Dear International students,

Studying abroad may be an incomparable and valuable experience. Accept the challenge of living and immerse yourself in an exciting adventure. The International Office opens the door of a new world for you at the Universidad de Viña del Mar-Chile (UVM)

Welcome Aboard!
Maria Luisa Figueroa
Director
International Office
Universidad de Viña del Mar-Chile

UVM is member of CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM-CUC
SEMESTER/YEAR PROGRAMS.

Semester/Year Programs (UVM Semester Courses), in which international students attend classes with their Chilean peers, are offered to full-time students.

International students may design their own Academic Year or Semester Study Abroad Program at the UVM and attend classes with their Chilean peers. Students can choose from a wide variety of disciplines that include many areas of academic studies.

The academic programs of the Universidad de Viña del Mar – Chile (UVM) allow students to choose from a wide range of disciplines that include areas of administration and economics, agriculture, education, public relations and journalism, humanities and engineering, Art and Design, Social Sciences among others.

All coursework is in Spanish.

In order to study one semester at UVM, it is advisable to have an adequate knowledge of the language (that is, at least three semesters of formal instruction), although it is not required.

Semester System in the University

The Academic Year (AY) begins in March of every year and ends in December of the same year.

- The First Semester (Semester Program I-SP I) starts at the beginning of March and ends in mid July. Students interested in studying at UVM during this semester must arrive by March 1 in order to participate in the Orientation Week, tutoring and registration.

- The Second Semester (Semester Program II-SP II) starts at the beginning of August and ends in mid December. Students interested in studying at UVM during this semester must arrive by August 1 in order to participate in the Orientation Week, tutoring and registration.
UVM Academic Offering. About Courses at the Universidad de Viña del Mar–Chile (UVM)

International Students can take classes in **THREE STUDY AREAS** at the UVM.

**STUDY AREA I**

1. **Spanish and Communication. Courses intended for International Students.**

   The International Office in conjunction with the School of Education and Humanities evaluates Spanish language proficiency through a Preliminary Examination Test administered once the international student arrives in Viña del Mar. This test includes Multiple Choice, Cloze and Text Comprehension sections.

   1.1. Students who **DO NOT MEET** the language requirements cannot take regular courses at the UVM due to the fact that all the UVM courses are in Spanish. Thus, the International Office offers the following Spanish Programs intended for these students:

   1.1.1 **Intensive Spanish & Chilean Culture Program : From Beginning level to Intermediate level.**

       Spanish Program divided into three sections:

       a. Beginning level : Spanish-I
          60 contact hours : 4 credits
          An introduction to the Spanish language, including grammar, vocabulary, expressions, and common situations. The fundamentals of Spanish are developed through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Practice in pronunciation and development of comprehension.

       b. Beginning level : Spanish-II
          60 contact hours : 4 credits
          This course further develops the fundamentals of Spanish seen in Spanish I.

       c. Intermediate-Low level : Spanish I
          60 contact hours : 4 credits
          This course further develops Spanish language skills, including a rapid review of components learned in Beginning level Spanish I & II. Topics such as uses of the subjunctive and ser vs. estar are studied in greater detail. Conversational and reading/writing abilities are continually enhanced through exercises and situational practice.

   1.2. International Students **WHO DO MEET** the language requirements can take UVM regular courses and participate in the following Spanish & Chilean Culture Programs:
1.2.1 **Intensive Spanish & Chilean Culture Program: From Intermediate to Intermediate High level.**
Spanish Program divided into three courses:

a. Intensive Spanish & Chilean Culture
   90 contact hours : 6 credits

b. Spanish Writing and Composition
   64 contact hours : 4 credits

c. Phonetics
   46 contact hours : 3 credits

1.2.2 **Intensive Spanish & Chilean Culture Program: From Intermediate High to Advanced level.**
Spanish Program divided into three courses:

