

Off-Campus Study Student Profiles

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Major: Mathematics

SIT: Chile



Program Highlights:

- The independent study project I completed over the last five weeks of the program was the most valuable and rewarding part of my semester.
- Every moment presented a new opportunity to learn.
- My homestays were a very valuable aspect of my program.

How did your experience fit into your major and your Wooster education?

My courses and the general emphasis of the program were not aimed at a math major, but I gained skills that complement a Wooster education very well. The independent study project is the most obvious and direct connection between my study abroad experiences and my education at Wooster. Also, learning outside of the classroom and learning for the sake of learning and not for the grade were both emphasized in my program. I think a Wooster education depends on and encourages both of these learning approaches.

What courses did you take and how did you like your courses?

My two main courses were an intensive Spanish language course and a seminar on education and social change. The Spanish course provided a great environment to build and reinforce my language skills. The seminar course provided me with a very solid understanding of what has caused the current Chilean education system, a system modeled on the idea of a market economy and that functions as a choice and voucher system, to feature so much inequality and stratification.

Why did you choose your program and location in particular?

I chose my program because education policy and the role that education plays in the development and structure of society interest me. I also liked that the program required an independent study project, was entirely in Spanish, and included homestays and traveling. While Chile and Argentina are beautiful countries and great places to study, I chose my program more on its offerings than its location.

SIT: CHILE

"During the course of the program, participants will learn about the issues surrounding education and engage in topics such as education and equity, popular education, intercultural education, and education and human rights. Extended visits to Buenos Aires, Argentina and a Mapuche community in Southern Chile provide opportunities to compare differing educational policies and approaches. Engagement at local primary and secondary schools shed light on the actual educational realities for the nations' citizens."

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