

**Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium**

Persönliche Angaben	
Studiengang an der FAU:	Master in International Business
Gastuniversität:	University of Chile
Gastland:	Chile
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität:	Ingenieria Commercial
Aufenthaltszeitraum (WS, SS oder Jahr):	WS 2015/2016

## **1. Vorbereitung (Planung, Organisation und Bewerbung bei der Gasthochschule)**

After an interview with the chair of Prof. Gardini, I received the answer shortly. All the procedure of application was smooth which left me nothing to worry about. International office and the chair of Prof. Gardini sent me all the relevant documents needed for the application and the scholarship. I just needed to send a copy of my passport and academic transcript to one of the officers in the international office of University of Chile (Ms. Kaia Range). The acceptance letter for the exchange programme was directly sent from the chair of Prof. Gardini to the host university.

## **2. Anreise / Visum (Flug, Bahn)**

### *2.1. Visa*

There are 2 ways to get a visa to study in Chile.

First one is to apply for the student visa in the Chilean embassy which is located in Munich, Berlin and Hamburg. I was told that it costs approximately 100 euro to apply for the visa.

The second option is to study as a tourist in Chile, which I did. When you enter the country, you will gain the right to stay in Chile for 3 months as a tourist. Then within the 3 months of period, you need to get out of the country and come back for the new stamp which gives you 3 more months of staying in Chile. I also travelled to Argentine within those 3 months of period and received a new visa stamp on my passport. Whenever you enter the country, the officer of the border control gives you a piece of paper which looks like a receipt. Please do not lose the paper as they ask to return that when you leave the country.

The second option is definitely easy. However if you are planning to have an internship in Santiago during your exchange period, you definitely need a student visa. Also you can only apply for the student discount card for the public transportation when you are holding a student visa, which saves you 2/3 of the fare for metro and bus each time you purchase a ticket. But note that it takes approximately 3 months to receive the public transportation card for students after your application.

### *2.2. Start of semester*

The semester started on 23 of July. There was an orientation week in the week before the official starting date. However I arrived on 5 August as I was doing my internship in Hamburg until the end of July. I sent an email to all the professors that I was going to take the course from and received the permission to miss some classes in the beginning of the semester. If you are going to miss some classes like I did, I strongly recommend that you ask for permission to professors or student assistants as U.Chile is really strict with the attendance. It depends on the courses but 4-5 absents can be counted as failing the course.

### *2.3. Transportation for arriving*

The flight ticket to Chile is quite expensive. I recommend that you start searching for it as early as possible. The most popular options from the major German cities to Santiago are Lufthansa, KLM, Air France, Iberia and LAN. You can also find some other airlines which are cheaper and go through 3-4 cities. I flew from Hamburg to Santiago via Madrid with Iberia which cost me 1400 euro approximately as the cheapest option.

## **3. Unterkunft (Wohnheim, privat)**

Since there is no student dormitory, you will have to find a room or apartment by yourselves.

The foreign officer in U.Chile sent us some links where we could find some rooms and apartments available. What you can also try is the facebook group for foreigners living in Chile (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gringosinchile>) or Airbnb. Rooms are cheaper in 'Santiago central' and getting more expensive in 'Providencia', 'Las condes' and 'Vitacura', which are safer and richer areas. I lived in an apartment in Santiago central, which is 15-20 mins walk from the university (Faultad economia y negocios). But I never really felt dangerous around here either as Santiago is quite safe compare to other major cities in Latin America. Normally a furnished room costs 300 to 500 euro.

## **4. Studium (Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan) sowie Sprachkurse (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig) an der Gastuniversität**

### *4.1 Quality of courses*

At the beginning, I added 5 courses. But at the end 3 courses left on my time table as I dropped one course and Spanish language course was cancelled due to lack of students. All the courses I took was conducted in English, which were 'Globalization,treaties and trade', 'International Marketing' and 'Intercultural challenges in Latin America'. I cannot say the courses I took contained the best curriculum ever. All the courses taught in English seemed to be designed for foreign students to pass easily as courses taught in Spanish for the regular students were a lot more demanding and difficult to pass. Some of the courses were quite disappointing as the name of the courses did not represent the contents of the courses. I felt that contents of the courses were quite unrelavant and the fact that one of the professors was absent for more than a month left us not enough time to learn about the topic that the course dealt with.

