

Santiago, Chile Academic Program

Academic Notes

The Academic Program

On this program you have the choice of enrolling in up to three universities in Santiago: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (La Católica or PUC), Universidad de Chile (la Chile), or Universidad Diego Portales (UDP). The CIEE onsite staff will assist you in registration when you arrive in Santiago. For all courses, you will directly enroll at the university and attend the classes with other Chilean and international students.

CIEE also offers a few courses each semester. They are optional and would be taught by CIEE staff and be with only other CIEE participants.

Update October 2018 Students participating in the Liberal Arts program in Santiago will be able to enroll in classes at Universidad Diego Portales and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. However, students will not be able to take classes at Universidad de Chile, given that the academic calendar at this host institution remains in flux following recent student protests.

Course Information

You will enroll at up to three universities and take regular classes with Chilean students. The academic system is comparable to the U.S. academic system in structure and expectations.

You can choose from a wide variety of courses offered at the three different institutions. Courses are available in Art, Geography, History, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and many other disciplines. Upon arrival, you will get a copy of the timetable, or blue book from the CIEE staff.

If you take courses that examine Chilean literature, history, or politics, there are likely to be other foreigners in your classes. Past participants recommend that if group projects are required, you form a group with Chileans. This will give you an opportunity to get to know Chileans, which otherwise can be challenging!

It is very difficult to get credit for science-related courses back at UW-Madison. Because of this, you are discouraged from trying to take science courses while in Santiago.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OR SPORT COURSES

Some universities outside of the U.S. may offer physical activity or sport courses for credit (e.g. Badminton, Soccer, Diving, Yoga). These types of physical activity classes are not taught at UW; therefore, you will not receive UW credit for these types of courses, nor will they appear on your UW transcript. Additionally, physical activity or sport course credits will not be included in your credit load calculations.

Registration

IAP will register you for a special “Study Abroad Course” for the term(s) you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.

You will not register for classes until you arrive in Chile, although CIEE will share a tentative course listing with you before departure. Registration will be covered in detail at the onsite academic orientation provided by CIEE and the individual institutions. Keep in mind that registration in Santiago is very different than at UW and can be much more time consuming. Past students have indicated frustration in the amount of time it takes to register for a course. The more you spread out your courses among the three institutions, the more difficult course registration can be. It is important to be patient and ask questions as you work through the process in Santiago.

Course Equivalent Requests and My Study Abroad

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Requests through your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

NOTE: All courses that show up on your CIEE transcript **MUST** be put onto your UW Madison transcript. There are no exceptions. To avoid a delay in your study abroad courses posting to your UW Madison transcript, it is important to submit your equivalent information as soon as you can.

Course Load and Credit Conversions

You need to register for enough credits to maintain full time status (12-18 credits). Keep in mind that you need to be registered as a full time student both at UW and with CIEE, and you may not exceed credit loads at any institution.

You must keep in mind how many credits you will receive at UW-Madison when you register for classes in Chile or if you consider dropping a class. If you take more than the allowed number of credits, you may be charged additional tuition on your home campus. **CIEE requires students to enroll in 15 credits for during the semester.** You can request permission to enroll in 12 credits for the semester by contacting the CIEE onsite staff.

The following credit conversation scales are used for classes taken at PUC and U Chile (with the exception of Art department classes, whose credit recommendations are outlined in the second chart below):

Chilean Credits	CIEE/UW credit equivalents
10+	4
6-9	3
4-5	2

The following credit conversion scales are used for classes taken at the Universidad de Chile (U Chile) Art Department:

Total contact hours	CIEE/UW credit equivalents
32	2
43	3
65	4

The following credit conversion scales are used for classes taken at the Universidad Diego Portales:

UDP Chilean Credits	CIEE/UW credit equivalents
5	4

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit

Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

Grade Conversions

Students' grades will be converted according to the following scale:

Chilean Grade	UW Madison Grade
5.5-7.0	A
5.0-5.4	AB
4.5-4.9	B
4.1-4.4	BC
4.0	C
3.0 – 3.9	D
0.0 - 2.9	F

Spanish Major Notes

Specific questions concerning Spanish credit and equivalents, and requests for assistance with the Spanish Major Advising Worksheet, should be directed to the appropriate [faculty study abroad liaison](#) in the Spanish Department.

Spanish majors on the UW-Madison campus

UW-Madison students majoring in Spanish must keep the following information in mind:

- 1) You must take at least 15 credits of the upper level work in the Spanish major "in residence" (that means, here on campus or in programs sponsored by UW-Madison). All Spanish courses numbered 300 or above count toward this requirement.
- 2) You must take at least 6 credits of Spanish at the 300 level or above while physically present at UW-Madison.

If you would like more information or clarification on the Spanish major, contact Karen Thompson, Undergraduate Spanish Advisor (klthompson3@wisc.edu).