



Student Guide for the M. Sc. Program in International Agribusiness (IARD)

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How is Chile?



Chile is a “long and thin strip of land” located in the southern part of America, bordering with Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia.

It has a length of 4,200 Km approx. and its capital is Santiago de Chile.

Boundaries:

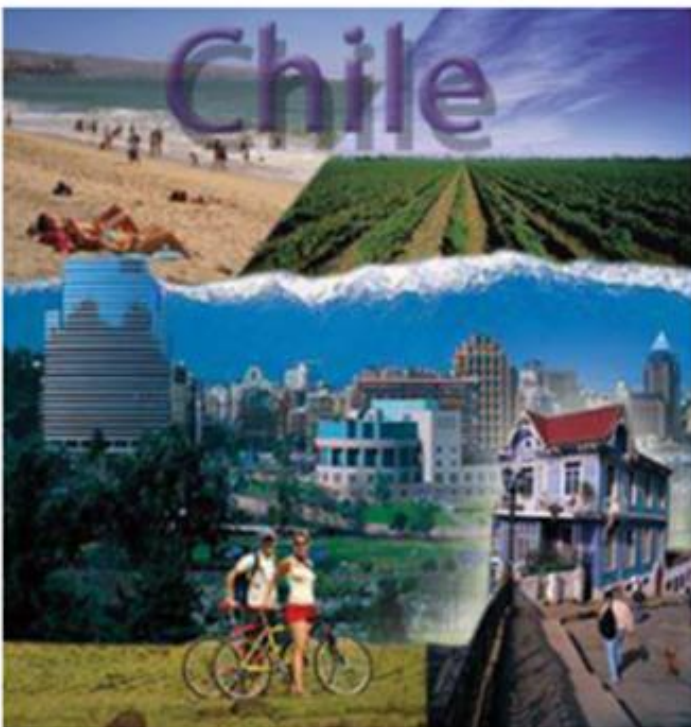
East: Argentina

West: Pacific Ocean

North: VI Región del Libertador General Bernardo O’Higgins

South: VIII Región del Biobio

According to the “Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas” in Chile, Talca, there are around 193,755 inhabitants.



Climate

Because Chilean geography is so diverse, its climate varies from region to region. Talca has a mediterranean climate, having both a dry season in summer and rainy winters.

Minimum temperatures can reach up to 12 °C and maximum temperatures are around 30 °C. During the rainy season you can expect between 340 mm and 1200 mm of rainfall.

Summer: December to February (19 °C – 30 °C)

Winter: June to August (-2 °C – 11 °C)



How to get to Talca?

- After a long flight to Chile, you will arrive at Santiago de Chile



- Depending on your time of arrival, you will have to decide if you want to continue your trip to Talca or if you rather wait until next day.

- Talca is three hours from the capital city, by taking the bus.

- You can reach Talca, either by taking a Bus or the Train.

- You can either take a Bus to Talca, departing from the Bus Station (Terminal de Buses) or a Bus from the companies Tur-Bus and Pullman del Sur departing from Alameda Station (Terminal Alameda).



- Buses usually depart every half-hour.

- It is recommended to arrive at Talca by 8 PM because this allows you to find almost all offices still open.

- The price for a one way ticket is approximately \$5,500 CLP (€ 8.20).

TALCA



- Trains depart less often than Buses.
- The trip by train lasts around 2 hrs and 30 minutes. The ticket prices range from \$5,000 CLP (€ 8) to \$10,000 CLP (€ 16)
- The company responsible for the trains is the State Railway Company (EFE- Empresa de los Ferrocarriles del Estado).
- Once you arrive in Talca, you will find Taxis that can drive you to your final destination.
- Please keep in mind that prices might vary, therefore you should check before arrival.

You can buy tickets online for either a Bus or a Train ride, and sometimes you can even obtain some discount.

The first night

In this section you will find information about Hostels and Hotels, in which you can stay if needed.

Hostels		
Name	Address	Phone
Hostal del Puente *	1 Sur 407	71-220930
Hostal del Rio *	1 Sur 411	71-225448
Hostal Antu Kuyen	3 Oriente 961	71-232766
Hostal San Cristóbal	5 Oriente esquina 1 Norte 2 piso dpto. 3	71-236416
Hostal Lonconao	6 Norte 777	71-231995

* Most used hostels by foreign students. Cost per night \$ 12.000 CLP approx. (€ 18), includes breakfast. Located in downtown Talca.

Hotels			
Name	Address	Phone	
Hotel Villa Antillanca	Camino a San Clemente km. 2.3	71-260765	3
Hotel Cordillera	2 Sur 1360	71-221817	2
Hotel Marcos Gamero	1 Oriente 1070	71-223100	4
Hotel Terrabella*	1 Sur 641	71-226555	3
Hotel Amalfi*	2 Sur 1265	71-239292	2
Hotel Nápoli*	2 Sur 1314	71-227373	3

It is recommended to first call the requested hotel in order to check the availability of rooms .

The telephone country for Chile is 056 and for Talca 71.

* This hotels do not have an official web site, for more information is recommended to call in advance.

About Talca

The city of Talca offers a wide variety of tourist services, as being a major hub for culture and education in the region.

Some of the main cultural attractions are: the Museum “O’Higginiano y de Bellas Artes” and the “Villa Cultural Hullqulemu”, both declared historical national monuments.

