiated. Also, most people do not distinguish between /ll/ and /y/.

#### RELATED INFORMATION

Marca Chile: <https://marcachile.cl/web/>  
This is Chile: [www.thisischile.cl](http://www.thisischile.cl)  
Government of Chile: [www.gob.cl](http://www.gob.cl)  
Chile es Tuyo: [www.chileestuyo.cl](http://www.chileestuyo.cl)

Learn Chile: [www.learnchile.cl](http://www.learnchile.cl)  
Sernatur: <https://www.sernatur.cl/>  
Chile 360: <https://www.appchile360.cl/>  
Chile Travel: <https://chile.travel/>

## IMMIGRATION PROCESS

### VISA APPLICATION

**IMPORTANT:** Chile has just passed a new Immigration Law No. 21,325, which has come into effect as of February 12, 2022. This law will no longer allow entering the country with a tourist visa and then changing to another migratory category. Therefore, it is mandatory to enter the country with a valid visa.

Student Visa applications must be lodged from outside Chile through [Digital Official Website](#) from the Migration National Service (*Servicio Nacional de Migraciones*) which relies on the Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Security.

You can apply throughout the whole year; however, we recommend you do it with time as the process may take more than expected.

#### What do you need to apply?

- Fill the form online available at the [Digital Official Website](#)
- Confirmation of Enrolment at UC Chile.
- Evidence of funds sufficient to meet your expenses for the duration of the program (at least for the first year)
- Police Certificate (apostilled or legalised)
- Medical certificate (issued by a family doctor indicating that you do not have any infectious disease).
- Passport issued by a relevant authority of the country of origin or similar qualified as such by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile valid for at least 1 year from the date of the visa grant.





#### Important:

- It is not guaranteed that a visa Will be issued even if you meet the visa requirements.
- **The visa fee depends on the citizenship of the applicant. You must pay the fee before you submit your visa application.**
- We recommend you have several copies (or digital version) of your Passport (biadata page) and Visa Stamp (which you download form the relevant portal once the visa has been granted).
- Once a visa has been granted, you will have up to 90 days to enter Chile.
- **The student visa is valid for 365 days renewable counted from the date you enter Chile.**
- **The student visa allows you to work up to 30 hours per week.**
- Consulates are no longer responsible for visa applications.
- If you enter Chile as a tourist (*permanencia transitoria*), you will be unable to change your migration category as previously allowed.

## CHILEAN ID FOR FOREIGNERS (RUT)

**IMPORTANT:** It is crucial that you obtain this document for all the procedures that you need to carry out in Chile. You will need it to open a bank account, to contract internet services and to sign an agreement with ANID if you obtained the scholarship.

**You must obtain the identity card** at the office of the *Registro Civil e Identificación*, within 30 days after arriving in Chile.

The identity card for foreigners is the official document that confirms the identity of a foreign person. It contains the person's full name, nationality, visa, *Rol Único Nacional* (RUN) and gender, in addition to the photograph, signature and fingerprint. The *Rol Único Nacional* (RUN, also known as **RUT**) is the unique identification number that every Chilean and resident has. It also applies to all foreigners who remain in our country, either temporarily or permanently.

#### How and where do I obtain it?

To carry out this procedure, you must schedule an appointment for obtaining the foreigner's ID for the first time, by [making an online reservation](#). The appointment is available for the next six months (only the offices that are available with schedule are shown in the system). The region to choose is the Metropolitan Region. We suggest checking the availability of offices that are easily accessible (near a Metro station for example). From the list, the most accessible offices are Santiago, Las Condes, Ñuñoa and Providencia.

**TIP:** We recommend you book the appointment well in advance (at least one month before the travel date) as usually there will not be an immediate date available.

#### What do I need?

- A valid passport and a simple photocopy of your passport (biadata page).
- A copy of the Electronic Stamp of your visa (EE – *Estampado Electrónico*)
- A photocopy of the page showing the stamp with the date of entry into the country.
- Keep this information handy on a separate sheet of paper to speed up the process:
  - Your Email address
  - Your father's name (first name only, e.g., John)
  - Your mother's name (first name only, e.g., Marie)
  - Your address in Chile

You will have to pay a fee of CLP 4,270 (USD 6 approx. - reference value from 2021), which must be paid in cash or with a credit card.



It is important to check the accuracy of the information recorded in the receipt that they will provide you to pick up the RUT, so that there are no mistakes in the document.

As soon as the card is ready to be picked up, you will receive a notification by email. Approach the same office where you requested the document and bring the voucher with you to pick up your new ID.

You can check the status of your application and if your ID is available on the [Registro Civil](#) website.

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Once picked up, check that the details and validity are correct.

**Important:**

- In the case that you lose your Id, you may request a new one.
- Keep in mind that your Id will be valid for the same period of time as your visa. Therefore, you must renew your identity card for foreigners once you have obtained the extension of your student visa.
- When foreign students do not have a RUN (I.D. N°) at the time of enrolment, the UC will provide you with a provisional five-digit number until you have your own issued by the Civil Registry and Identification. Once you obtain your Identity Card, you must share your RUT (I.D. N°) to the UC Registration Department ([matricula@uc.cl](mailto:matricula@uc.cl) or [admission@uc.cl](mailto:admission@uc.cl)) so that they can make the necessary updates in the University's systems.

## STUDENT VISA EXTENSION

The student visa is granted for a maximum of one year, renewable until you complete your studies. In the case of some scholarship holders, the visa may be granted for the duration of the scholarship. You may extend the duration of your student visa as long as you maintain the conditions under which the visa was granted. **You must apply within 90 days and no less than 10 days before the expiration of the visa you hold.**

You can apply for your visa extension at [tramites.extranjeria.gob.cl](http://tramites.extranjeria.gob.cl) with your *Clave Única*.

When requesting your visa extension or permanent residence, you must complete several sections, including personal information, contact information, activity and educational level and upload the general and specific documentation, according to your situation.

After submitting your application online, you will automatically receive by email a "Student Visa Extension Application in Process" certificate ( ) with a QR code. This document will certify your legal residence in the country until you obtain your new visa.

After submitting your online application, you will automatically receive an email with a notification letter indicating that your visa extension application is in process (*Solicitud de Prórroga de Visa de Estudiante en Trámite*) (**Request for Visa Extension in Process**). The letter contains a QR code allowing you to prove your legal residence in the country until you obtain the visa extension.

**Please note:**

- You will be unable to renew your Chilean Id until you have been granted this extension.
- You can check the status of your application at [https://tramites.extranjeria.gob.cl/](https://tramites.extranjeria.gob.cl) by selecting the option "*Consulta de Estado de Beneficios Migratorios*".



## CLAVE ÚNICA

### What is a *Clave Única* and how do I obtain it?

It is a unique password to access all State services in an easy and safe way since it is like a digital identity card.



