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Chile at a glance

**AREA/** 756,102 km² divided into 16 Regions: **longest country in the world** and one of the narrowest (4,300 km long and 177 km wide). 83,500 km of coastal length, **twice the circumference of our planet**.

**CLIMATE/** temperate; desert in north; mediterranean in central region; cool and damp in south.

**POPULATION/** 17,789,267  **CAPITAL CITY/** Santiago

**MAIN EXPORT PRODUCT GROUPS/** copper, fruits, nuts, fish, wood and inorganic chemicals

**GDP/** ~USD 300 billion

**OECD MEMBER/** First in South America
PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE
FOUNDED IN 1888

7 YEARS Institutional Accreditation

5 CAMPUSES
Casa Central, San Joaquin, Campus Oriente, Lo Contador and Villarrica.

18 FACULTIES In all areas of knowledge
137
IN THE WORLD
2018 QS Global World Rankings

1
IN EMPLOYABILITY
In Latin America
QS Graduate Employability Ranking 2018

1
IN EMPLOYABILITY
In Latin America
QS Graduate Employability Ranking 2018

1
UNIVERSITY IN
CHILE AND
LATIN AMERICA
2018 QS Latin America University Rankings

20 UC CAREERS
AMONG THE
100
BEST IN THE WORLD
Architecture, Law, Agriculture and Forestry, Political Sciences, Communications, Physics and Astronomy, Geography, Civil and Structural Engineering, among others (QS World Univ. Ranking, 2018).
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<td>+1,000 PhD STUDENTS</td>
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<td><strong>2,400</strong> SCOPUS ARTICLES PUBLISHED PER YEAR</td>
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• **Encourage** and support research activities in all areas of knowledge.

• **Ensure** the compliance in ethical, bioethical and security aspects and the correct execution of research projects.

• **Maximize** the national and international funding to develop research inside the university through internal programs and support the application of external projects.

• **Support** our Senior Leadership in all matters related to research.

• **Promote** interdisciplinary research, internationalization and support early career researchers.
Natural Laboratories/
Our Endowment
Bright future

Chile excels at stagnating, but it must boost its expertise to find its place in a globalized world and develop a twenty-first-century economy.

BY ALLICEE BAREK

PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE (PUC) TAPS INTO CHILE’S DIVERSE GEOGRAPHY

A conversation with IGNACIO SÁNCHEZ, president of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC)

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC) is the nation’s research powerhouse. Publishing more than 2,400 Scopus articles per year, the Santiago-based university is both a Latin American gateway for collaboration and a player in several international collaborations. Its president, Ignacio Sánchez, explains.

Profile Feature as seen in Nature 14th December 2017
UC Field Stations:
Scientific Research from North to South
Atacama Desert Research Station: A Desert Full of Discoveries

Research center focused on the components of this unique ecosystem: the **SUN, FOG, LAND** and **VEGETATION**. In this fog oasis, this center has been pioneer in capturing fog water through fog traps.
Atacama Desert Research Station: A Desert Full of Discoveries

- **Location:** 66 kilometers south from Iquique city. Tarapacá Region.
- **Main faculty:** History.
- **Associate faculties:** Biological Sciences, Agronomy, Architecture.
- **Director:** Pablo Osses
Coastal Marine Research Station: The Ocean Under the Microscope

Research center focus on studies of the Pacific Ocean, from its NATURAL RESOURCES to ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION, to the possibilities the ocean offers as a potential source of ENERGY.
Coastal Marine Research Station: The Ocean Under the Microscope

**Location:** Las Cruces, Valparaíso Region.
**Main faculty:** Biological Sciences.
**Director:** Sergio Navarrete
Evolutionary Biology and Ecology of Algae (UMI-EBEA)

- Created in: January 2014
- Partners: Université Pierre et Marie Curie UPMC - Institut Ecologie et Environnement (INEE), UC, Universidad Austral de Chile.
- Location: Roscoff Marine Biological Station SBR (CNRS) and UC Faculty of Biological Sciences.
- Director: Myriam Valero (CNRS), Co-Director Sylvain Faugeron (UC).
- CNRS funding: 70,000€ /year.
The relationship among researchers dates from almost 20 years ago, collaboration with CNRS is strengthened in 2003 with the creation of the International Associated Laboratory (LIA) between SBR and UC. UMI 3614 focuses on research in basic precepts of ecology, evolution and genomics in marine algae and develops links with resource management and seaweed farming.

