



HOSTED BY

# **PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE**

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Monday, 10 July, 2022 to Friday, 14 July, 2023

REPORT BY

Franziska Sattler-Morrison (IV C 9)  
Incoming: Transcript of Records



## **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile**

### **Monday 10 July 2023 - Global Mobility, International Affairs**

Casa Central Campus; Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 440, Santiago. Edificio Patio Alameda, Piso 10.

10:00 - 11:30 Welcome Coffee, Introduction to UC Chile and Global Mobility Direction, Q&A

11:30 - 12:15 Presentation on FU Berlin, Q&A

12:30 - 13:00 FU Berlin's exchange student route (from the moment the student is interested in doing an exchange program until the student is back)

#### **Meeting participants:**

Catalina Gerstmann - International Partnerships Coordinator

Paula Pesenti - International Partnerships Officer

Juan Marcos Gacitúa - Students Services Officer in charge of Europe

Javiera Figueroa - Global Mobility Officer for Europe, Middle East and Africa

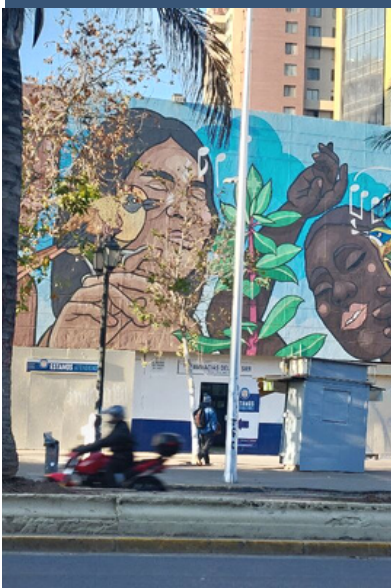
The international office is situated on the Avenida Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins, the main avenue of Santiago. It was easy to find and the area is considered safe.

I was introduced to the entire office and had a great time getting to know everybody in the morning. There seemed to be a genuine excitement to have me visit the office. From everything we discussed, the team seemed to be most keen to hear about FU Berlin's exchange student route. I gave them all the information supplied by Gesa Heym and Carmen Gleisenstein and added my own information (and Transcript of Records procedure etc.). I left them my presentation and copies of our fact sheet, as well as flyers.

The office structure at PUC is a little different from at FUB. Whereas we divide the office by Incoming/Outgoing mobility and program (e.x. Direct Exchange, Erasmus+ Weltweit) they are operating more like North American universities and are going by continents. Every (continent) team consists of two people: one person who works on the agreements and talks to the accepting/sending university and one person who is more involved with the students (for visa, course planning, and general inquiries).

The teams are well coordinated and everybody seemed very relaxed and motivated. A lovely team.

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
Central Campus





## **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile**

### **Monday 10 July 2023 - Academic Records**

San Joaquín Campus; Av. Vicuña Mackenna 4860, Macul. Edificio CDDoc, floor 2.

15:00 - 16:00; Academic records practices

16:00 - 17:00; Campus tour

#### **Meeting participants:**

Juan Marcos Gacitúa - Students Services Officer in charge of Europe

Shirley Booth - PUC Registrar Office

In the afternoon, Juan Marcos Gacitúa was so kind to take me to another PUC Campus further east of the city. San Joaquín Campus is the largest campus of PUC that has become a like a university town (think US-type campuses), housing 13 colleges.

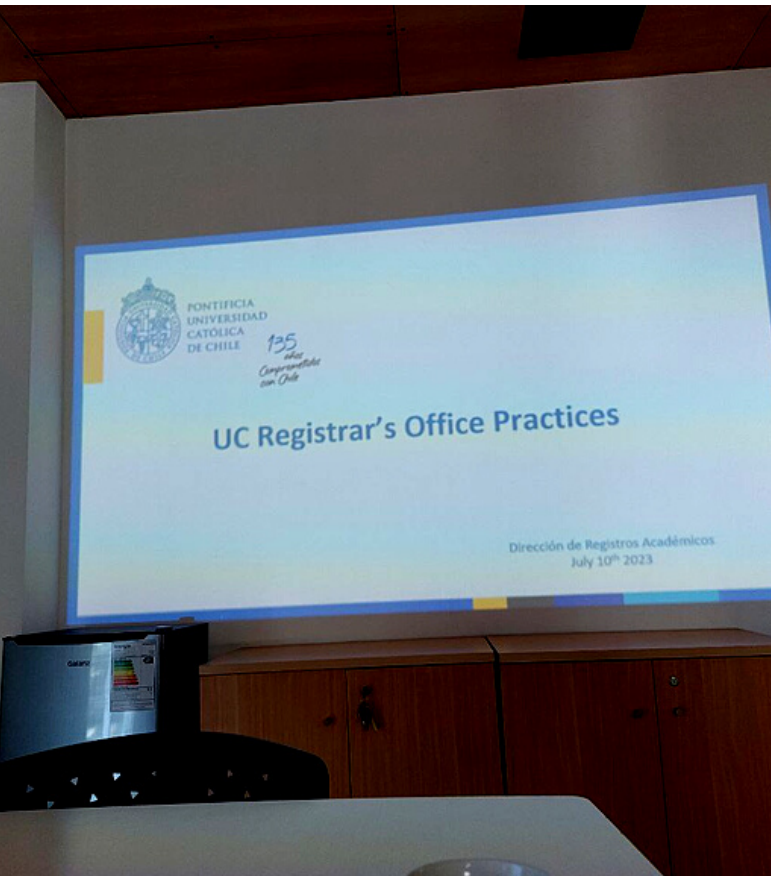
I learned a little bit more about the credit system (which as expected, is A LOT easier than ours). All students (exchange or regular) receive their Transcripts from the official Registrar and there are no ECTS or other credit regulations for Erasmus+ Worldwide, Direct Exchange, or program students. Furthermore, ECTS regulations do not vary from one department to the other. Students are allowed to take up to 5 classes per term, not more.

