Universidad de Valparaíso is a leading public institution located in Chile, with a community of 17,000 students. Listed in the top ten tertiary institutions in Chile (Times Higher Education ranking 2018), it is positioned as one of the top research universities of the country.

Valparaíso is a port with a unique history, a place that remains a testament of the first globalization process during the nineteenth century. It was the first and most important merchant port on the Pacific coast of South America, and its culture has been influenced by British, German, French and Italian citizens who settled in the city. The university, determined to share its experience and reputation and the best of Chilean culture with the entire world, has established the Valparaiso International School, providing participants an accessible opportunity to study abroad in an entertaining and culturally rich setting.

The advantages of attending this international school are:
- An enriching international experience, highly valued on the job market.
- Great academic experience in locally-oriented topics.
- The cultural experience of discovering Valparaíso, a World Heritage City.
- ECTS credits that may enable participating students to speed up their studies at home.

The Valparaiso International School runs two week courses for international students. We offer short summer courses in a wide variety of subjects in Arts, Humanities, Education, Biological and Life Sciences, Engineering, Public Health and Astronomy. The courses include Chilean students who will share local experiences with their international peers.

**LOCATION AND SCHEDULE**

These intensive two-week courses are taught over five consecutive days, from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm and 2.00 to 5.00 pm Monday through Thursday, and 9.00 am to 12.00 pm on Friday. Courses are taught at the modern and centrally located CIAE building in Valparaíso.

**TUITION FEE**

US $ 1,900

- The fee includes coffee breaks and lunch.
- Day trips to diverse destinations relevant to the specific courses are included.
- The tuition fee does not include accommodation.

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>Jan 7 to Jan 18&lt;br&gt;Jul 29 to Aug 9</td>
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<td>The infinite ocean of a country named Chile.</td>
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<td>Stranger than Fiction: Philosophy and Beyond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andean Crops: Food Biodiversity for sustainable, healthy nutrition.</td>
<td>Nutrition Sciences</td>
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<td>The journey to Chilean poetry.</td>
<td>Literature</td>
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<td>Learn Spanish discovering Valparaíso.</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Jan 7 to Jan 18&lt;br&gt;Jul 29 to Aug 9</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Drones for community planning and disaster risk reduction in informal settlements in Chile.</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
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<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifestyles and vulnerabilities in Latin America: Can we define our social determinants of health and disease?</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Undergraduate students</td>
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DESCRIPTION OF COURSES:

**Stranger than Fiction: Philosophy and Beyond.** Course Director: Juan Redmond / Nicolas Clerbout. This course will be taught in English (January 2019) and in French (July 2019).

Fiction has attracted increasing attention from philosophers over the past few decades. However, they have shared a life together since the beginning of time. The aim of this course is to explore philosophical issues surrounding fiction, principally topics concerning ontological and semantic questions. For this we will explore different perspectives on what is fiction. We will go from the irrealists, who affirm the emptiness of the language that speaks about them, to the realists, who sleep between fiction every night. We will also explore the place of fiction in the production of knowledge in science, and the place of philosophical analysis of fiction in literature.

**Andean Crops: Food Biodiversity for sustainable, healthy nutrition.** Course Director: Mariane Lutz.

The Andean Region produces a wide variety of food resources. In recent decades, the interest on the systematic study and conservation of Andean crops and their biodiversity has increased, along with determination of their nutritional and health properties, as well as multiple culinary uses of these appreciated products. In this course, some of the best recognized traditional crops, such as quinoa, will be described (origin, production, traditional uses, nutritional properties), examples of food products currently on the market will be analyzed (food labels, quality), and participants will assay food preparations and evaluate their sensory attributes. The courses is directed to students interested in expanding their knowledge on Andean crops, their nutritional properties, and exploring their culinary uses.

**Theory and observations on hot topics in astronomy. The case of star and planet formation.** Course Director: Amelia Bayo.