To obtain the password, you need to perform the following steps:

#### Option 1 – in person:

- Go to the offices of the Registro Civil e Identificación with your current identity card. You can take the opportunity to obtain it when you pick up your ID.
- Ask the corresponding official for a Clave Única activation code and provide an email.
- Go to [claveunica.gob.cl](http://claveunica.gob.cl) and select “Activa tu ClaveÚnica”.
- Complete the requested information: RUN (RUT) and activation code.
- Follow the steps indicated and set the password for your Clave Única.

#### Option 2 – online:

- Go to [www.registrocivil.cl](http://www.registrocivil.cl), and click on the option "Clave Única"
- Select the day and time for the videoconference. You must have at hand your identity card and your email
- One hour before the appointment, you will receive a link in your email to enter the videoconference
- After the appointment, you will receive in your email a code to create and activate your password at [www.claveunica.gob.cl](http://www.claveunica.gob.cl)
- Go to [www.claveunica.gob.cl](http://www.claveunica.gob.cl) and select “Activa tu ClaveÚnica”.
- Complete the requested information: RUN (RUT) and activation code.
- Follow the steps indicated and set the password for your Clave Única.

If you forget your *Clave Única*, you can recover it [here](#). If you have any other questions, you can call 600 360 3303.

#### Links of interest from Official Information Sources:

- Chile Atiende  
[www.chileatiende.gob.cl](http://www.chileatiende.gob.cl)
- Migration National Service (Servicio Nacional de Migraciones)  
[www.serviciomigraciones.cl](http://www.serviciomigraciones.cl)
- Migration National Service helpdesk (Servicio Nacional de Migraciones)  
[ayuda.serviciomigraciones.cl](http://ayuda.serviciomigraciones.cl)
- Chilean International Police (PDI)  
<https://www.pdichile.cl>
- Civil Registration and Identification Service (Servicio de Registro Civil e Identificación)  
[www.registrocivil.cl](http://www.registrocivil.cl)
- Intendencia Región Metropolitana  
[www.intendenciametropolitana.gov.cl](http://www.intendenciametropolitana.gov.cl)

## ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT

The Santiago de Chile Airport is called Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport and the official website is: [www.nuevopudahuel.cl](http://www.nuevopudahuel.cl). We also recommend checking the special section on the measures and requirements for the COVID-19 pandemic for international flights [www.nuevopudahuel.cl/covid-19](http://www.nuevopudahuel.cl/covid-19)

On the other hand, as in any international flight, you will have to go through both the International Police and Chilean customs.



## INTERNATIONAL POLICE

When entering Chile, the passenger must present their travel documents - passport or identity card, in addition to the duly stamped visa when necessary - when passing through the International Police.

## CUSTOMS

During the flight to Santiago, you will receive a form to fill out about the items that needs to be [declared](#). Chile has strict phytosanitary regulations; it is recommended not to bring any type of food, seeds, and wooden crafts to the country. Read the form carefully and declare if you bring any type of vegetable and/or animal product to the *Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero* (SAG) of Chile; if you do not declare them, you are exposed to a fine. When in doubt, declare the item about which you have doubt and when going through the SAG control, the operator will indicate whether or not it is acceptable.

The form is also available in a digital format and when you arrive in Chile, you can access immediately from your mobile device, through [sagingresoachile.cl](http://sagingresoachile.cl) and the [QR codes](#) available at the Airport.

Once you pass through migration control, you must collect your luggage and go to the Customs Service, with the form previously filled out. The customs service has the power to check your bags for plant and animal products.

For more information, please check [www.sag.cl](http://www.sag.cl)

## TRANSFER FROM THE AIRPORT TO SANTIAGO

The international airport is located approximately 20 km west of the city and there are different official options to get to Santiago. Please follow the recommendations of the airport official transportation in this [link](#). You will find relevant information regarding taxis, transfer services (minibuses), buses and car rental services. In general, we recommend booking the service at one of the counters, which are the official representatives.

**Taxi:** the airport has a monitored taxi system. This service can be requested in advance or at the counters located inside the passenger arrival areas, which are focused on providing taxi services without prior reservation, either with basic taxis (black/yellow colour) that work with a taximeter, or tourist taxis (blue colour) with a fixed rate per destination. Suggested services by the airport are [Taxi Básico Oficial](#) and [Taxi Turismo Oficial](#).

Fares vary depending on the destination district. For example, from the airport to Santiago Centro, the fare can be CLP 20,000 (USD 25), to Providencia it can be CLP 22,000 (USD 28) and Ñuñoa/Vitacura/Las Condes it can be CLP 24,000 (USD 30). The maximum reference is CLP 40,000 (USD 51).

**Transfer:** Shared or private transportation service, from the airport to your destination. It is a secure service, and you can pay in cash (there are several ATMs at the airport) or by credit or debit card. Service can be booked even before arriving in Chile on the web pages and once you arrive at the airport. In both cases, after passing through customs and exiting through the arrival's portal, go to the counters located on the first level in the same disembarkation area. Suggested services by the airport are [Transvip](#) and [Transfer Delfos](#). Fares are per person, and they depend on the destination district. When it comes to shared transfer, it is necessary to consider that the transfer time may be longer (from 45 to 80 minutes, for example) than an individual transfer (maximum 40 minutes). The fares according to the destination district in shared modality vary from CLP 8,000 to CLP 10,000 per person (USD 10 to USD 12).



**Buses:** buses that go from the airport to the bus terminals within the city. This service is provided by two companies: [Turbus](#) and [Centropuerto](#). You can board these buses immediately after leaving the airport. It is possible to pay at the counter or directly to the driver. The transfer is from the airport to Santiago Centro with some detentions where you can connect to the Santiago metro (where the journey to the destination district is additionally paid). The established fares are found in the links provided above and are currently CLP 1,900 (USD 2,5 approx.) per person.

## COVID-19 MEASURES

Given the current circumstances, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that you also consider the following aspects:

- The Government of Chile has special requirements for entering the country. Please check official government websites for updates: [Plan Fronteras Protegidas](#)
- Remember that: all foreigners who enter Chile must meet the country's sanitary requirements, which might include the use of a mask, the prohibition of circulating in quarantined communes or respect for curfew hours. Check the [website](#) for more information about the development of the pandemic and the measures taken at national level.
- People vaccinated abroad must standardize their vaccines in the vaccination registration system in Chile, called *Pase de Movilidad*, which will allow them to access restaurants, concerts and other locations. These are the [Instructions](#) (in Spanish)
- The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile has taken various measures that seek to meet the decisions of the Chilean Government and that, in turn, allow continuity in the learning and training process of students. It is very important to know and respect these protocols. You can learn more about them [here](#). Note: this is being constantly updated, it is important to check again at a date close to your arrival in Chile.