The main research objectives are:
1. To study the causes and consequences of the evolution of seaweed mating systems.
2. To understand speciation processes of seaweeds and the evolutionary and ecological limits of adaptation.
3. To explore the domestication process of seaweeds, the management of genetic resources and the environmental impact.
In La Araucanía Region, this Research Center focuses on two elements, **COMMUNITY** and **TERRITORY**. Its areas of work include: Sustainability of socio-ecological systems, sustainable tourism and local economy, planning and governance of the territory, and education for sustainability.
Center For Local Development: Interdisciplinary Sustainability

- **Location**: Villarrica UC Campus
- **Main faculty**: Villarrica UC Campus
- **Associate faculties**: Medicine, Biological Sciences, Agronomy, Architecture and History.
- **Director**: Gonzalo Salazar
The object of study of this station, are FORESTS. Here, future researchers learn about ENDEMIC SPECIES; some BIRDS; and VEGETATION, to achieve a better understanding of the ecosystem.
Senda Darwin Biological Station: The Biological Wealth of the Chilean Forest

- **Location:** Ancud, Chiloé Island, Los Lagos Region.
- **Main faculty:** Biological Sciences.
- **Associate faculties:** Agronomy, Forest Engineering, History and Political Sciences.
- **Director:** Juan Armesto
Patagonia Station for Interdisciplinary Research: Studying at the Southernmost Frontier

Between fjords, rivers and lagoons in southern Chile, UC is developing an exceptional scientific center in an area essential for the study of GLOBAL CHANGE AND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY.
Patagonia Station for Interdisciplinary Research: Studying at the Southernmost Frontier

• **Location**: Bahía Exploradores, Aysén Region.
• **Main faculty**: History.
• **Associate faculties**: Agronomy, Architecture, Biological Sciences.
• **Director**: Alejandro Salazar
Patagonia Station for Interdisciplinary Research: Studying at the Southernmost Frontier
Observatoire Hommes – Milieux International OHM.I
Patagonia – Bahía Exploradores

• Created in: January 2018
• Partners: LabEx DRIIHM, INEE, CNRS; GEODE UMR 5602 – Géographie de l’environnement (Toulouse); Institute of Geography - Heidelberg University of Education; Estación Patagonia UC (EPII-UC).
• Location: Aysen Region (Chile).
• Director: Alejandro Salazar (UC), Co-Director Didier Galop (CNRS).
• CNRS funding: 35,000 €/year app..
Observatoire Hommes – Milieux International OHM.I

Patagonia – Bahía Exploradores

The relationship with CNRS starts in 2016 with preliminary collaboration at Exploradores Valley. This OHM.I focuses on the value and transmission of studies performed in Patagonian environments, interdisciplinary research, and environmental and land monitoring of the Exploradores Valley.

The main research objectives are:

• To understand how environmental conditions and colonization history drive phenotypic variability of invasive species.
• To map the advancing fronts of forest edge and areas occupied by invasive plants using complementary space technologies.
• To evaluate the biogeochemical processes that originate the formation of soils and succession of vegetation in the Exploradores Valley.
• To understand the evolution and geographic environmental adaptation of the Valley via socio-environmental dynamics.
Using the properties of lichens and algae in the sub-Antarctic region to fight NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES, such as Alzheimer’s, is the objective of this center in a latest generation laboratory in Punta Arenas, thanks to the advances already achieved by CARE Chile UC and the Universidad de Magallanes.
Center of Excellence of Biomedicine in Magallanes: Patagonia, Medicinal Land

• Location: Punta Arenas, Magallanes Region.
• Main faculty: Biological Sciences.
• Director: Nibaldo Inestrosa
Cape Horn Subantarctic Center

At the end of 2016, the UC became part of the Omora Foundation. The Subantarctic center is part of an initiative of the extreme zone plan of the regional government of Magallanes. It has an investment of USD 21MM (app) to install a research center, special interest tourism and technical training center. Currently its construction has begun.
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FROM NORTH TO SOUTH
FIELD SCIENCE IN CHILE