b. Spanish Writing and Composition
   64 contact hours : 4 credits

c. Intensive Spanish & Chilean Culture
   90 contact hours : 6 credits

d. Phonetics
   46 contact hours : 3 credits

d. Phonetics
   46 contact hours : 3 credits

1.2.3 **Spanish Conversation & Latin American Culture Program: From Advanced to Superior level.**
Courses offered (*):

a. Spanish Conversation & Chilean Culture
   64 contact hours : 4 credits

b. Strategies for Communication: Grammar and Composition
   46 contact hours : 3 credits

c. Latin American Cultural Perspectives
   32 contact hours : 2 credits

d. Latin American Literature: A Current Overview
   32 contact hours : 2 credits

e. Phonetics
   46 contact hours : 3 credits

(*) Students can take only THREE of the courses listed in Point 1.2.3
Castleton State College has sent many students to Chile and for us the faculty, it is very rewarding to see how much these students learn while abroad. Our students return with near-native fluency, their Spanish command is just fantastic; moreover, they mature and learn about the Chilean culture.

Our students learn to appreciate the opportunities life has given them and they return ready to take charge of their lives.

It is an experience I wholeheartedly recommend.

**STUDY AREA II**

**University General Courses intended for International and Chilean Students.**
International students can take General courses from the different study areas offered by the Department of Humanities of the UVM. General courses stand alone and provide an international student with broad knowledge of and competency in an area outside the student’s major.

**STUDY AREA III**

**University Regular Courses intended for International and Chilean Students.**
International students can take University Regular Courses (career-oriented courses) from the different study areas offered by the University.

**In the First Semester of each year (From March to July)** students choose from courses offered in the different Careers and Schools of our University. These courses are given in the semesters I –III – V & VII. Academic offering during this term corresponds to **Odd Semesters**.

**In the Second Semester of each year (From August to December)** students choose from courses offered in the different Careers and Schools of our University. These courses are given in the semesters II – IV – VI & VIII. Academic offering during this term corresponds to **Even Semesters**.

All these courses have a duration of 4 contact hours per week with a total of 64 contact hours and 4 credits.
NOTES:
1. In all the courses at the UVM every contact hour has duration of 40 minutes (also called “hora pedagógica”).
2. We cannot assure that all courses will be taught in every semester.
3. You can take courses from the following study areas:
   - Early Childhood Education
   - Elementary Education
   - Law
   - History
   - Social Studies
   - Psychology
   - Spanish and Communication
   - Accounting
   - Business Administration
   - Journalism
   - Agricultural Engineering
   - Computing Engineering
   - Environmental Engineering
   - Industrial Engineering
   - Construction Engineering
   - Biochemical Engineering
   - Architecture
   - Graphical Design
   - Interior Design
   - Bachelor of Art
   - Sociology
   - Veterinary Medicine
   - Public Relations
   - Bachelor of Humanities

Draft Budget of Living Expenses
Estimated Student Expenses per semester:
Textbooks USD 110 p/s approx.
Personal Expenses USD 1,000 p/s approx.
Note.

Insurance: Students are required to purchase their own Health Insurance in their home countries. This insurance has to cover them in a 100% during their stay and in every possible situation.

These estimates are intended only as guidelines to assist students in planning their budget and can vary with individual habits, living arrangements, and independent travel.

The Credit System at the UVM
One credit means dedicating 3 hours a week to a course
These 3 hours might set up as follows:
If the course has 1 contact hour of classes, the professor expects the student to spend additional 2 hours per week on research, study, homework, reading, etc.
If the course has 2 contact hours of classes, the professor expects the student to spend additional 1 hours per week on research, study, homework, reading, etc.
Two credits mean dedicating 6 hours a week to a course
These 6 hours might set up as follows:
If the course has 2 contact hours of classes, the professor expects the student to spend additional 4 hours per week on research, study, homework, reading, etc.
If the course has 3 contact hours of classes, the professor expects the student to spend additional 3 hours per week on research, study, homework, reading, etc.
If the course has 4 contact hours of classes, the professor expects the student to spend additional 2 hours per week on research, study, homework, reading, etc.