## HEALTH INSURANCE (BEFORE TRAVELING)

All foreigners entering the country for the first time, either as tourists or with some type of visa, must have health insurance from the beginning of their stay.

For people who enter for a period equal to or less than 90 days, the insurance must be valid for the entire period in which they carry out their activities in the country to be allowed to enter Chile.

In the case of people who come to live for the first time for a prolonged period, it is required and recommended to have insurance for at least 30 days, while they enrol in the local health system.

Before traveling to Chile, a health insurance must be purchased in their home country that provides coverage for international medical care in Chile. The minimum amount of coverage for health services must be USD 30,000, including emergency medical care, hospital care, repatriation for medical reasons or death, and any expense or service caused by COVID-19.

Each person in the family group entering the country must be covered by a health insurance of the type indicated.



**IMPORTANT:** Beneficiaries of the **Spanish** health system, of Spanish or Chilean nationality, are exempt from contracting this insurance, given the reciprocity agreement in [Social Security and Health Care](#). Reciprocity guarantees medical care in the network of the Chilean public system FONASA. To receive health benefits in Chile during the **first 90 days** of arrival in the country, you must previously request the form **E/CHL-11** for temporary movement at the *Centro de Atención e Información de la Seguridad Social (CAISS)* in Spain.

## TRANSPORT IN THE CITY

The public transport system in the city is called Red Metropolitana de Movilidad, known as [RED](#). It is an integrated public transport system that has buses, Metro, and Metrotren lines.

To travel through RED you need a special card called [Tarjeta bip!](#) that can be obtained and recharged at [various points](#). It is also possible to recharge it online on the web page [Carga tu bip!](#) or in the [Redbip](#) app but in this remote mode it is also necessary to activate the charge in an Infobip! totem at any Metro station. The cost of the card is CLP 1,550 (USD 2 approx.) and one ticket (valid for a couple of hours) varies from CLP 640 to CLP 800.



To make your transfers more efficient, we recommend searching for the best route through [Google Maps](#), entering the starting point and the destination campus. Or, download the [Moovit](#) app, which allows you to see city maps, updated information on bus and metro schedules and routes.

### SANTIAGO METRO SYSTEM

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

The Santiago Metro does not have fixed schedules for each trip; trains usually run every 2-3 minutes.

During the morning, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and in the afternoon, from 6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Lines 2, 4 and 5 have two services (**red stops** and **green stops**) and trains do not stop at every station. This system is called **Ruta Expressa** (Express Route). The route of travel is color-coded on the doors of all trains.

All the information needed regarding getting around, such as maps, line combinations, travel planning, schedules, etc., can be found on the official website:


- [www.metro.cl](http://www.metro.cl)
- Follow @metrodesantiago on Twitter to receive updated information in case there are closed stations.
- Other useful links:
  - Estado Red: <https://www.metro.cl/tu-viaje/estado-red>
  - Plan your trip: <https://www.metro.cl/planificador/interactivo>



## METRO STATIONS TO GET TO THE CAMPUS


### CAMPUS CASA CENTRAL (Main campus)

[Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 340, Santiago](#)

 **METRO** DE SANTIAGO One block away from Metro Universidad Católica, Line 1.


### CAMPUS ORIENTE (East campus)

[Av. Jaime Guzmán Errázuriz 3300, Providencia.](#)

 **METRO** DE SANTIAGO 15–20-minute walk from the Metro Chile-España, Line 3.


### CAMPUS LO CONTADOR

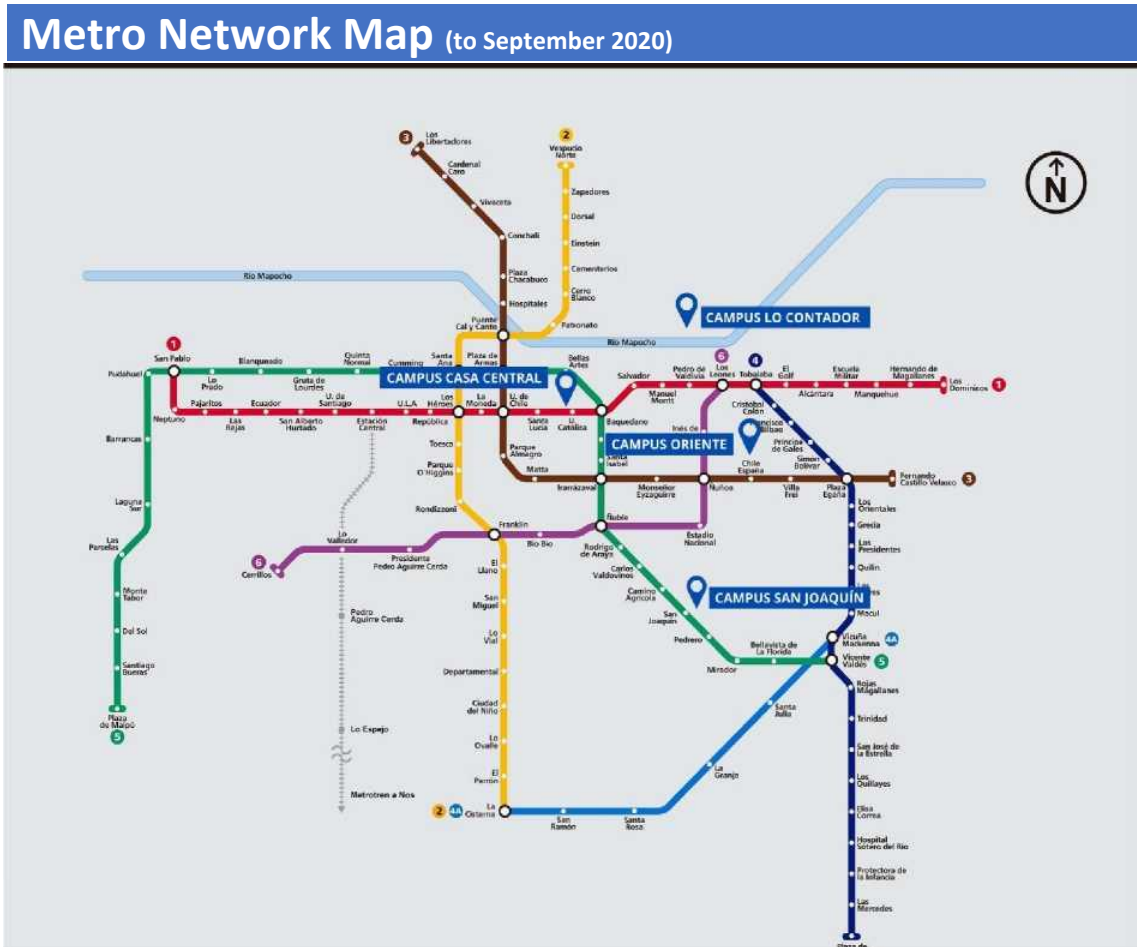
[El Comendador 1916, Providencia.](#)

 **METRO** DE SANTIAGO 10–15-minute walk from Metro Pedro de Valdivia, Line 1.

### CAMPUS SAN JOAQUÍN

[Av. Vicuña Mackenna 4860, Macul.](#)

 **METRO** DE SANTIAGO In front of Metro San Joaquín, Line 5.





## BUSES



Urban buses are popularly called "micros" and operate within the framework of the RED system. The most important places of the route are on the illuminated sign on the windshield. On [www.red.cl](http://www.red.cl), you can search for the lines you need for a specific route.

