Major/Minor: Global Studies
Country: Chile     Program: Santiago Immersion     Term & Year Abroad: Year 08-09

*What type of student should go on this program (ex: personality traits, major, etc)?
It fits for any major, but seems to be especially beneficial for political science or global studies types.

Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  Slightly more disorganized, but very friendly and receptive to foreign students.

- Could you call them by their first names?
  No, you refer to them as “Professor” and always use the formal verb tense.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  Yes, much more formal

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  Some didn’t have office hours, but they were always available to make appointments.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  No, they were easier to generalize. Some higher level courses were harder.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  There is a lot less grade inflation, but the grades usually balance out in the end.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  They have really long semesters so it moves a lot slower. The first month and a half is very easy, and there are only a few midterms and finals.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  Written

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  It was inflexible

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  The professors were always willing to give extra help.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  You definitely need to take more initiative to figure out when things are due and when classes are and things. It is a lot less structured.

- Was classroom participation expected?
  No

- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
They were less structured, there are rarely syllabuses. They also have less reading I would say.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  They were usually 2 days a week for an hour and a half each class.

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  You could not eat or drink, I was once scolded for doing that. Punctuality was not important as the professor was usually late.

**Language**
- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  Spanish

- **What language did you take your courses in?**
  Spanish

- **If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.**
  It’s not nearly as hard as you think. I didn’t have any problems.

**Host University**
- **How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?**
  The university is large and located all over the city.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?**
  They live at home with their families

- **If not located in the city center,**
  - **How far or close is it to the city?**
    Some campuses are in the city center, some are in other neighborhoods.
  - **What type of public transportation could you take – cost?**
    Bus- about $.20 each way.
  - **Could students take cabs -cost?**
    You could take cabs but buses are really easy.
  - **How long would it take to get to the city center?**
    It varies.

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  Yeah, lots of different organizations and clubs.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  You make photocopies of books from the library for very cheap.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  There are computer labs on campus where you can print.
- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**

  All universities have really cheap and delicious cafeterias and fun coffee shops.

**Housing**
- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**

  Homestays, also apartments and international residence halls.

  - **How close are they to campus?**
    
    Depends, they are all over the city.

  - **How did you find your housing?**
    
    There is a craigslist like site that has lots of resources.

  - **Where did you live and with whom?**
    
    I lived in an apartment with Chilean and other international students.

  - **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
    
    No, it’s incredibly easy.

  - **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
    
    So much nicer and a lot cheaper.

  - **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
    
    It was a lot cheaper. Average about $250 a month for your own room.

  - **How/who did you pay for housing?**
    
    The first month is paid for by the program, the rest you pay on your own (usually just in cash)

**Food**
- **What was the food like?**

  Not very good. Lots of salty things and meat and mayonnaise. However- there is amazing produce that is incredibly cheap so if you have your own kitchen you are golden.

  - **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**

    I cooked a lot because groceries were cheap and vegetables were delicious. Also I ate a lot of disgustingly delicious street food like empanadas and hot dogs with avocados and tomatoes on them.

  - **How much was an average meal?**
    
    In a restaurant it was between $4-$8.

  - **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
    
    People ate a big lunch around 1-3ish and then they had a small dinner with afternoon tea between 5-7.

  - **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
    
    In restaurants sometimes, but if they are cooking it’s lovely.
Travel/Safety
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?
There is a really efficient metro and a great bus system. Also there are taxis everywhere. It’s incredibly easy to get around.

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
Very very safe. There is occasionally pick-pocketing and petty crime, but nothing serious.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
So easy. Bus stations took you everywhere in South America.

Host City/Country
- What was the weather like?
Freezing, bitter, smoggy cold in the winter. Lovely in the fall and spring. Hot and dry in the summer.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
It’s a city of 6 million, and the capitol. All of Chile revolves around Santiago. I couldn’t really compare it to anything.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
Lots of restaurants and cafes, great museums, lovely parks, lots of live music and dancing, good nightlife.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
Not much tourism, but a ton of international business. Not too many people spoke English and there was not much cultural diversity.

Culture
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  - Time & punctuality
    Irrelevant. Everyone is late, always.
  - Eye contact & staring
    People will stare just because you are a gringo.
  - Relationships
    Everyone constantly has a boyfriend or girlfriend, but regularly cheat on each other. They also make out in public a lot.
  - More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    Everyone dresses a lot more formally than we do. No flip flops, it’s rare to see shorts, no tank tops for girls.
  - Alcohol consumption
    Chileans drink a lot.
  - What culture shock did you go through?
    They are very conservative in all aspects of the word. They are very reserved and mild-mannered. This sometimes clashed with our more gregarious nature.
Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  Yes, just about everywhere except the street vendors.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  No, no one does.
  - If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM?
    Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?

ATMs were everywhere. Santander bank was good.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  No