



MISSION REPORT: **CBIE in Chile** DEC 3-7, 2018



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The Canadian Bureau for International Education's collaboration mission to Chile saw a diverse group of our members – colleges and universities, Anglophone and Francophone – meet stakeholders in three distinct areas of the country: Santiago, Temuco and Valparaíso.

Organized in cooperation with the Council of Rectors of Chilean Universities (CRUCH), LearnChile and the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI-IOHE), the mission bolstered Canada-Chile post-secondary education ties and allowed delegation members to explore collaboration with Chilean institutions. The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service provided invaluable support in the planning of the mission.

Background: CBIE Collaboration Missions

Initiated in 2012, CBIE **collaboration missions** respond to a growing demand from our members to cultivate partnerships in specific countries or regions. With a diverse membership spanning the spectrum of Canadian education, CBIE adopts a “Team Canada” approach to missions as the national voice for international education. Given the decentralized nature of Canadian education, this unifying approach is particularly valuable in interactions with governments and higher education associations in other countries.

All CBIE missions are designed in close consultation with participating institutions and partners to determine priorities and shape a highly relevant program. Central elements include, but are not limited to, meetings with senior-level government officials to understand the educational context and government priorities, and one-on-one institutional visits allowing participants to network and discuss partnership opportunities. The knowledge and access created by each mission forge deep connections between CBIE’s membership and a variety of international partners. CBIE has previously led missions to Ukraine, Algeria, Brazil, the Philippines, Vietnam, Mexico and Norway.

Mission to Chile

I. Partners

The **Council of Rectors of Chilean Universities (CRUCH)** was created in 1954 as an independent national coordination body to improve the performance and quality of Chilean higher education. It is a diverse group of 27 accredited universities from across the country, both public and private, secular and religious. CRUCH universities have 80% of full-time professors holding a PhD in Chile, produce over 90% of the country’s indexed (Web of Science) papers, and obtain 95% of competitive public funding for scientific research. Some 80% of all exchange students attend CRUCH universities, and 20% of PhD students are international.

The success of the collaboration mission was supported by three key partner organizations.

LearnChile is a brand created in 2013 to foster the internationalization of the country's academic offer. Comprised of 24 higher education institutions, LearnChile is partially funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Members include both public and private institutions; all are accredited and have internationalization strategies and offices responsible for international relations. With the tagline "Your experience beyond studying", LearnChile is also a platform to attract international students. The brand promotes Chile as a complete travel and study experience with varied academic offerings; status as a leader in Latin America in safety, quality of life, competitiveness and innovation; and one-of-a-kind geographic diversity.

The **Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI-IOHE)**

is a non-profit organization founded in Quebec in 1980. The OUI-IOHE's mission is to contribute to the transformation of higher education institutions to enable them to respond to their social and political contexts, while building and creating common spaces of inter-American collaboration. The OUI-IOHE has an active presence in 28 countries across the Americas and 350+ members. The OUI-IOHE has internationalization as a strategic pillar and organizes the Conference of the America on International Education.

II. Activities

The 5-day mission to Chile focused on the higher education sector and began with a half-day of presentations and networking at the Ministry of Foreign Relations in Santiago. The Canadian delegation gained insight into the Chilean higher-education context through presentations by the Ministry of Education, the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT), the Council of Accredited Professional Institutes and Technical Education Centres (Vertebral), CRUCH, LearnChile and the IOHE. In turn, the Chilean hosts received an overview of the Canadian educational context through presentations by the CBIE-led delegation and the Canadian Embassy in Chile.



Chilean government officials welcome the Canadian delegation at the Ministry of Foreign Relations in Santiago

The remainder of the week featured a combination of institutional visits and networking events in Santiago, Temuco and Valparaíso. In Santiago, the delegation visited the Universidad de Chile and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. In Temuco, the delegation visited the technical institute/university INACAP, the Universidad Católica de Temuco, and the Universidad de la Frontera where there was also a well-attended networking event with institutions from the surrounding area. Finally, in Valparaíso, mission delegates visited the Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María and participated in a networking event at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso where they also met colleagues from the Universidad de Playa Ancha and the Universidad de Valparaíso.



