



UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA
FEDERICO SANTA MARÍA

Dirección de Asuntos Internacionales

FACT SHEET

Valid for the calendar year:	2026
General information:	<p>Location: Chile, 5 campus</p> <p>Founded: 1931</p> <p>Type of institution: Private non-profit university, member of the Chilean Universities President Council (CRUCH)</p> <p>Accreditation: 6 years (2022–2028), granted by CNA-Chile</p> <p>Students: ~21,000 undergraduate and ~2,000 postgraduate</p> <p>Programs: 74 undergraduate and 30 postgraduate programs</p> <p>Main Areas of Study: Engineering, Architecture, Business, and Sciences</p> <p>The USM is widely recognized for its excellence in science and technology education.</p>
Website	https://internacional.usm.cl/
USM Campuses and programs	<p>1. Valparaíso – Main Campus: Architecture, Electronics, Industrial Eng., Informatics, Business, Mechanical Eng., Metal and Materials Eng., Chemical and Environmental Eng., Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Chemistry and Physics.</p> <p>2. Santiago – Campus San Joaquín: Architecture, Electronics, Informatics, Mechanical Eng., Metal and Materials Eng., Chemical and Environmental Eng., Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Chemistry and Physics.</p> <p>3. Santiago – Campus Vitacura: Comercial Aviation, Business, Industrial Eng.</p> <p>4. Sede Viña del Mar: Technical, applied science and engineering programs</p> <p>5. Sede Concepción: Technical, applied science and engineering programs</p>
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Classes	Academic Offer at the USM Note: while a very small selection of courses may be offered in English, our official language of instruction is Spanish
Is it possible to take courses from different areas of study?	Yes. Students may take courses from different departments, provided they meet the prerequisites for each course. However, they should focus their studies at a single USM campus. Note: Exceptions are allowed only when combining courses between: a. Viña del Mar + Valparaíso campuses, or b. Santiago campuses (San Joaquín + Vitacura) In these cases, students should factor in local transportation time.
Language courses	A two-week (50 hours) Spanish intensive course is offered before the beginning of each semester. An additional fee applies as this course is not part of the regular academic offer. Also, multiple levels of Spanish courses are offered for foreign students as part of the regular academic offer during each semester. Some courses in other languages are also offered; see academic offer for details.
Course load / Full time studies	Exchange students taking courses must take a minimum of 15 SCT credits per semester, with a recommended maximum of 30 SCT credits.
Application process	Application for exchange at the USM - Chile
Semester dates	Semester 1-2026: March – July Semester 2-2026: August – December
Nomination deadline	Nomination deadlines for Exchange at USM Please send nominations to: incoming@usm.cl
Application deadline	Application deadlines for Exchange at USM
Language requirements	All non-native Spanish speakers must have a minimum level of Spanish B1 (CEFR), which can be accredited through an international language proficiency test (DELE, SIELE, or CELU). Alternatively, students who have completed at least three semesters of Spanish at the university level prior to beginning regular classes at USM may sign our language requirements form together with a representative from their university's Spanish department who is willing to vouch for the student's level of Spanish. Applicants with an A2 level of Spanish at the time of application will be admitted on an exceptional basis only if they participate in the intensive Spanish course prior to the semester (which they must accept in their application).
Housing	Students must find their own housing. We have some suggestions on our website, and student tutors are available to assist in this search. See the “Accommodation” section at About Chile
Insurance	Students must provide proof of international medical insurance, valid for the duration of their stay at the university, in their application.
Visa	Visa requirement for Chile Visa requirements differ depending on nationality and duration of stay in Chile. We request all students who apply for a temporary visa to send us their application number after the request is submitted.