It is possible to travel on three consecutive buses (of different number code), at no extra charge, within the first 120 minutes, or to travel by subway and then take two buses, all for a one-time fee. Normally, you must use your Tarjeta bip! in every location but the funds will not be deducted as long as you meet the requirements.

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## TAXIS

Regular taxis are black vehicles with yellow roofs that pick-up passengers anywhere. Fares are indicated on the windshield, and the taximeter must always be in view of the passenger. Apps such as Uber, Cabify and Did are also available in Chile in case you want to use them - although there is no regulation on the legality or illegality of these applications so far. We do emphasize that these apps do not have passenger transport insurance.



**TAXI FARES:** the standard fare is **CLP 300** (USD 0.40) **plus CLP 130** (USD 0.17) for every 200 meters of distance travelled or per minute of waiting.

## BICYCLES

Bicycles as a means of transportation are gaining more and more popularity in the city of Santiago, especially to avoid agglomerations and traffic congestion.

The bicycle lane network is mainly concentrated in the districts in the centre and east of the capital, which are associated with the Metro network. The districts with the longest bicycle lanes are Santiago (50.5 km), Las Condes (37.8 km), and Maipú (28.3 km) and on the other hand, La Reina and Providencia are the ones with the widest coverage (most people per km)

However, there is strong criticism regarding the connectivity of Santiago's current bicycle lanes and their maintenance status and safety. Therefore, it is recommended to be cautious when riding bicycles and skateboards for everyday transportation purposes and to always use full personal protective equipment, as well as to maintain defensive driving.

UC has a free bicycle sharing system called [Sibico](#) that seeks to encourage the use of this means of transport. Also, at UC there are "cicleteros" (bicycle parking) available for the safe parking of bicycles on all campuses in Santiago:

- [Campus San Joaquín](#)
- [Campus Casa Central](#)
- [Campus Lo Contador](#)
- [Campus Oriente](#)





In addition, the Campus San Joaquín has [El Container](#) Collaborative Bicycle Workshop where services are provided and the creation of a community of cyclists in the UC is favoured.

During weekends, the use of bicycles is suggested on [recreational routes](#) specially intended for that purpose. In addition, mountain biking is highly appreciated as a sport, given the topographical characteristics of the country, and there are spectacular [mountain routes](#) in Santiago and throughout Chile. [Bicycle touring](#) is also an interesting way to explore and learn about the natural landscapes and cultural aspects of the country.

#### Links of interest:

- [Legal guide on bicycle lane](#)
- [Cyclists' regulations](#)

#### Collaborative maps:

- [Collaborative bicycle lane maps](#)
- [Maps of bike stores and bike repair shops](#)
- [Bicycle parking map](#)

## CARS – DRIVING IN CHILE

### DRIVER'S LICENSE

Chile keeps agreements with some countries that allow direct standardization of the driver's license with a simple procedure, quickly obtaining a Chilean license without the need for exams. These countries are **Spain, Peru and South Korea**. To **exchange the driver's license for a Chilean one, people from those countries** must approach the Department of International Affairs of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications (MTT) and present the following documents:

- Copy of driver's license from their home country. In the case of South Korea, a copy translated into Spanish is also required.
- Valid Chilean identity card.

For other countries, there is the option of obtaining an International Driver's **License before entering the country**, issued in the home country. This type of license is generally valid for 1 year.

On the other hand, a Chilean driver's license can be obtained after obtaining a valid RUT. For more information regarding this topic and how to take a suitable driving test, please check this [website](#)

### TOLLS

In Santiago it is practically mandatory that cars are equipped with a TAG device. The TAG is an electronic device that is installed on the front windshield of the vehicle. This device allows detecting cars passing through the gantries of urban and interurban highways under concession, with the purpose of automatically charging for traffic on each of these roads. There are different concessionaires that offer the device, which can be activated for many gantries whether or not it belongs to those concessionaires. For example, some of the companies are [Costanera Norte](#), [Vespucio Sur](#), [Autopase](#), [Vespucio Norte](#), etc.

However, not all routes accept TAG, so it is always recommended to have cash to pay manual tolls when traveling outside of Santiago, such as when driving on Ruta 5 Norte and Ruta 5 Sur.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Chile is governed by the law known as the "Ley Tolerancia Cero" (zero tolerance law). "Driving under the influence of alcohol" is considered when the breathalyser shows between 0,31 and 0,79 milligrams of alcohol per litre of blood. Meanwhile, when the test shows 0,8 milligrams and more, it is considered "driving in a state of inebriation". The advice is "If you are going to drink, do not drive".

## INTERCITY BUSES

If you travel outside of Santiago, bear in mind that buses run through Chile daily at different times. Fares depend on the bus company, destination city and the season in which you travel (for example, long weekends, summer and winter vacations). The regional bus system covers the whole country, 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 operators, you can check it [here](#). Using the seat belt is mandatory for all passengers. In case of control, if you are not wearing your seat belt, you must pay a fine directly to the municipality of the town where you are at that moment.

The main bus terminals in Santiago are:

### **Terminal Buses Santiago (or Terminal Sur)**

Alameda 3850, **Metro Universidad de Santiago**, Estación Central district.

Buses depart from this terminal with destination to all of 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**, Estación Central district.

From here buses depart with destination to central and northern areas of Chile.

### **Terrapuerto Los Héroes**

Tucapel Jiménez 21, **Metro La Moneda**, Santiago district.

Departures to the north and south of Chile and abroad.

### **Terminal Alameda**

Alameda 3750, **Metro Universidad de Santiago**, Estación Central district.

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

### **Terminal de Buses Pajaritos**

Avenida General Bonilla 5600, **Metro Pajaritos**, Pudahuel district.

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

### **Sale of intercity bus tickets**

You can buy bus tickets directly at the bus terminals, at the offices of the bus companies or on their websites, or through the website [www.recorrido.cl](http://www.recorrido.cl)

## CURRENCY AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE

**Currency:** In Chile, the Chilean peso (the local currency) is mostly used for any procedure or activity that depends on a payment in money. Foreign currencies, such as dollars or euros, could only be accepted in places dedicated to tourism.

