



UNC
GLOBAL

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences
Office of General Education
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues:

We are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish an undergraduate student exchange program with the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (PUC). This will be a two-way exchange, with Semester and Year-long options. Further information about PUC can be reviewed at <http://www.uc.cl/drai/>.

In addition to the exchange program track and commencing with the approval of this proposal, PUC has agreed to allow selected UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduate students to attend PUC at the main Santiago campus as non-exchange students by paying the PUC International Students tuition and fees. Such students would not be counted in the exchange balance, but would have the same academic program and access to services as the exchange students.

The establishment of this program is supported by the Department of Romance Languages. Currently, the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication has an exchange agreement with PUC Chile, and only students in this professional school are eligible to participate.

PUC was originally founded in 1888. In 2008 it was ranked second in Latin America. Currently, there are over 20,000 students at PUC enrolled in graduate and undergraduate programs. At PUC, there are 18 Faculties and 33 Academic Units. There are 2,615 faculty and 88.4% of the professors have formal graduate training. The Faculties include: Agronomy and Forestry; Architecture, Design and Urban Studies; Arts; Biological Sciences; Economics and Management Sciences; Chemistry; Communications; Education; Engineering; History, Geography and Political Science; Law; Literature and Linguistics; Mathematics; Medicine; Philosophy; Physics; Social Sciences and Theology.

In Spring 2009, the Study Abroad Office, in cooperation with the Institute for the Study of the Americas, convened a committee of UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and staff to review study abroad program offerings in Latin America. The Latin American Review Committee (LARC) recommended that the Study Abroad Office add alternative programs and exchange agreements with selected universities in Chile, as part of a strategy to reduce our dependence upon the Institute for Study Abroad at Butler University, through which UNC-Chapel Hill students had previously been able to study at PUC. The arrangements proposed

here would continue to allow our students with advanced Spanish language skills to study at PUC, thereby sustaining an important opportunity that will now include an exchange option that was not previously available. These students can take content courses in Spanish (which, as the official language of instruction, make up the majority of offerings at PUC, in the faculties listed above). There are also over 30 courses offered in English each year that would be available to our students (complete listing at: https://www.uc.cl/dara/registro/catalogo/c_english.html), including courses in Economics, Engineering, Business, Law and Journalism among others.

PUC offers enormous flexibility in the time, length and manner of the programs available to UNC-Chapel Hill students in this exchange. These students can choose among regular courses; special courses (eg. tailor made Intensive Spanish); or mixed programs (regular and special courses). This variety of academic choice, combined with the quality of academics, make a clear rationale for adding PUC as an exchange partner, particularly for our students who wish to advance their Spanish language skills. Also, our students would be able to fully integrate into undergraduate life at PUC through the different activities organized by PUC, including sports and several volunteer activities. Additionally, Santiago, the capital city of Chile, is a dynamic urban center with a population of 5 million people. Because of Chile's fast-growing economy, Santiago is an ideal place to observe rapid development and its effects on culture and society.

The US Department of State Travel Site states that "Chile is a rapidly developing country with a large, educated middle class and a robust free-market economy. Tourist facilities are generally good and are continuously improving, with no specific safety or security risks."

The PUC academic year is from early March to mid July for the first semester and from early August to mid December for the second semester. Our students could stay at PUC for one semester or the full year, and would take a full course load of 12-18 credit hours per semester. This exchange program will convey UNC-Chapel Hill transfer credit (TREQ). The equivalent of a "C" or above is required for credits to transfer.

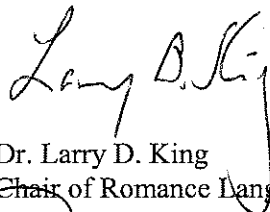
Our students will receive support from the PUC International Students Division of the Office of International Affairs. International Students attend a special program of orientation about PUC and Santiago. The International Academic Relations Office also handles the registration process, as well as all administrative and academic concerns for foreign students. It serves as a liaison between international students and the various faculties, and provides some personal advising. All exchange students receive a PUC identification card, which gives them access to all PUC libraries, all PUC computer rooms, student health services, and all sports facilities. PUC does not own any housing facilities. However, it provides international students with reference information for them to arrange their own accommodation, often sharing with other Chilean students. The SAO will require the students sign a waiver, in which they acknowledge that they must find their own housing for this program.

For our students, there is a minimum GPA requirement of 3.0. Students must have at least junior status. Students must also have completed a minimum of five semesters of college-level Spanish.

As many Chilean institutions try to globalize the curriculum, their offerings to U.S students and their interest in sending their Chilean students abroad, has increased. Likewise, UNC has a focus to internationalize the campus and create a diverse student population. Expanding the partnership between UNC and PUC will only help to make this vision a reality. Building the relationship with PUC and increasing the exchange with Latin American universities is mutually beneficial for both institutions.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Dr. Larry D. King
Chair of Romance Languages and Literatures



Dr. Robert Miles
Associate Dean: Study Abroad and International Exchanges