Three credits mean dedicating 9 hours a week to a course
These 9 hours might set up as follows:
Usually 4 contact hours with the professor and 5 hours of independent study, research, reading, etc.
6 contact hours of classes and laboratory and 3 hours of homework, study, research, etc.
Other variations.

Four credits mean dedicating 12 hours a week to a course
These 12 hours are usually 4 or 6 contact hours with the professor a week and the rest of the hours dedicated to independent homework, study, research, etc.

Does the UVM accept International Students?
Yes, the UVM is open to international students.

About our Educational System.
Chilean universities usually do not have Catalogs. The reason is that the universities are career-oriented, that is to say they offer careers.

The student chooses a career and the School in charge of that specific career gives him/her the information about the “malla curricular”, curriculum of that career. The students know what to study in the semesters of that specific career and the syllabi of the courses. The universities also offer the degree of “Licenciatura” plus the career title.

The “Licenciatura” means that after having approved 5 or 6 years of study or 10 to 12 semesters, the student obtains that degree plus the career title. The “bachillerato” (bachelor) degree is given in some of the careers that offer “licenciatura”, after 2 years (4 semesters). Its only purpose is to give students that degree because the USA and European universities have it. However, in terms of future work possibilities the “bachillerato” has no value. It is only a step for the “licenciatura” and the career title.
About our Courses
UVM sends universities from abroad a list of the courses of the careers offered at the UVM with their corresponding curricula. Once international students decide the courses they would like to attend, we send them their corresponding syllabi.

Does the UVM have programs that offer university credits for students who do not intend to graduate from the UVM?
Yes, we offer both non-degree programs and regular degree-programs for Chilean and International students.

What is the language of instruction?
Spanish.

How does the International Office evaluate proficiency in Spanish?
The International Office evaluates Spanish language proficiency through a Preliminary Examination Test administered once the international student arrives in Viña del Mar.

What if the applicant does not meet the language standard?
Students who do not meet the language requirements cannot take regular courses at the UVM due to the fact that the majority of the UVM courses are in Spanish.

What can the applicant do then?
S/he can take the Intensive Spanish Courses offered by the International Office during the two semesters.

What type of language course(s) does the International Office offer?
Please see pages 2, 3 & 4.

Does the UVM have dormitories or university apartments where international students can live?
No.

How UVM classes are structured?
UVM classes have a duration of 40 minutes (hora pedagógica).

1. The career courses usually consist of 4 contact hours per week with a total of 64 contact hours and 4 credits.

2. The courses taken in the Humanities Department have 2 contact hours per week with a total of 32 contact hours and 2 credits.

3. The Spanish courses. See pages 2, 3 & 4.

What methods of assessment are used?
Usually each professor has his/her own method of evaluating the student work: quizzes, oral presentations individually or in groups, exams, papers, etc. plus final exams.

Our grading system is called “Notas de calificaciones or Notas”. 1.0 being the lowest grade and 7.0 the highest. In order to pass the course the student needs a 4.0
What have been the experiences of international students as far as transferring credits to their home institutions goes?

Transferring credits goes like this: We have different ways of assessing the students, we agree with the home institution about the meaning of the notas and their conversion in USA system of grades. We have had no problems in this area, as the home institution and our university have a conversion table that gives justice to the effort and work of their students.

The UVM has about 5,000 Chilean students. International students from Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Brazil come to study at the UVM because their parents prefer Chilean private universities in terms of safety, academic and professional preparation. There is also a group of students from Mexico, France and Sweden who also come to study in specific schools. The rest of the students, mostly from USA, apply directly through the OIIE.

How do international students tend to do in UVM classes? Do they report feeling overwhelmed, intimidated, unprepared? How might a student best prepare to study in Chile?

The best preparation is of course a good level of Spanish. This enables the student to overcome easily the difficulties any person encounters when going to another country with a different language and culture.

The other aspect to be considered is the previous preparation or orientation given to the student prior to the departure as well as the Orientation Week at the UVM. These orientations help the students know how to react appropriately to different situations.