Exchange students are given longer deadlines for course registration (unlike FUB where we all register at the same time). What surprised me was that students with a lower GPA (grade average) are given less priority to get into their selected classes. I assume this is somewhat of a "motivation" to study hard and get good grades so you get better chances next term to get into your classes, but I would call this more of a punishment. It might be interesting to mention that our new partner, Universidad de Santiago de Chile (USACH), has the exact same rules. It was mentioned that the registrar's office might rethink this practice in the future because they do not think it is that beneficial in the grand scheme of things. Students who are there on an exchange are not affected by this rule.

For the grading system, they are using "Banner" (like many US universities). Transcripts are in Spanish and English and the course catalog is mostly bilingual. Their websites, including the grading system, are in Spanish.

# Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

## San Joaquín Campus





## **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile**

### **Friday 14 July 2023 - Global Mobility, International Affairs**

Campus Casa Central; Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 440, Edificio Patio Alameda, Piso 10.

10:00 - 11:00 - Introduction to Support and Orientation for International Students

11:00 - 12:00 - FU Berlin's Support and Orientation Practices for Students

12:00 - 12:40 - Campus Tour

15:00 - 15:45 - Closing Meeting

On Friday, I went back to the main campus where I gave more presentations to our partners. They were very interested to hear that we offer a Career Service and even counseling. Something like this is not yet established at PUC. We also discussed orientation week, which happens on a much smaller scale at PUC. I believe they have a similar, slightly lower, number of exchange students, but they rely more on pre-semester office hours and smaller mixers and events.

The campus tour with Javiera Figueroa was lovely. At the time I was there, the law department had their finals week and I got to see a lot of dressed-up students in suits and smart dresses practicing their oral exams which included presenting a case.

During the closing meeting, they voiced their wish to keep up the great relationship we have between our two universities and invited any of us back to visit them whenever we can. I believe my visit helped them remember what a great opportunity it is for their students to attend FUB for an exchange and the number of English courses we offer is unmatched. I truly believe coming here for a week was a great idea. Not only did I learn a lot, but I also think that the PUC team had a good time during our meetings.

After the closing meeting, I went to hike up Santa Lucía Hill, which is right by the International Office, just across the street. This is something that all freshmen and exchange students do apparently. From there, you get a great view of the city and the university campus - a perfect way to end my week at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.





### **Closing thoughts and anecdotes**

- We must ensure that our students speak Spanish very well when we select them for Chile (any university) as Chilean Spanish is extremely different and much harder to understand. The staff as well as my personal Spanish friends confirmed this
- I always felt safe in Santiago but Chileans consider this to not be a safe city. Crime is on the rise, especially since the pandemic, and my recommendation would be to select confident and highly independent students for this country
- There are no dormitories for students, something to keep in mind. Every student is personally responsible to find their own housing, but the universities often have recommendations
- Pollution in Santiago is no joke. I had my asthma under control but there were days I could really feel the smog in the back of my throat. Everybody always hopes for rain, as it washed the air clean for a day or two and the views of the Andes are breathtaking
- Other South Americans consider Santiago expensive. As a European, it felt very affordable, but in comparison to Brazil (the only other LATAM country I've visited, I would probably agree)
- Nevertheless, I LOVED Chile and am very grateful to have had this opportunity to visit - every student and every person (on and off campus) was delightful. The countryside is breathtaking and if you learn Spanish in Chile, you can speak Spanish anywhere in the world.