## 4.2 Course fee & Language course

Fortunately students from FAU do not have to pay for courses as there is an official agreement between the universities, while some of students from other universities had to pay 500 US dollar for each courses. However if you want to take Spanish language course, you still need to pay 500 dollar. There are 2 levels of Spanish classes. But as far as I know for the last 2 semesters, the upper level of Spanish class were always cancelled due to the lack of minimum students needed for a course.

I took Spanish courses in a private language school near by the university that was recommended by the university and I strongly recommend it as well. The school is really tiny and does not have fancy facilities. But they have a very flexible time table and programmes as well as a discount for exchange students. Please find the course fee and time table in the link below if you are interested. They speak good English. So no need to worry about your Spanish level either.

- Natalieslang International Language Center : <http://www.natalislang.com/>

## 5. Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office und Fachbereich)

The international officers in FEN (Facultad Economía y Negocios) were more than helpful. They helped us with any official and unofficial matters which made all the foreign students feel absolutely relieved. I could drop by any time between 9 am to 6 pm in week days to ask any sort of questions. Also the international office organized various social activities for exchange students.

## 6. Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)

As a public university, the facility of University of Chile is not the best in Chile, compare to other universities. But the university has most of facilities you would need. FEN has a library building that has 5 floors. The first floor is a lobby with some offices. The second floor has a studying area where you can study without being exposed to the noise. The third floor is an area for only master students. The fourth and fifth floors have an area with some computers and printers as well as rooms for group works that you can reserve via internet in advance.

## 7. Alltag & Freizeit (Sehenswertes, Kulinarisches, Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobs)

### 7.1. Sightseeing

As the longest countries in the world, Chile has places that offer diversified sceneries, which are all absolutely beautiful. You will be able to see from deserts in the north to the ice bergs in the south. However travelling in Chile is more expensive than travelling in any other countries in Latin America. Hotels are a lot more expensive than most of European cities and flights between cities are expensive as there is no low fare flights. Cheaper options could be hostels and buses. But note that it takes quite long time to be any other famous cities from Santiago by bus as the country is long and cities are dispersed.

### 7.2 Money withdraw

I could use any ATM machines in Chile with my debit card from Commerzbank. As far as I know with any card from any banks in Germany, you can only withdraw 200,000 Chilean Peso a day which charges you 3,000-4,500 Chilean peso as the fee for transfer. I heard that Deutch Bank has a special agreement with some banks in Chile which exempt you from the transferring fee. So ask your bank if they have any agreement.

### *7.3 Mobile phone.*

The major mobile providers in Chile are Mobistar, Entel and Claro. And there are smaller companies such as Virgin mobile and WOM. Each of them has 'pay as you go' chips that you can top-up the money whenever you need. I chose WOM, which I do not recommend. Since WOM is a new company, the company gives double to triple minutes of phone calls and internet. However I could barely receive signals when I was in a building or a bit outside of Santiago.

## **8. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien)**

Cost of living in Santiago is higher than most of cities in Latin America. Fruits and vegetables are cheaper than Germany in Summer but most of products are as expensive as Germany or more. Public transportation is cheaper as one way ticket for metro cost 700 Chilean peso (1 euro). Eat-out in a decent restaurant would cost at least 10-15 euro per person. I would say approximately more than 250-300 euro would be needed for a month apart from the housing.

All the students who is from FAU received scholarship which is 1,000 euro that covers the entire semester. You will receive the information from FAU before your semester abroad starts.

## **9. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)**

All in all, I am more than satisfied with my choice of the country and the university. On the top of what I mentioned, University of Chile has always been ranked as one of the best universities in Latin America and Santiago is definitely one of the safest cities in Latin America that offers all the conveniences for living.

Chileans are not like the typical Latin American who are famous for being friendly to strangers. Especially in Santiago, you won't see smiley faces so often. Moreover Chilean Spanish was always challenging for me to understand. But once you get to know them, you will realise how sincere they are and how warm they are. 6 months was not enough time to get to know a country and its culture. However I can say that as an Asian student who is studying in a German university, this new experience in a new continent broadened my understandings in different cultures and the way I see the world. I hope there will be more people who choose 'Universidad de Chile' for this new experience and that this review will be a help to prepare for the exchange period in Santiago.

## **10. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links**

- Ms. Kaia Rrange (Incoming Student exchange Coordinator) : [krange@fen.uchile.cl](mailto:krange@fen.uchile.cl)
- Isa Fen (Facebook group for FEN students) : <https://www.facebook.com/isa.fen.1>

➤ Facebook group for foreigners in Chile :

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gringosinchile>