**UF Value:** It is a financial unit that can be readjusted according to inflation. Items such as health plans, property prices, leases or credits are expressed in UF value. In the following link you can see the daily values: [SII | Servicio de Impuestos Internos](#)

**Automatic Teller Machines (ATM):** in commercial and banking areas it is easy to find ATMs (under the brand "Redbanc"), as well as in gas stations, subways, pharmacies and shopping centres.

All ATMs allow you to withdraw money, regardless of the bank that issued the card. They accept international debit and credit cards issued abroad.

Also consider that the maximum daily withdrawal amount is **CLP 200,000** (USD 258 approx.).

**Commissions:** If you use cards from your home country, it is recommended to withdraw Chilean pesos from Banco Estado and Scotiabank ATMs, since they do not charge additional commission. Your bank of origin will charge you what you have stipulated. On the other hand, all cards issued in Chile do not pay commissions when withdrawing money at the different Redbanc ATMs, except if you have a Banco Estado checking or sight account. In that case, it is more convenient to use only the ATMs of that bank.

**Payments:** In general, in all places you can pay with cash and/or debit and/or credit card systems. However, in some rural areas they work mainly with cash, so consider this if you leave Santiago.

Generally, physical and online stores do not accept credit and debit cards issued abroad, so if you do not yet have a checking account in Chile, it is recommended to withdraw money directly from the ATM.

**Bank transfer:** Chilean banks establish maximum daily amounts to transfer to other Chilean current accounts. Check the limits authorized by your bank. In any case, the online platform of your account will notify you, through an automatic message, when it is not possible to carry out the transaction due to the daily limit reached.

The transfers made have no commission, whether it is to an account of your own bank or another bank, except Banco Estado, which has more associated commissions.

It is not possible to transfer money abroad through the online platform of your account. You must go in person to request a transfer to another country, which will generate commissions.

**Exchange rate:** You can review 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 houses:** there are exchange houses in different parts of the city, but especially in downtown Santiago and in Providencia near the Metro stations Manuel Montt, Pedro de Valdivia, Los Leones and Tobalaba. There are also exchange houses in some shopping centres or malls. It is not recommended to exchange currencies with strangers.

**Sending or receiving money:** there are various international companies that offer this service quickly and effectively. Some of them are: [AFEX](#), [MONEYGRAM](#), [WESTERNUNION](#) and [TransferWise](#)



## BANKS AND BANK ACCOUNTS

**Bank business hours:** Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There is a wide variety of banks in the country. Having a checking account will be fundamental to be able to receive your payment from UC and make payments and transfers of different types. It is recommended to open a current account as soon as you have the identity card for foreigners.

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There is a variety of banking products, for example, **Cuenta Vista, Cuenta RUT, Chequera Electrónica, Cuenta Corriente Light, etc.**, which are like current accounts but there are fewer requirements to open them. Also, they have fewer benefits (they only allow digital attention, issuance of checks is not allowed, some of them do not grant credit cards, and they have limits for maximum deposit). In this context, it is recommended to request a checking account as your main account, since this will allow you to access all the banking benefits required for you during your stay in Chile.

Since many banks do not allow foreigners to open checking accounts during their first year of residence, we suggest you directly contact the staff of the banks that work at UC:

### **BANCO SANTANDER**

**Requirements:** a valid RUT

**Account manager:** Jessica Castillo ([jessica.castillo@santander.cl](mailto:jessica.castillo@santander.cl)) works at Campus San Joaquín.

### **BANCO ITAÚ**

**Requirements:** a valid RUT

**Account manager:** Emily Wood Flores ([emily.wood@itau.cl](mailto:emily.wood@itau.cl)) works at Campus San Joaquín.

#### **NOTE:**

Remember to bring authorized credit and debit cards from your home country before entering Chile. Once you have a bank account in Chile, remember to enable your credit and debit cards before traveling abroad so you can use them in other countries.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**The dialing code is +56.**

### **MOBILE PHONES**

If you want to use a local SIM card, you must **register your foreign mobile device** so that it can continue to operate in Chile. If you use your foreign mobile phone or tablet only in roaming or Wi-Fi mode, it is not necessary to register the device.

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure you bring proof of purchase of your mobile phone or tablet purchased abroad, in digital format, to be able to register it in Chile.

If not registered, the device will work for 30 calendar days from the activation in the network before being blocked. You must contact your mobile company in Chile or a [certifying company](http://www.multibanda.cl/ia) ([www.multibanda.cl/ia](http://www.multibanda.cl/ia)) and carry out an administrative registration to register the device for up to 60 days, even if the equipment is already blocked.

Remember that registration is free. Do not accept companies that charge for this service.



If you have an unlocked mobile phone and want to use a local chip/SIM, you can buy it at the airport or at mobile phone stores such as Entel, Movistar, Claro or WOM. If you want to hire a mobile phone plan, first of all, you must have the identity card for foreigners.

Below, you can see a reference table of plan values as of January 2021 with a new number of the main companies. Most include free browsing on social media. The mentioned values may be lower the first months as an offer, and then they will increase.

Company	Plan	CLP	USD
Entel	50 GB	15,000	19,00
Movistar	50 GB	14,000	18,00
WOM	40 GB	12,000	15,50
Claro	45 GB	15,000	19,00
VTR	45 GB	15,000	19,00
Virgin	35 GB	20,000	25,00

## INTERNET

All university campuses have a Wi-Fi connection for mobile devices (phones, tablets, and laptops) under the **EDUROAM** network. To have access to the network, you must use your email address (usuario@uc.cl) and UC password as a user. With one account, you can connect to 3 devices at the same time.

**Important:** check the instructions for each type of device on the website of the Computing Department: <https://informatica.uc.cl/red-inalambrica/eduroam>

In addition, many places in Santiago also have Wi-Fi connection (e.g., cafes, museums, and in some public spaces such as some Metro stations).

Generally, temporary homes have an internet connection, so it is important to consider this when choosing your first accommodation when you arrive in Chile to avoid the initial process of having to contract internet service. On the other hand, most long-term housing leases, of 1 year or more, do not include internet service and must be hired on their own.

