

My review of Chile...

By: George Monastiriakos, participant, Summer 2019

First and foremost, if you're one of those people who are on the fence about going on exchange for a full semester, then participating in this 2-week intensive course is definitely for you. If you've already gone on exchange, plan on going on exchange sometime in the not-too-distant future, or never had any intention of going on exchange, then this course is also for you.

In addition to being taught by an outstanding professor, the course was intellectually stimulating and the excursions to Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos, La Moneda Palace, Viña Emiliana, Valparaiso and the National Congress complemented the material perfectly.

From a practical perspective, the final assignment – where we represented one of six parties involved in an international mining dispute – helped us develop skills that will be invaluable once we embark on our careers as lawyers; the most notable of these being the art of negotiating with parties who have divergent interests, as well as learning how to form and successfully defend a legal argument before a group of judges.

In terms of personal growth, adapting to life in Chile expanded my worldview, enhanced my cultural awareness, strengthened my character, and helped improve my Spanish. I also fostered new friendships, and strengthened old ones!

From hanging out at our base at 401 Club Hipico, to experiencing a 6.8 magnitude earthquake in the middle of class, to watching my friends jump out of an airplane in Curacavi, to biking 57 kilometres around Easter Island, and having the opportunity to visit Argentina and Brazil – it's safe to say that studying at Universidad Central de Chile was an exceptional experience.

So if you're still having doubts about going abroad – or going to Chile specifically – just do it. You'll thank me later.

Sending love to all my classmates, and a special thank you to Professor Pierre-Gilles Bélanger, Line Bissonnette, Sergio Fuenzalida, Andrea Tapia, the University of Ottawa, and Universidad Central de Chile. SUCCESS IS IMMINENT!

Photo:

George Monastiriakos (left) and Sergio Valdiviezo (right)

