



UNIVERSIDAD DEL BÍO-BÍO

TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS Dirección General de Relaciones Internacionales - 2007

VISAS

- International students must apply for a Student Visa at the Chilean consulate in their home country once they have received a letter of admission from Universidad del Bío-Bío. To find the nearest Consular Office, check the following web site of the Chilean Ministry of External Relations: <http://www.minrel.cl/pages/misiones/index.html>.
- A Student Visa allows the holder to study at educational establishments recognized by the government of Chile. It is valid for one year and may be renewed.
- International students must register their visa with the Policía de Investigaciones-Extranjería, the Investigations Police and Immigration Office. Bring your passport, two photocopies of the page in your passport showing your personal information, two photocopies of the page containing your visa, and three passport-size (4 cm x 4 cm) color photos with your full name and passport number. You will be issued a “Certificado de Registro”, for which you will be charged a fee of 800 Chilean pesos. This document must then be presented to the “Servicio de Registro Civil” (Civil Registry); where you will be issued a Chilean Identification Card. The fee for the card is 3,200 Chilean pesos. Students who are staying in Chile less than 30 days do not need to register their visa.
- Address and office hours of Policía de Investigaciones de Chile-Extranjería:
 - In Concepción:** Angol N° 815, phone 56-41-2236124, office hours: from 9:00 to 12:30 and from 15:00 to 17:00 hrs.
 - In Chillán:** Vega de Saldías N° 350, phone 56-42-237660, office hours: from 8:00 to 12:30 and from 15:00 to 17:00 hrs.
- Address and office hours of Servicio de Registro Civil e Identificación:
 - In Concepción:** Ongolmo 740, phone 56-41-2914680, office hours from 8:30 to 14:00 hrs.
 - In Chillán:** Avenida Libertad, S/N°, Edificio Público, phone 56-42-222265, office hours from 8:30 to 14:00 hrs.

- Note that you must register your visa as described above within 30 days of entering Chile. Failure to do so is a violation of the country's immigration law and is punishable by fine.
- A Student Visa does not allow you to take up paid employment in Chile.

CURRENCY

- The Chilean currency is the peso (\$).
Coins: \$1, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100 and \$500 pesos.
Bills: \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$20,000 pesos.
- Credit Cards: the most commonly used are Visa, Master Card, Diners Club and American Express.
- Bank machines: "Redbanc" ATM machine operates 24 hours a day and can be found on both campuses (CIRRUS, PLUS O ATM). Be aware that some ATM machines do not allow withdrawals from bank accounts outside Chile.

AIRPORTS

- Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport, 20 km west of Santiago.
Website: <http://www.aeropuertোসantiago.cl>
- In the airplane you will be given a document to fill out that must be presented to immigration officials along with your passport upon arriving in Chile. Both will be stamped, and should be kept together in a safe place as you will be required to surrender the document upon leaving the country.
- Transportation services (buses, taxis, minibuses) are available from the airport to the city center or directly to your place of residence. It is recommended that you always use the authorized services with counters inside the terminal rather than any other services that may also be available.
- Persons entering Chile with Canadian, American, Mexican or Australian passports will be required to pay a reciprocity tax upon passing through Immigration at the airport.

TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT TO DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO

Transportation service counters are located on Level 1 of the Departures Area.

The services available are:

Buses and minibuses: 365 days a year during specified hours. They are usually light blue and are named "CENTROPUERTO". The cost is approximately \$ 1.200 Chilean pesos. They operate to and from:

- Los Héroes Metro Station
 - Universidad de Santiago Metro Station
 - Pajaritos Metro Station (Tur Bus Terminal)
- (See map with metro stations in Appendix)

Taxis: available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. From the airport to downtown Santiago the prices range from \$ 8,000 to \$ 12,000

TRANSPORTATION TO CONCEPCION AND CHILLAN

BY AIR:

To confirm a connecting flight or buy airline tickets (international or domestic flights) you should go to the third floor of the international airport. The national Chilean airport is located in the same building of the international airport.

Flight from Santiago to Concepción last about 45 minutes and the airline tickets price varies from \$110,000 to \$ 150,000 Chilean pesos depending on the time of the reservation.

BY BUS:

From Santiago airport, take a shuttle bus or a taxi to the Intercity Bus Terminal (located at the Universidad de Santiago Metro Station). Buy the ticket to Concepción or Chillán. Travel time to Concepción is about 6 hours and to Chillán is about 5 hours. The price of the ticket varies from \$3,500 to \$12,000 depending on the final destination. Sleeper class is recommended.

TIPPING

A tip of 10% of the bill is customary at restaurants, cafes and places of entertainment. For studentes, 5% is commonly accepted.

COMMUNICATIONS

Domestic and international long-distance telephone calls be made from the "Centro de Llamada" phone centers or from public telephones. Public telephones work on coins or prepaid calling cards. Calls to landline numbers within Chile are \$ 100, while calls to a cell phone are \$ 200 pesos.

Appendix: Map of Metro Stations – Santiago