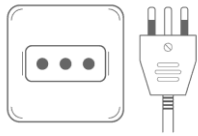
These are some companies and some basic reference plans of fibre optic per company:

Home internet	Movistar	Entel	VTR
Fibre Optic Plan	300 megas	300 megas	300 megas
Price	CLP 20,990 (USD 27) per month	CLP 20,990 (USD 27) per month	CLP 20,990 (USD 27) per month
Installation	Free	Free	No information
Download speed	300 Mbps	300 Mbps	300 Mbps
Upload speed	300 Mbps	150 Mbps	7 Mbps

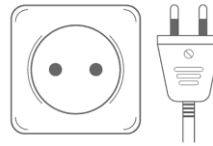


## USEFUL INFORMATION

### VOLTAGE AND PLUGS AND SOCKETS



The voltage in Chile is 220 V and the Sockets are Type C and L. You can hardware store.



frequency is 50 Hz. get adapters at any

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### SUPERMARKETS

There are eight main supermarket chains throughout the country focused on different consumer profiles with different store formats. Some of them are: Walmart ([Líder](#) supermarket), Cencosud ([Jumbo](#) and [Santa Isabel](#) supermarkets), [Unimarc](#), and Falabella ([Tottus](#)). Most of them have home delivery service. It can be very convenient to access benefits for frequent customers: [Jumbo Prime](#)

### DELIVERY APPS

Apart from the supermarkets mentioned above, there are several applications that offer home delivery services of different supplies, for example, food or clothing. The most popular are: [PedidosYa](#), [Rappi](#), [Cornershop](#).

### COMMERCE

The pedestrian areas of the historic centre of Santiago are full of life, inviting people to spend time walking and enjoying the shops. You can also find commercial premises in neighbourhoods as diverse as **Alonso de Córdova**, in the district of Vitacura; **Barrio Italia**, in the district of Providencia; **Bellas Artes** and **Lastarria**, in downtown Santiago; **Patronato**, in the district of Recoleta and **Bellavista**, between the district of Providencia and Recoleta.

All prices displayed in stores include taxes.

### MAIN SHOPPING MALLS

[Mall Plaza](#) shopping centre chain located in different districts of the capital, Paseo Ahumada and Paseo Calle Estado in downtown Santiago

[Malls and Outlets Vivo](#) centre chains distributed in different districts of the capital.

[Parque Arauco](#), Las Condes.

[Costanera Center](#), Providencia.

[Portal La Dehesa](#), Lo Barnechea

### OTHER SHOPPING MALLS

[Apumanque](#), Las Condes

[Drugstore](#), Providencia

[Patio Bellavista](#), Recoleta

[Patio Centro](#), Santiago Centro



## BIG DEPARTMENT STORES

Present both in malls and in their own premises located in Santiago Centro and Providencia. They are characterized by issuing credit cards that allow access to exclusive discounts when paying with them.

[Falabella](#) (including Sodimac/ Homy/ Tottus)

[Paris](#) (including Easy/Santa Isabel/ Jumbo)

[Ripley](#)

## HANDICRAFTS

[Centro Artesanal Santa Lucía](#)

[Pueblito Los Dominicos](#)

[Artesanías de Chile](#)

[Fibra Local](#)

## FLEA MARKET AND ANTIQUE DEALERS

[Persa Bio](#)

[Galpón de Anticuarios Los Reyes](#)

Barrio Italia

Barrio El Aguilucho

## CENTRAL MARKET AND FREE FAIRS

The [Central Market](#) of Santiago is a patrimonial place that offers a series of products such as: seafood and fish, fruits and vegetables. Also, there are butchers and some traditional restaurants, specialized in typical food.

The [Vega Central](#), also called "La Vega", is a market located in the extreme south of the district of Recoleta, Santiago, almost reaching the north bank of the Mapocho River. There you will find mainly fruits and vegetables that come from the agricultural areas of the Central Zone of Chile.

Also, in the [Free Fairs](#) you can find these products near the neighborhood where you live. They are usually small stands that are installed in closed streets and you can find fresh products.

## ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

Our country has a great cultural diversity. Different activities take place throughout Chile, and there are many interesting places to visit.

Activities such as traditional festivals, theatre, film and music festivals, as well as adventure tourism, are part of the varied offer that our country offers to tourists. For example, outside of Santiago there are the traditional festivals of the Chiloé Island, in the South; the grape harvest festivals in the Central Zone of Chile, in cities such as Curicó and Santa Cruz; in the North of Chile, celebrations such as the Putre Carnival, the Pachamama Festival and La Tirana Festival, among others.



In terms of theatre, the festival "[Santiago a Mil](#)" stands out as a theatrical and artistic proposal with outstanding companies from Chile and abroad. It takes place every year in January and is famous because of its quality and diversity. Most of its activities are concentrated in Santiago, but year after year more cities in the country are added. Some of their shows are staged in city squares and municipal gyms where people can see them for free.

In the field of movies, the [SANFIC](#) Festival is held with national and international independent film premieres.

In musical shows, the [Municipal Theatre of Santiago](#) has a long tradition in operas, ballets and concerts with national and international artists.

**Links of interest:**

[Finde](#)

[Santiago Cultura](#)

[Punto Ticket](#)

[Panoramas Gratis](#)

[Guía para las artes](#)

**Santiago Cultural Centres:**

[Centro Gabriela Mistral - GAM](#)

[Centro Cultural La Moneda](#)

[Matucana 100](#)

[Centro Arte Alameda](#)

## PLACES TO VISIT IN SANTIAGO

The capital has different attractions such as parks, museums, art galleries, palaces, monuments and architecture from different periods.

The downtown area still maintains some of the old buildings and the colonial distribution, which can be recognized in the Plaza de Armas, where the Cathedral of Santiago, the National Historical Museum, Post Office of Chile and the Municipality of Santiago are located.

Also in the downtown area can be found the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, the Church of San Francisco, Cerro Santa Lucía, the National Library, the Casa Colorada Museum, the Municipal Theatre, the La Merced Museum, the National Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Visual Arts, the Parque Forestal Park, the Salvador Allende Solidarity Museum, the Museum of Memory and Human Rights, the GAM Cultural Center, the La Moneda Cultural Center and La Moneda Presidential Palace.

Also, in the historic centre are some of the oldest neighbourhoods such as Barrio República, Barrio Brasil, Barrio Yungay, Barrio Concha y Toro, Barrio Bellas Artes, Barrio Lastarria, Barrio Cívico, Barrio París-Londres, among others where a walking tour is a must. Check more information about [Typical Zones](#) and [Monuments](#) throughout the country.

It is recommended to visit the [Metropolitan Park](#), made up of different hills, located between the districts of Huechuraba, Recoleta, Providencia and Vitacura. It is considered the largest urban park in Latin America. The park management has a total network of 16 [Urban Parks](#) in different districts of Santiago.

Other very traditional parks within the capital for family outings are [Parque Padre Hurtado](#), [Parque Quinta Normal](#), [Parque de Los Reyes](#) y [Parque O'Higgins](#).





There is also access to a [Network of Natural Parks](#) located in the foothills that allow you to enjoy the outdoors. There are also many other foothill parks with free access, such as the [Mahuida Park](#), managed by the Municipality of La Reina.

Another option to visit are the [Ski Centers](#), open in the winter season. They are close to Santiago and have very good facilities.