The Canadian delegation in Valparaíso

III. Immediate Outcomes

Two participating institutions signed bilateral agreements during the collaboration mission, with one already planning a follow-up mission to consolidate the partnership and develop areas of faculty and student mobility and research.

Participants reported exploring collaboration around faculty capacity building, student and faculty mobility, (Indigenous) research, entrepreneurial activities and academic summer programs. Additionally, some connected the international office relevant faculty at their home institution with new Chilean contacts.



CBIE board member Jean-Paul Loyer, of the Université de Moncton, signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Óscar Garrido Álvarez, rector of the Universidad de Los Lagos

IV. Participant Feedback

Echoing the feedback of previous mission participants, Chile mission delegates reported appreciating the opportunity to gain in-depth insight into the local education context through face-to-face meetings with potential/ existing partners as part of a united "Team Canada" front. They valued the access to high-level government and educational institution officials and the opportunity to make concrete contacts with a variety of institutions representing a cross-section of Chilean post-secondary education.



The Canadian delegation and hosts at the Universidad de la Frontera in Temuco

Additional benefits for participants were connecting with other senior administrators in Canadian international education and gaining a better understanding of opportunities for collaboration between Canadian colleges and universities. Delegates also highlighted the sense of camaraderie, facilitated by social functions which allowed them get to know each other and put their best foot forward as a group.

Asked about the most interesting thing that they learned during the mission about the Chilean education context, participants reported the following:

- The difference between private and public universities in terms of the system for financing higher education
- Most universities visited have ambitious internationalization plans
- University quality assurance system
- Some institutions offer the equivalent of both Canadian college- and university-level courses
- Government reform – more technical education to meet industry needs; establishment of new technical institutes means new potential partners for Canadian colleges
- CONICYT – National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research, Ministry of Education
- Snapshot of Chilean students including barriers to studying abroad (often live at home during studies)
- Indigenous education

Chilean Education Context¹

I. Background

Chilean higher education has experienced explosive growth and diversification since 1981 and is now in a period of stabilization.

Both the number of higher education institutions and the number of students have greatly increased in the past four decades. An increasing number of private universities compete with public universities (partly funded by the state of Chile), although public universities remain the most prestigious with higher academic requirements for entry. Enrollment in technical higher education is expanding the most rapidly with technical and professional institutes now located across the country and more still to be built.

II. Education Reform

Education has been high on the government's agenda following student demonstrations in Chile in 2011. The main issues are high fees, the proportion of public/private funding for education, whether academic institutions should be entitled to make profits, and interest rates on education loans. The government has a reform in progress to address these concerns. Quality assurance requirements for higher education institutions have been increasing since 1990, and the reform makes institutional accreditation mandatory and comprehensive.

Focus on Technical Higher Education

The current Chilean president places great importance on technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The government has an ambitious modernization agenda, launched in October 2018, which positions TVET as the driver of Chile's social and economic growth and aims to improve the quality and relevance of study programs in all fields. Key elements of the agenda include:

- Articulation of the TVET and productive sectors
- Enhanced access to free tuition and scholarships for technical training and education, including 1,000 international internships for TVET students
- Creation of 15 public technical higher education institutions
- Design and implementation of a qualifications framework for the technical sector

¹ This section combines insights gleaned during the mission with information prepared by the Canadian Embassy in Chile. The Embassy's *International Education Market Profile – Chile* outlines the Chilean education system including recent reforms; highlights key partnership opportunities for Canada and Chile in the education sector; and describes Canada's attractiveness to Chileans as a study and research destination. The report is available for download through the Government of Canada's [Trade Commissioner Service](#).

Vital to the implementation of the government's technical education agenda is **Vertebral**, the Council of Accredited Professional Institutes and Technical Education Centres in Chile. Vertebral's main objective is to achieve a more equitable, sustainable and productive country through the development of technical and vocational education.