This course consists of theoretical and practical lessons focused on the theory and observations on which we build our knowledge regarding star and planet formation. As planets form in circumstellar disks around young stars, the formation process is inherently linked to the evolution of these disks. Very different physical processes, occurring at different stages of protoplanetary disk evolution, likely contribute to the diversity of observed planetary systems. Understanding planet formation is thus a multi-faceted challenge, strewn with unanswered questions. The lessons at the UV campus will be complemented by a visit to the UV observatory in Pocuro where students will conduct their own observations. In addition to the main topic, star and planet formation, additional lessons will focus on different observation techniques, emphasizing radio-astronomy, one of the fastest growing fields in Chile.

**The infinite ocean of a country named Chile.** Course Director: Patricio Winckler.

This course covers a variety of subjects addressing the relation between humans, nature and the ocean, with a focus on the Chilean territory and the Pacific Ocean. The program commences with an overview of the geophysical, demographic and economic aspects of coastal activities within the country, and proceeds with the study of earthquakes and tsunamis, based on a historical perspective and recent scientific findings. The observed and predicted impact of climate change on coasts will also be covered. Government agencies related to natural disasters will be visited and practical activities at the beach and ocean are proposed (e.g. kayaking, boat tour).
Drones for community planning and disaster risk reduction in informal settlements in Chile. Course Director: Lautaro Ojeda.

This course teaches how we experiment with cutting edge technologies, drones in particular, to strengthen the ability of communities to connect and organize, advocate, and understand the ecology of their territory. One of the main goals will be to analyze informal settlements and their socio-spatial dynamics. Urban informality constitutes “a fundamental way of life” in Latin America, and in Chile it has been a systematically invisible reality.

The case study of this course is the City of Valparaíso, where informal settlements have been the main form of habitat generation, through which the city has grown and consolidated, developing and evolving according to a transgenerational family strategy, gradually carried out by small groups. Most informal settlements in Valparaíso are located in risk areas with steep slopes and ravines, vulnerable to physical hazards such as landslides and fires. This course focuses on disasters as social phenomena, and not simply the development of tools to address an emergency elicited by a disaster or catastrophe.

Lifestyles and vulnerabilities in Latin America: Can we define our social determinants of health and disease? Course Director: Nicolás Fuster.

At present, Latin America’s public policies on welfare are focused on a population classified as “high risk” by the political authorities, determining thus the axis of intervention in spaces where healthy lifestyles could be threatened. This position of vulnerability contains a paradox: it makes possible for the government to intervene in the ways of living of those who were classified as such, but at the same time, it obliges individuals to manage, without assistance, the structural inequities that distinguish our region. This approach promotes the idea of lifestyle as a space of intervention, at the same time hiding a series of general and intermediate conditions that influence health (negative externalities derived from globalization, class inequalities, gender issues, etc.). It is thus necessary to examine the complex relationship between society and public health, going beyond sociocultural factors promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO), especially if we consider the lack of specificity that affects the social environment under this approach, as well as the individualizing biomedical traits that govern its incorporation.

The journey to Chilean poetry. A journey through Chilean poetry. Course Director: Cristian Warnken / Ernesto Pfeiffer. (The course is delivered in Spanish)

Poetry is a major cultural heritage in Chile. In addition to the poets who were awarded a Nobel Prize for Literature, Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda, Chile exhibits an outstanding, highly poetic atmosphere, which constitutes an alternative thinking of this nation. This course, structured as a workshop, pursues the aim of discovering and experiencing Chilean poetry, from first expressions to the youngest exponents. During the two weeks students will visit some of Valparaiso’s poetic highlights, as well as outdoor readings. The course will include the participation of invited guests, two Chilean poet recipients of the National Prize for Literature. The main goal of the course is to allow participants experience the creativity, originality and diversity of Chilean poetry.

Learn Spanish discovering Valparaíso. Course Director: Rocio Mansilla. (The course is delivered in Spanish)

We offer language training in Spanish at beginner and intermediate levels. Students will learn from Spanish Language teachers and participate in a fun, interactive class with other students from around the world. Local students will work together with the lecturers, collaborating, interacting and facilitating the understanding and involvement with our culture. The course considers applied grammar, idiomatic expressions, vocabulary and parochial texts, linked to the experiential component. Teachers maintain close communication with students, adapting participation to the requirements and level of interested students. At the end of the course the student will have acquired the necessary knowledge and cultural skills for communication in Spanish, both in formal and informal contexts, contributing to establish a link between language and culture.