## OUR IDIOSYNCRASY

In Chile, a kiss on the right cheek is the most common form of greeting, whether people know each other or are meeting for the first time. This is a custom between two women or also between women-men. Among men, shaking hands is the most common behaviour, and it is also used in formal or business situations. However, due to the pandemic, these customs have changed.

Lunch time (also called collation) is usually between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., or between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The evening meal is much later than in other countries, around 8 p.m. In Chile there is also "la once" and it refers to a coffee (or tea) accompanied by a sandwich, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., sometimes, it replaces the evening meal.

## WATER

Although the tap water in Santiago is completely drinkable and safe to be ingested directly, due to the high amount of mineral content, it is recommended that foreigners drink bottled water the first days of their stay. Since it is a "hard water", it could cause some stomach discomfort. Also, the taste may not be very pleasant. It is also very common to find whitish traces of calcareous residue on taps or kettles. When boiling water, it is recommended to use filtered or bottled water.

## RAW FOOD

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

## HOLIDAYS

There is a varied list of [holidays in Chile](#) that includes: National Holidays, Army Day, Navy Day, Labor Day and religious holidays, among others. Some of them are "mandatory and non-waivable" holidays, which applies to commerce owners. In these cases, gas stations, emergency and shift pharmacies remain open, as well as those premises attended by their own owners and direct family members.

Universidad Católica also has its own holidays during the year, which vary from year to year. More information can be found on the UC website.

## VACATIONS

In Chile, a person who works as a dependent of an employer is legally entitled to 15 working days of paid vacation, generally taken during the month of **February**.

At Universidad Católica, this legal right is extended to **20 business days** for academic, professional and administrative staff, so the institution closes during the month of February, only maintaining limited activities.



In Chile, the academic period in all educational institutions is from **March to December** with **2 weeks of recess**, generally in July or August, for students and academic staff, only maintaining administrative functions.

**AVOID** scheduling your arrival in Chile during **FEBRUARY**, it is likely that you will have a lot of difficulties settling in, since in general all services reduce their staffing. The recommendation, if possible, is to schedule the arrival for the month of January or even earlier, to start the first semester in March.

## GASTRONOMY

Known 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. The typical Chilean cuisine varies from region to region, due to the climate, traditions and culture. You can enjoy the typical "empanada de pino" (minced meat, onion, egg, olive and spices), the "mote con huesillo" and the "pastel de choclo" (corn cake), among many other typical dishes of our country.

If you want to eat in a very simple and popular environment with convenient prices there are the "picadas" or "picás". There are always several in each city. They are small restaurants, generally located outside the well-known circuits of tourist gastronomic venues, with low prices and food made by their owners.

Most of the typical preparations feature potatoes, rice, corn (for summertime preparations), and some protein of animal origin. One of the traditions for collective celebrations is to carry out the traditional "Chilean asado", which includes a variety of meats cooked on an outdoor grill, where beef is generally preferred.

Another Chilean tradition is the diversity of typical sandwiches such as the "completo", the "barros luco", the "lomito", among many others that can be easily found in any food establishment. Due to their size, they often replace a complete meal.

It is interesting to highlight the strong influence of immigrants and their cuisine in Chile and that is practically confused with the more traditional options. For example, the German community has a huge influence in Chilean pastry with apple küchen, strudels, marzipan and pan de pascua (Easter bread). The great immigration of the Arab, Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese community has brought specialties that can be found especially in the Recoleta neighborhood. In Recoleta, specifically in the Bellavista neighborhood, you can find varied cuisine from other communities such as Greek, Korean, Spanish, etc.

More recently, Peruvian cuisine is highly appreciated for its excellent service, quality, abundance and generally convenient prices in places in Santiago Centro, but also there are more sophisticated options that can be found in other parts of the capital.

Although the strong mark that meat consumption represents in Chilean culture, our country is also a great producer of excellent quality fruits and vegetables, thus vegans or vegetarians have a variety of alternatives for their meals. It is also possible to find different specialized restaurants, although it is easier to find small business options with home delivery service of products and prepared dishes.

Remember that in Chile the tip is not included in the bill and it is up to the client to leave 10% of the value of the consumption. Although it is not mandatory to leave a tip, it is advisable, since it is an important part of the staff's income.

### Links of interest:

[Zomato](#)

[Trip Advisor - Restaurants](#)



## COST OF LIVING SUMMARY

ESTIMATED MONTHLY COSTS	
Item	Price from
Rent	USD 543
Common expenses	USD 56
Water, electricity and gas (summer)	USD 42
Water, electricity and gas (winter)	USD 98
Public Transport (2 daily trips)	USD 56
Nursery school/Kindergarten (4 hours a day)	USD 279
Nursery school/Kindergarten (8 hours a day)	USD 557
Private school (primary and secondary)	USD 348
Basic monthly food basket 1-2 people	USD 245
Basic monthly food basket 3-4 people	USD 362
Monthly mobile phone plan	USD 18
Monthly home internet plan	USD 27
Monthly gym subscription	USD 49

OTHER REFERENCE COSTS	
Item	Price from
1 quick lunch	USD 5
1 movie ticket	USD 12
1 Bottle of wine (supermarket)	USD 6
1 Beer 350 ml (supermarket)	USD 1
1 Espresso Coffee (franchise)	USD 5
1 light dress (retail)	USD 24
1 pair of jeans (retail)	USD 42
1 pair of shoes (leather)	USD 70
1 hardcover book	USD 30
Delivery service in Santiago Centro-Oriente	USD 4



### Links of interest:

[Cost of living in Santiago, Chile](#)

[Cost of living in Chile – Expat.cl \(available in English\)](#)

[Cost of living in Chile. Updated prices 2021.](#)

[Prices and Salaries in Santiago \(available in English\)](#)

[Cost of living in Chile \(available in English\)](#)

[Cost of Living in Chile: prices in 46 cities compared \(available in English\)](#)

## CHILEAN SLANG

Chileans are generally friendly and kind. Perhaps, foreigners may find difficult how fast Chileans speak or our idioms (“Chilean slang”) that are not found in dictionaries.

