

# Family Life Education Programs in Chile

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## Chile, my home

I'm an International student, from Santiago, Chile and this summer I conducted a Global Independent Study in my Home country.

My country is a long and thin territory full of complexity, social effervescence, community organization and good food. It's geographically located in the southern cone of South America, and its estimated population is 17.8 million whereby 48% live in urban regions, 16% in intermediate regions, and 35.7% in rural regions (Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas 2017).

To me, the country has been a constant political fight: we survived 17 years of dictatorship that has shaped our identity forever and we are in constant search for a better society.

## Mi familia

Going back home to work in this project also gave me the amazing and healing opportunity to be with my sisters in the Andes Mountains and by the ocean with my parents, to celebrate one more year of my grandparents life and read stories to my goddaughter. This opportunity gave me the strength I needed to continue with my second year of grad school in the US.



Being an International student in the US is not easy, specially now that so many social injustices are affecting communities that we love and care about.

This is for us:

"Luchamos contra la miseria pero al mismo tiempo luchamos contra la alienación".-Che Guevara.

## The Project: Family Life Education in Chile: A Critical Analysis of two Programs

This summer I was lucky to work with Dr. Jorge Delva writing the chapter of Chile for a book about Family Life Educational Programs around the globe.

I went to Chile to conduct interviews for this project and to visit some organizations to understand better how these programs work in Chile, how they are financed, how they are evaluated and how their interventions are carried out. While I was in Santiago, I connected with the School of Social Work in Universidad Católica de Chile, participated in the seminar "Avances y Desafíos del Sistema de Protección Integral a la Niñez" and learned about the social policy for Children and Youth in my country.



## Advice

Participating in a work or studying experience abroad is an opportunity that enriches learning, help us to open our minds to new experiences, cultures and ways of understanding the world, it helps you appreciate and respect diversity in all its senses and love the human being in all it's difference.

I believe these are qualities that every Social Worker should have and we should definitely start practicing more of that while we are here, with all the hard work that fighting for social justice implies.

## Woman in charge

Chile has twice elected a female socialist president, Michelle Bachelet, one of a handful of countries in the Americas to have elected a woman as president. President Bachelet has supported many political changes that encourage the governmental leadership in fundamental issues such as education, health and labor. She has also lead the promulgations of laws that have a deep impact in women's life and is advocating for social change in Chile.

- Tax reform
- Educational reform
- Labor reform
- Creation of the Ministry of Women
- Increased time of paid maternity leave
- Increased funds for and number of social welfare programs