In the Maule Valley, an attraction that has awakened great interest lately is the “Ruta del Vino Valle del Maule”, which consists of 11 vineyards, surrounded by colonial infrastructure and typical towns.



How to get to University?

- To get from Talca city center to the University of Talca, you can take the public transport (buses or micros). You can buy tickets directly with the drivers.
- You should take the bus route No. 2 or No. 5 heading north, in order to get to University.
- However, if you are unsure, the bus driver announces in advance if they are heading toward the Universidad de Talca.
- To get to the Agronomy Faculty, you should get off the bus at the first bus stop within the University Campus.



About the University



A bit of history:

University of Talca is a Chilean university located in the cities of Talca, Curicó, and Santiago.

It is a derivative university, one of the most important universities of the southern-central region of Chile, and it is part of the Chilean Traditional Universities.

“U Talca” was founded in 1981, upon the fusion of the seats in Talca, between the Universidad de Chile and the Universidad Técnica del Estado.

There are three campuses, distributed in the cities of Talca, Curicó, and Santiago. The main campus is the *Campus Lircay*, located in northern Talca.

University Services:

- Library

Schedule:

- Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM
- Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM
- Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

- **Library's Services:**

- WIFI connection, air conditioning, working areas, photocopiers, scanners, digital library platform.
- Internet connection: After your registration at the Utalca, you will be able to access the Wi-Fi connection from the University. Someone from the IT Service will help you with the configuration.
- Access to important national and international networks for documents and other information.
- For more information please visit:
<http://biblioteca.otalca.cl>

Other Services

Casino (Mensa):



The University has three main cafeterias and some small shops that sell snacks and school supplies (pencils, pens, CDs, etc.)

“Casino” is the biggest cafeteria in Campus. Here you pay your meals with cash. This building has a capacity for 800 people and offers a great variety of dishes. It is open from 8:30 AM until 8:00 PM.

However, the University also offers other cafeterias like “Cafetería el Establo” or “Kiosko Casona”.

Please visit this website for more information:

<http://www.otalca.cl/link.cgi/VidaEstudiantil/2142>

Accommodation

Usually the accommodation system for students in Talca is administrated by pensions, from which the great majority are private houses designated to rent rooms for students.

The prices vary depending on the location of the house, and the services they provide.

For more information please check the link of the University's website [http:// pensiones.utralca.cl/](http://pensiones.utralca.cl/)

Note: In general the houses are not equipped with heating for the cold weather. Please ask your housekeeper for a heater or a stove.

Below you will find some contacts that have been recommended by foreign students:

The following contact is from a house located in downtown:
Name: Sra. Ximena Silva
Mail: xsilvam@hotmail.com
Tel Talca: 90154485
Address: 3 norte 1044 entre 3 y 4 oriente.



This person rents houses near the University:
Name: Sra. Alicia Briones Arenas
Mail: alybriones@hotmail.com
Cel: Talca: 9-6767448
Address: 11 Oriente A N°2869 Talca -Chile

This person rents houses near the University:
Name: Sr. Alejandro Botelli
Tel Talca: 93248513



Before choosing an accommodation, please remember that the University of Talca is located in the northern sector of the city.

Practical Information

The monetary currency is the Chilean Peso (CLP or \$). Its equivalence to dollars should be consulted nearing your date of travel.

Foreign currency exchange can take place either at banks or at exchange houses. No special documents are needed for this transaction.



Health Insurance:

- It is recommended to hire a health insurance before your travel.
- One option, in case that you already have a health insurance from your home country, is to ask if it is possible to cover you during your time in Chile.
- Other option is to contact some organizations like “Mundo Joven”, and hire an International Health Insurance, which usually lasts one year.
- In Chile is also possible to hire insurance, however, this process takes a lot of time and the requirements needed vary depending on each company.

Bank Account



If you have a credit card, we recommend you to bring it with you. The ATMs usually accept any card, but you will have to pay a fee for this transaction.



For students planning to stay more than 3 months, it would be better to open a local bank account.

The procedure is relatively easy, once you are enrolled at the University. For more information please contact the program assistant in Talca, Chile.



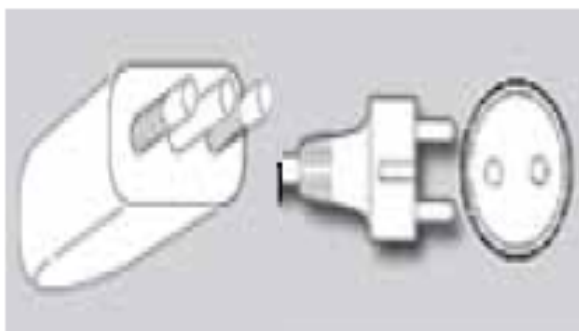
Open Hours



- **Banks:** Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- **Money exchange:** Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- **Commerce:** Big stores and supermarkets open from Monday to Sunday from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

Electronics

The Voltage in Chile is 220 volts/ 50 Hertz AC. It is recommended to bring a plug adapter as shown in the picture



Others

Cell Phone:

- Contracts have a minimum time of one year.
- The best option is to buy a pre-paid cellphone.

Leisure

Even though Talca is not a very big city, it has theaters and cinemas, big supermarkets, gymnasiums, video-stores, bars, restaurants, etc. It offers many activities that students like to do.

For instance, you can eat affordable traditional dishes by visiting “Viejas Cochinas”, located in the bank of the Claro River.