### Some examples:

- A pata: walking.
- Achuntar: to get right, to get to the point.
- Al lote: messy, relaxed.
- Al tiro: immediately, right away.
- Apestado: angry, disgusted.
- Arrugar: to back down, to regret, to give up.
- Bacán: cool, very good.
- Cabra (o): cabra (female), cabro (male)
- Cabreado: bored, tired.
- Cachar: to look, to see something. It can also be to understand or to grasp.
- Carrete: party, social gathering Salir a carretear: to go out.
- Chanta: fraud.
- Choreado: bored, upset.
- Embarrarla: to ruin something.
- Empelotado: angry, annoyed, fed up.
- Fome: boring, unfunny. It could be a person or a situation.
- Gallo(a): used to refer to a person.
- Guata: belly.
- Hacer una vaca: to collect money among several people.
- Hincar: to bother, to insist.
- Huaso: Chilean countryperson. It can be used to talk about shy people.
- Inflar (a alguien): to pay attention to someone.
- Irse al chanco: to exceed, to abuse.
- La papa: the best, a good recommendation, a good offer.
- Lata: boredom, demotivation.
- Latoso or latero: someone who bores others.
- Lenteja: slow, calm, paused.
- Lesear: to annoy, to entertain, to fool around.
- Lolo(a): lolo (young male), lola (young female).
- Luca: one thousand Chilean pesos.
- Manso: tremendous, immense.
- Marraqueta: a type of bread.
- Mina(o): mina (an attractive woman) / mino (an attractive man)



- Ni ahí: “I don't care”.
- Piola: unnoticed or quiet.
- Polola(o): romantic partner but in an informal way.
- Tener tuto: to be sleepy.
- Tiene pituto: someone with good contacts and who use them to achieve goals.
- Viejito Pascuero: Santa Claus.
- Volado: unfocused, unprepared, forgetful. It is also used when someone is under the influence of some kind of drug.
- Yunta: best friend or pal

**Links of interest:**

[Chilenismos Ilustrados](#)

[Proverbios y Dichos populares chilenos](#)

Libro: how to survive in the Chilean jungle

## DIRECTORY

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UC Poison Information Center: **2 2635 3800**

UC Nurses: **2 2354 5000** or via email: [nursescampus@uc.cl](mailto:nursescampus@uc.cl)

### UC LINKS OF INTEREST (available only in Spanish)

[Special needs](#)

[Gender equality](#)

[Useful information Santiago](#)

[College life](#)

### EMBASSIES

**Argentina**

Miraflores 285, Santiago

Phone: (+56) 22582 2500

<http://ehile.cancilleria.gov.ar/>

**Bolivia**

Av. Santa María 2796, Providencia

Phone: (+56) 22520 1700

[www.consuladodebolivia.cl](http://www.consuladodebolivia.cl)

**Australia**

Isidora Goyenechea 3621, Piso 13, Las Condes

Phone: (+56) 22550 3500

<http://chile.embassy.gov.au/>

**Brazil**

Avenida Apoquindo 3039, piso 2, oficinas 201 y 202, Las Condes

Phone: (+56) 22876 3400



#### **Canada**

Nueva Tajamar 481, piso 12, Torre Norte, Santiago  
Phone: (+56) 22652 3800  
[www.canadainternational.gc.ca/chile-chili](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/chile-chili)

#### **Costa Rica**

Calle Napoleón 3200, oficina 202, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22334 1600  
[www.costarica.cl](http://www.costarica.cl)

#### **Dominican Republic**

Candelaria Goyenechea 4153, Vitacura  
Phone: (+56) 22953 5750  
[www.embajadadominicana.cl](http://www.embajadadominicana.cl)

#### **Ecuador**

Av. Andrés Bello 2233, piso 15, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 22231 2015  
<https://chile.embajada.gob.ec/>

#### **France**

Condell 65, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 22470 8000  
<http://www.ambafrance-cl.org/>

#### **Greece**

Jorge VI 306, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22212 7900  
[www.mfa.gr/santiago](http://www.mfa.gr/santiago)

#### **Italy**

Clemente Fabres 1050, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 22470 8400  
[https://amsantiago.esteri.it/ambasciata\\_santiago/es/](https://amsantiago.esteri.it/ambasciata_santiago/es/)

#### **Mexico**

Félix de Amesti 128, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22583 8400  
<http://embamex.sre.gob.mx/chile/>

#### **Nicaragua**

Zurich 255, oficina 111,  
Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22234 1808  
Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/EmbajadaNicaraguaCL/>

#### **Panama**

Calle Latadía N°5930, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22228 1687  
<https://mire.gob.pa/ministerio/embajada-y-consulado/santiago-embajada-de-panama/>

<http://santiago.itamaraty.gov.br/es-es/>

#### **Colombia**

Los Militares 5885, Tercer Piso, Las Condes  
Santiago, Chile  
Phone: (+56) 22220 6273  
<http://chile.embajada.gov.co/>

#### **China**

Av. Pedro de Valdivia 550, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 22233 9880  
<http://cl.china-embassy.org/esp/>

#### **Finland**

Alcántara 200, oficina 201, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22263 4917  
<http://www.finland.cl/>

#### **Germany**

Las Hualtatas 5677, Vitacura  
Phone: (+56) 22463 2500  
[www.santiago.diplo.de](http://www.santiago.diplo.de)

#### **Guatemala**

Avenida Apoquindo 4775, of. 504, Las  
Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22326 8133,  
<https://chile.minex.gob.gt/home/home.aspx>

#### **Morocco**

Av. Jorge VI 375, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22212 1766  
Website under construction  
Facebook: <https://es-la.facebook.com/EmbajadaDeMarruecosEnChile/>

#### **Netherlands**

Av. Apoquindo 3500, piso 13, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22756 9200  
[www.paisesbajosytu.nl/su-pais-y-los-paises-bajos/chile](http://www.paisesbajosytu.nl/su-pais-y-los-paises-bajos/chile)

#### **Norway**

Los Militares 5001, piso 7, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22342888  
<https://www.norway.no/es/chile/>

#### **Poland**

Mar del Plata 2055, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 22824 5000  
[www.gov.pl/web/chile-es](http://www.gov.pl/web/chile-es)

#### **Portugal**

Av. Nueva Tajamar 555, piso 16, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22203 0542,



**Paraguay**

Av. Apoquindo 4700, piso 7, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22963 6380,  
(+56) 22963 6381  
[www.embajadadelparaguay.cl](http://www.embajadadelparaguay.cl)

**Spain**

Av. Andrés Bello 1895, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 22235 2754  
<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/embajadas/santiagodechile/es>

**Uruguay**

Av. Pedro de Valdivia 711, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 2223 8398  
<http://www.embajadadeuruguay.org/pages/contacto/sur-america/chile.php>

**United States**

Av. Andrés Bello 2800, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22330 3000  
<https://cl.usembassy.gov/es/>

(+56) 22203 0543

<http://www.santiago.embaixadaportugal.mne.pt>

**Peru**

Andrés Bello 1751, Providencia  
Teléfono: (+56) 22339 2600  
[www.embajadadelperu.cl](http://www.embajadadelperu.cl)

**Sweden**

Nueva Providencia 2353, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 22940 1700  
[www.embajadasuecia.cl](http://www.embajadasuecia.cl)

**United Kingdom**

El Bosque Norte 0125, Las Condes  
Phone: (+56) 22370 4100  
<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-chile.es-419>

**Venezuela**

Calle Bustos 2021, Providencia  
Phone: (+56) 22365 8700  
[chile.embajada.gob.ve](http://chile.embajada.gob.ve)