It is a challenge for the international student, especially those coming for the first time to a Latin American country. The cultural shock is always there, but at the UVM the student is not alone as we take care of him/her in every way possible.

Some Chilean professors intimidate Chilean students, but there are just a few of them belonging to the old system. This is because we still have the old system in which the professor knows everything and the student nothing. We also have the lecture system, the professor talks, the students listen and at the end they can ask questions.

We asked one of our past international student to answer some of the questions according to her point of view as a student.

Meredith Denton
Former International Student at the UVM
International Students Assistant of the International Office - UVM
There has not been a problem as long as the student checks with their home institution first and makes sure their institution will accept the classes they take. Most students have done well at UVM. However, it also depends on their study habits and willingness to learn Spanish. The first couple of weeks are pretty tough b/c everything is so new. Some students have felt overwhelmed, intimidated, and unprepared but I believe that this is normal with any study abroad program. The first couple of weeks are going to be a time of readjustment. However, one good thing about UVM is that during the first couple of weeks each international student has a weekly meeting with the Director of the International Department. This meeting is intended to help the students adjust to their new city and university. I believe the best way to prepare for a study abroad experience in Chile is to arrive with an open mind and be prepared to be flexible. Things are not like the US here and the students must be willing to adapt to their new country.

What can you tell us about the details of applying to study at the UVM? What is involved in being admitted as an international student? If I plan to go to Chile in March or in August, when do I need to apply?

UNITED STATES UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO

PROCEDURES

1. The International Office (OIIE) of UVM asks international students about the subjects they would like to study.

2. The International Office (OIIE) receives this information from the student; then, the Director of the OIIE looks for the careers that have courses / classes related to these areas and designs a Study Program Proposal for the student. We usually ask the students to choose 8 to 10 courses, due to the fact that most of the subjects belong to different careers that might have schedule conflicts, 2 or 3 courses are given at the same time. (This is done once the student is here because he/she can explore all of the courses that he/she has listed and choose the ones he/she prefers.)

3. The student sends us a list of the courses they would like to explore and we send him/her the corresponding syllabi plus related information available.

4. Once the student accepts the proposal, we send him/her an Application Form.

5. Having the Application Form with us, we send them a Letter of Acceptance so that they can present it to the Chilean Consulate in their own country. (The Chilean Consulate will issue a student visa -students need to present their passport to do this.

6. If the students are planning to apply for our Spring Semester (end of July and middle of December) they can start applying in mid April in order to give us 2 ½ months to help the students with all the procedures.

If the students are planning to apply for our Fall Semester (end of February
and middle of July) they can start applying in mid October in order to give us some months to help the students with all the procedures. January & February are our Summer Vacation Season.

7. Once the International Students are in Chile, there is a 30-days term to register the student visa at the international police office. We specially recommend students to get a student visa. Deadline for a foreign person to stay in Chile with a tourist visa lasts 90 days. In some cases, depending on the country of origin of the student, it is possible the student will be asked to certify he/she can afford a stay in Chile. The student might also need a letter from his/her University confirming he/she is a regular student and plans to study at the UVM.

**Are there any advisors or counselors for international students?**
Yes. The Director of the International Office, Ms. María Luisa Figueroa, is the academic tutor of international students.

**Are there any scholarships/fellowships or student loans that international students can apply for at the UVM?**
No. The UVM does not offer financial assistance to international students applying to our University.

---

International Students who have a good command of the Spanish Language (Advanced/Superior levels), whether they attend UVM regular courses or not, can apply for a **VIP PROGRAM [VOLUNTEER & INTERNSHIP PROGRAM]**.

International & Chilean Students can participate in the course **CULTURES IN CONTACT: DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCES IN THE AREAS OF HUMAN, SOCIAL & BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITY**.[32 contact hours: 2 CREDITS]

International Students with a good command of the Spanish Language can participate in the **PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM [DIPLOMA] IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** offered by the Institute of International Relations of the Universidad de Viña del Mar-Chile.(*)

[ *]: Available only in Semester Programs II, from August to mid December.