

# VIRTUAL VISITING DIPLOMAT PROGRAM

ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONSORTIUM OF GEORGIA (ISCOG)\* -  
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

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## LET'S TALK CHILE

WITH



CULTURAL ATTACHE  
FERNANDO GARCIA NADDAF  
EMBASSY OF CHILE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Diplomat Fernando Garcia received his Ph. D. from the Université de Paris VIII (Vincennes-St. Denis) and a Master's from Université de Paris I - Département de Science Politique- (Pantheon La Sorbonne). In addition, he studied Political Science at the IAS Program at University of California, Berkeley. Formerly Chief of International Relations at the Chilean Transparency Council, he established linkages with such international organizations as OECD, APEC, UNESCO and the European Commission for strengthening the right of access to information, open government, transparency and integrity in modern democracies. As a career diplomat, Dr. Garcia was appointed at the Chilean Embassy in France and the Russian Federation. An international speaker as well as a political analyst for the national and international media, he is the author of a book and several articles about communication and politics in the digital era and was a Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Political Science at Universidad Diego Portales in Chile.

**JOIN US THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023 – 2:00 – 3:30 P. M. (EASTERN TIME)**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

(in case you have difficulty registering, please send an email to [raj.sashti@reinhardt.edu](mailto:raj.sashti@reinhardt.edu))

for a 90-minute interactive program in which Dr. Garcia will introduce the social, cultural, and economic footprint of Chile in the United States, with a focus on the Southeastern U.S. Students attending the program will gain global competency skills to help them succeed in a dynamic and interdependent global economy. The program will also offer opportunities for career exploration, including government internships, for students attending schools in the Consortium.

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**\*Consortium Universities and Colleges:** Reinhardt University, Albany State University, Alcorn State University (MS), Andrew College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Edward Waters College (FL), Fort Valley State University, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College, Houston Community College (TX), Jacksonville State University (AL), Middle Georgia State University, South Georgia State College, Tennessee State University, University of North Georgia.

## **CHILE – COUNTRY PROFILE**

One of South America's most stable and prosperous nations, Chile has been relatively free of the coups and arbitrary governments that have blighted the continent. The exception was the 17-year rule of General Augusto Pinochet, whose 1973 coup was one of the bloodiest in 20th-Century Latin America and whose dictatorship left more than 3,000 people dead and missing.

Chile's unusual, ribbon-like shape - 4,300km long and on average 175km wide - has given it a hugely varied climate. This ranges from the world's driest desert - the Atacama - in the north, through a Mediterranean climate in the center, to a snow-prone Alpine climate in the south, with glaciers, fjords and lakes.

### **FACTS**

- **Capital:** Santiago
- **Area:** 756,096 sq km
- **Population:** 18.4 million
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Life expectancy:** 78 years (men) 83 years (women)

## **WHY SHOULD AMERICAN STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CHILE?**

### **Academics**

Not only is Chile a great place to learn Spanish and to find out more about literature Nobel prize winners such as Pablo Neruda and Gabriela Mistral, but it is also a great place to study other academic subjects including Astronomy, Business, Geology, Geography, History, Human Rights, Political Science, and Sustainable Development. Scientists flock to Chile which is rich in minerals and well-known for its earthquakes and volcanoes as well as its numerous astronomical observatories. Studying in Chile will give you an insight into how another education system functions, as well as a different perspective on life.

### **Cost of Living**

Although Chile is generally more expensive than most Latin American countries, it is still much less expensive than Australia, Canada, Europe, and the United States. Therefore, on a shoestring budget you can still do many more cultural activities and enjoy your time abroad for an affordable price.

### **Stability and Economy**

Currently the country boasts a stable government and economy. The Andean nation has been a democratic state since 1990 and, in fact, Chile was recently ranked among the most stable countries in Latin America by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The report Global Peace Index (GPI), places Chile in first place in South America.

Chile also leads Latin America in competitiveness, per capita income, globalization, peace and economic freedom. The country performs well in the region in terms of sustainability of the state and democratic development and is a founding member of the United Nations, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the Pacific Alliance and joined the OECD in 2010. Leading Latin American nations, Chile has low perception of corruption. Since July 2013, Chile is considered by the World Bank as a “high-income economy.”

### **Unspoiled Nature**

Chile offers diverse geography from the Atacama Desert in the north, the driest desert in the world, to the massive glaciers in the south, and let's not forget the unspoiled trails of Patagonia. The list of outdoor activities in Chile is endless and the flora and fauna, spectacular. Check it out for yourself [here](#).

### **Spanish Language**

Did you know that there are more native Spanish-speakers in the world than English-speakers? Spanish is the third most widely spoken language after Mandarin Chinese and Hindi by number of native speakers. Just think – if you learn Spanish, how many millions of people you would be able to communicate with? The ability to speak Spanish is definitely an asset to help you to participate in the globalized world.

### **Indigenous Mapuche Culture**

Did you know that the Mapuche people defeated the Inca Empire in their attempt to expand south as well as resisted Spanish colonization by forging a treaty with Spain that gave them autonomous rule of their lands during the war? Well-known for their fierce resistance to foreign invaders, Mapuches believe that developing physical and spiritual maturity along with the concept of being a lifelong learner is a vital part of education. A common proverb in Mapudungun (the language of the Mapuches), is *Piukeyen Ñuke Mapu*, which means 'you can't know where you are going, if you don't know where you are from'.

### **Chilean Culture**

Although Chile shares some similarities with neighboring countries, the combination of indigenous cultures, Spanish colonization, and European migration has created a uniquely Chilean culture and way of life. For example, Chilean food is quite different to food you would find in Argentina, Bolivia, or Peru, and here the locals eat four meals a day: breakfast, lunch, *onces* (tea) and dinner.

### **Take the Road Less Traveled**

Did you know that Chile wins **best adventure travel destination** in South America for 7th year in a row at the World Travel Awards! Do something different! Challenge yourself to live in a country that may not always have the modern conveniences you are used to but that will expose you to a different and perhaps simpler way of life. Although Santiago and other large Chilean cities are quite modern, there are still plenty of areas off the beaten path where you will not hear much English. Not only will you learn heaps about yourself and the country's culture, you will also be surprised, when you return home, at how much you have learned about your own culture too.

### **THE VIRTUAL VISITING DIPLOMAT PROGRAM**

The main objective of the Virtual Visiting Diplomat Program is to have a direct impact on the talented and accomplished students at Consortium universities/colleges and increase their knowledge and understanding regarding a country or a region or a global topic. The focus of the 90-minute interactive program (one hour of presentation followed by 30 minutes of question and answer) will be international and cross-cultural in nature. Visiting Diplomats will serve as presenters and resource persons for the program and will introduce the region/country and its social, cultural and economic footprint in the United States in general and the Southeast in particular to young men and women.

As a part of the program, the featured presenter will share his/her professional career trajectory to stimulate students to be creative and innovative and encourage them to aspire and reach higher levels of leadership as they pursue their own academic and professional goals. The purpose of the program is to provide students with unique experiences and opportunities not available in a textbook or in a classroom setting. The ultimate goal of the program is to assist young men and women acquire global competency skills and help them to adapt and succeed in a dynamic and highly-interdependent global economy.