III. Areas for International Cooperation

Chilean Interests

Chilean post-secondary institutions are actively looking for partnerships to internationalize their campuses, and the Ministry of Education seeks to develop the following areas:

- Cotutelle and double degrees
- Recruitment of PhD-holders
- Interdisciplinary research programs
- Joint research projects
- Attraction of international students and researchers
- Strategic alliances with research-intensive foreign institutions
- Doctoral residencies and internships
- Inclusion of language instruction in study programs
- International forums

Technical Education

As outlined above, technical education is a government priority and there is an interest in international collaboration around the following:

- Strengthening technical training centres (**CFTs**)
- Optimizing the relationship between education and industry
- Train-the-trainer programs
- Technical training and further education: Technicians for Chile Scholarship

Fast Facts

150 higher education institutions in Chile: universities (public and private), technical and professional institutes

1.2 million students

- **750,000** in universities
- **700,000+** undergraduates
- **50,000** graduate students (5,000 PhD)
- Since 2008, **55%** growth in PhD students and **95%** growth in Master's students

70% of Chilean students are the first in their family to attend post-secondary education



The Canadian delegation tours the technical university INACAP in Temuco

Opportunities for Canada

Chileans are increasingly interested in education and research opportunities in Canada, attracted by the country's multicultural society, quality of education, and visa exemption for stays under six months.

Chileans generally become independent later than North American youth, and interest in undergraduate programs abroad is limited although growing. On the other hand, postgraduate students are eager to study abroad. A key mechanism to achieve this is scholarships offered by CONICYT, the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research. Of note is CONICYT's recommendation that students apply to top research universities (in the top 100 of the OECD ranking of academic institutions by sub-area) in order to receive the maximum number of points possible in the evaluation process.

Other scholarships allowing Chilean students to study in Canada are the **Canada-Chile Leadership Exchange Scholarship** and the **Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program**, both administered by CBIE on behalf of Global Affairs Canada. A memorandum of understanding between a Chilean and Canadian institution is required to access these two scholarship programs.

Chileans are particularly interested in education and training in the following fields:

- Mining
- Information technology
- Advanced manufacturing
- Food processing industry
- Renewable energies
- Construction
- Biotechnology
- Transport

Language Training and K-12

Beyond higher education, there are opportunities in Chile for Canada in the English as a Second Language (ESL) and pre-school/primary education sectors.

A majority of Chilean students have little knowledge of English and Chilean academic institutions are interested in partnering with Canadian institutions, either to have students improve their English in Canada or receive Canadian professionals to teach in Chile. Also, the **English Opens Doors** program recruits native English speakers to work as voluntary teaching assistants in Chile. There is less demand for French as a Second Language (FSL) training.

Improving the quality of pre-school and primary education is a government priority, representing an opportunity for Canadian K-12 education experts.

Participating Canadian institutions

- [Carleton University](#)
- [Confederation College](#)
- [Durham College](#)
- [Fanshawe College](#)
- [McMaster University](#)
- [Polytechnique Montréal](#)
- [Queen's University](#)
- [Université de Moncton](#)

Testimonials

“The CBIE mission to Chile was extremely valuable as a learning experience and an opportunity to connect with a large number of institutions in a short time to get a sense of potential collaborations and to broaden and deepen my understanding of the Chilean postsecondary sector. The trip was extremely well organized, made excellent use of the time we had. Finally, the mission was a great opportunity to discuss best practices and emerging trends with SIO colleagues at other Canadian institutions.”

[Interim Associate Vice-Principal \(International\), Queen's University](#)

“A well-organized mission that provided access to high-level representatives of universities and higher education government agencies. A good starting point for future engagement in the country.”

[Vice Provost, International Affairs, McMaster University](#)

“The mission provided a great snapshot of the education landscape in Chile and provided many opportunities for Canadian institutions to discuss potential collaborations with a variety of Chilean higher education institutions.”

[International Projects Coordinator, Durham College](#)



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