

# American University Chile

UNIVERSIDAD DIEGO PORTALES



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American University's semester program in Chile is based in the capital city of Santiago. As the cultural and economic heart of the country, Santiago is both known for its thriving business sector and its vast array of museums, galleries, and festivals. The city serves as a major Latin American travel hub, thus making it easy for students to visit other sites in Chile and Latin America.

The program starts with a two week cultural orientation, immediately followed by the academic semester with classes at Universidad Diego Portales and an optional internship.





# Semester in Chile at Universidad Diego Portales

Students earn a full semester of American University (AU) credit when they study abroad in Santiago. Students choose from a list of content courses taught in Spanish that are each worth 3 AU credit hours. Students are also required to take a Spanish language course, offered at several levels. See below for sample course descriptions. Students with higher language proficiencies are allowed to supplement the Spanish language class for a course or two offered by Universidad Diego Portales (UDP), immersed in the classroom with local Chilean students. These directly enrolled classes allow students the opportunity to experience the Chilean university classroom in a variety of academic disciplines. All program participants are also able to participate in a 3-credit internship.

## Course Descriptions

Here are descriptions of sample courses on offer in Santiago. All courses are taught in Spanish.

### The Political and Economic Impact of Globalization on Latin America

**Description:** This course examines the political and economic effects of globalization on Latin America. Emphasis is placed on the structural changes in governments and liberal economic policies. The course takes a critical look at these issues in an effort to analyze the nature of change in the region and highlights conflicts that are emerging in the process of adaptation to a global world.

### Development, Poverty, and Social Inequality in Chile

**Description:** The objectives of this course are to understand the social problems that most affect Chile. Students will learn about strategies to reduce poverty that have been

used in Chile, and will analyze the Chilean reality in relation to development and poverty. This course will soon feature community based (CB) aspects and will receive the “CB” designation on the AU transcript. Through this class, students practice, re-examine, and deepen their classroom learning of poverty issues through direct service or a project with a nonprofit organization in Santiago.

### Contemporary Latin American Politics

**Description:** The objective of this course is to provide the student with an overview of political history in Latin America from the 20th Century to the present. The course focuses on authoritarianism, populism and democracy. Country-specific case studies enhance understanding of the region’s current political situation.

## Spanish Language Courses

### Spanish III

A Spanish language class intended for students who have completed intermediate levels of Spanish, but not in recent history. The course will review the basics of Spanish grammar including present, past, future, and preterite, and imperfect tenses with the objective of helping students gain conversational skills.

### Advanced Spanish III

A Spanish language class intended for students who have completed intermediate levels of Spanish recently at AU, and \*may\* be ready for Topics when they return to campus. This course starts with a review of the preterite, imperfect tenses, and continues with lessons on the prepositions, pronouns, imperative tense, and present and past subjunctive tenses.



Isla de Pascua



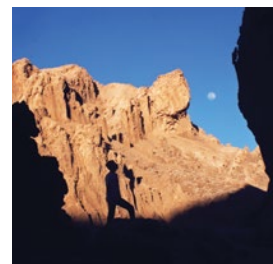
## Internship

Through the internship placement, students explore the work environment in Santiago and experience the work culture in Latin America. The choice is based on student's professional goals and personal workstyles and range from the high pressure and fast-paced to the grassroots and somewhat laid back. The program offers a wide variety of internships that include placements in the Chilean government, others with grass roots and non-profit organizations and still others in the private and education sectors. New placements are constantly created based on student needs and interests. Internship placement depends upon language ability, which is tested on-site in Santiago. The internship coordinator will advise students regarding contacts, interviews, and placement; however, students are responsible for securing their internship.

## Sample Internships

Here's a short sampling of organizations where students have recently interned in Santiago:

- Hogar de Cristo, the largest charity organization in the country
- Corporación Educacional del Arzobispado de Santiago
- Comisión Fulbright, supports and promotes the Fulbright Program of international educational and cultural exchange
- Youth For Understanding (YFU) is a non-profit educational organization



## Housing and Meals

Students will live with Chilean host families, carefully screened by the UDP. The homestay allows students to experience the warmth and hospitality of Chile while making significant gains in Spanish language ability. Once students have completed AU Abroad on-line pre-departure forms, an on-site Housing Coordinator matches the student to the family to ensure the most suitable living arrangements. Students enjoy two meals per day in the homestay.

## Excursions and Activities

Upon arrival in Santiago students will attend orientation including information on customs and cultures, city and neighborhood tours, and possible trips to museums as students are becoming acquainted with the city. In addition many activities and trips are incorporated into the program, including a group trip to Isla Negra/Valparaiso, Easter Island and San Pedro de Atacama. Field trip locations vary by semester.



San Pedro de Atacama

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**For additional information  
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