

Use our general accessibility guide to see resources for all of our programs. [Click here](#)

If you're looking for specific country information, see below.

Chile: Winter term/ February-March programming



Helpful information about your country destination and planned activities

Check the website for examples of past syllabi

<https://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/international/where-andes-meets-sea-study-and-intern-patagonia-chile>

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Traveling to the program site

Participants will need to arrive in Puerto Montt . If you arrive later than your arrival time, we will provide you with information for an Uber/taxi. Make sure that you have at least 2 hours on your layover in Santiago on your way to Chile. A bus from the airport in Puerto Montt to the field station in Fruitillar will be arranged by your leaders. If you arrive earlier than your arrival time, you will be responsible to be at the airport in Puerto Montt for pick up. You will not need a visa for this trip if you are traveling on a US passport! However, you will need a passport that is in good condition and valid for the period of stay. Make sure your passport is valid for another six months at minimum before you depart for international travel. If you are entering Chile via Santiago, you will have to go through customs there. Follow signs for domestic travel once in the airport to continue on to Balmaceda and enter the customs line. When you get in the customs line you will be asked for your passport and the address of where you are staying.

Hikes/Physical Activity

Activities include hiking and backpacking in mountainous terrains. While not always paved, many mountain trails use crushed aggregate, boardwalks or compacted earth that can support mobility and mobility devices.

Mountain weather can change rapidly. Check forecasts and be prepared for rain, wind, or temperature drops. Accessible trails may become more challenging when wet or icy.

Always carry enough water and food, especially if the trail is remote or longer than expected.

Sun protection is essential at higher elevations.

Notify your group when and where you are going and when you expect to return.

Verify the availability of accessible accommodations at the trailhead or prior to hiking.

Lodging

During the stay, we will be staying at the Universidad de [Chile Field Station](#), which offers dorm-style rooms, group meals, and paths through the surrounding forest.

Lodging offers dorm-style rooms, each housing ~4 people. It is a cozy accommodation surrounded by nature.

Rooms are shared and we make every effort to match people with similar preferences regarding both gender and the need for quiet time. We cannot accommodate single rooms.

We will make roommate assignments in advance to help with smooth check in and to mix things up so everyone can get to know each other.

Food

Leaders have participants' dietary restrictions already and will buy accordingly. Participants can buy or bring extra food/nutrition to supplement if desired.

Lunch is the main meal of the day; business lunches are popular, and may be lengthy. Many Chileans eat a late afternoon snack ("la once") of cheese or sweets and tea or coffee (around 7 p.m.) or dinner after 8 p.m.

Vegetarian and vegan options may be available. We should be able accommodate most dietary needs as long as we have advanced notice.

Environment

You'll be at roughly the same latitude as Oregon during your time in Chile, so you'll experience late summer and early Fall. Late March feels like the end of September in Oregon. There is some fluctuation of temperature and precipitation in Western Oregon, characterized by warm-dry summers and cold-wet winters. Most of Patagonia - specifically Coyhaique - receives 30% less precipitation than Corvallis, OR, but it is more uniformly distributed throughout the year.

If you want to compare the weather of Coyhaique with that of your hometown, remember to compare January through December from one place with July through June for the other place, as they are located in different hemispheres.

Temperate climate: Cool with small temperature fluctuations along the coast .

Mountainous terrain.

Typically between 18.89°C (66°F) and 9.4°C (49°F).

	Temperature in Celsius	Temperature in Fahrenheit
<i>very hot day</i>	40°C	104°F
<i>hot day</i>	30°C	86°F
<i>room temperature</i>	20°C	68°F
<i>somewhat chilly day</i>	10°C	50°F
<i>freezing point</i>	0°C	32°F
<i>very cold day</i>	-10°C	14°F

Culture

Greet everyone individually upon arrival. Good topics of conversation include family, sports (especially soccer which is called football everywhere outside the US), international travel, and local sights. Chileans are proud of local traditions of poetry, literature, folk music, and wine making. Avoid speaking in a raised voice; soft-spoken voices are respected. The official currency is the Chilean peso (CLP). Some businesses in Santiago accept US dollars, but this option is very limited. 1 USD = 1,001.34 CLP as of 1/8/25.

Offer a handshake to everyone present in greeting; women may touch each others' forearms or shoulders instead. Close friends may exchange hugs and/or a kiss to the right cheek. People may stand quite close, and be offended if the other person backs away. Maintain eye contact. Avoid pointing or

beckoning with the index finger. Chileans may “point” with their noses and pursed lips. Avoid public expressions of anger or frustration.

Spanish (Castellano) is the official language. Indigenous languages are also spoken in some regions. Educated people may speak English. Use respectful terms of address (usted instead of tú) until invited to use the familiar form. Some Spanish is helpful, but not required. All faculty instructors are bilingual, and courses will be taught in English.

Visitors must respect the preservation of Chilean heritage sites; penalties for infractions can be severe. Do not alter landmarks in any way and do not trespass.

Find Chile on the following links:

[A brief guide to Chile culture, people, history, language and food](#)

[Things to know before traveling to Chile](#)

[Disability in Chile](#)

[Vegetarian and Vegan travel in Patagonia](#)

[Solo female travel safety in Chile](#)

[A safe and vibrant LGBTQ destination](#)

Country laws

Visitors must respect the preservation of Chilean heritage sites; penalties for infractions can be severe. Do not alter landmarks in any way and do not trespass.

Bargaining is not done while shopping, even in street markets.

U.S. citizens entering Chile must have a valid passport. U.S. citizens traveling to Chile for recreation, tourism, business, or academic conferences do not need to obtain a visa prior to their arrival in Chile.

Academics

You'll use Canvas, Zoom, and Word/PPT.

Currently, part of the course grade relies on daily journaling and a final group presentation. Talk with DAS and program leader about alternative options.

In January, students will attend a series of hybrid orientation sessions to familiarize themselves with the program themes, meet their Chilean student counterparts, and navigate the logistics of the upcoming program, prior to departure.