

# Chile

## Public Health, Traditional Medicine, and Community Empowerment

Gain unique insight and exposure to healthcare policies, politics, and delivery methods in a multicultural and rapidly changing region of South America.

## Coursework

### Public Health, Traditional Medicine, and Community Empowerment Seminar

IPBH 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish with required readings and relevant educational excursions. Students examine theoretical and current approaches to healthcare delivery in urban and rural, as well as “modern” and traditional, communities across present-day Chile. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as Universidad de Tarapacá, the Indigenous Health System, the Nueva Imperial Hospital, public health centers, and national and local government bodies. Additional lecturers could include herbalists and intercultural medicine practitioners.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Health, Society, and Culture*

Historical overview of Chilean society; examination of racial, religious, and regional diversity in Chile; consideration of the health profile of the Chilean population; analysis of the economic, structural, and ideological determinants of public health planning and practices in Chile.

#### *Public Health, Community Welfare, and Social Justice*

Exploration of the differing views of public health; questions of social exclusion in relation to public health outreach; interrelation between public health and social justice; connections between public health and community welfare; different healthcare models and their societal implications.

#### *Chilean Public Health Policies*

A critical look at the Chilean public health model; analysis of key Chilean national health programs, including child, adolescent, adult, and elderly medicine; women’s health; reproductive and sexual health; AIDS; mental health issues; dental health; comparison of the national health system with the private health system.

#### *Alternative Health Practices*

Overview of different healthcare practices and conceptions of healing in Chile; concepts and

practices of health used by Aymara and Mapuche groups; considerations of alternative treatment of psychiatric and other mental health issues; connection between healing and spiritual beliefs; intercultural health; access issues related to alternative methods of health treatment.

#### *Educational Excursions*

Excursion locations typically include Nueva Imperial and Mapuche population health centers as well as visits to public health services throughout Arica and surrounding valleys. Longer excursions can include Tacna, Peru; the rural area of Putre in northern Chile; and Bariloche, Argentina.

### Intensive Language Study: Spanish for the Health Sciences

SPAN 2000–4000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and health-related field instruction. Special attention is given to medical and health terminology in Spanish. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in intensive intermediate or advanced classes.

### Public Health Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

A course in research methods in both the social and health sciences, focusing on how to collect, analyze, integrate, and report social and public health data to critically understand and evaluate program-related public health issues. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Field studies may include designing a research project; writing a research proposal; interviewing; surveys; maintaining a field journal. Specific public health field study methods may include concepts and objectives of scientific research; basic techniques used in public health research; data collection and analysis; epidemiology and considerations in the Chilean context; ethical issues related to public health projects and research; the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy;



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Arica

**Language Study** Spanish

**Homestay** Arica, 8 weeks

**Rural Visits** Arica, Azapa, and Lluta valleys; Putre Province; Temuco and surrounding villages; rural areas surrounding Bariloche, Argentina; Tacna, Peru

**Other Accommodations** Hostels, private homes, or small hotels

**Independent Study Project/Practicum**  
4 weeks

**Prerequisites** Previous college-level coursework in public health, development studies, community or social sciences, or other related fields. At least four recent semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in Spanish, as assessed by SIT.

observation and participation in community health projects.

### Independent Study Project/Practicum

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Arica, Santiago, Valparaíso, Temuco, or in another approved location in Chile appropriate to the project. Students can choose to conduct an Independent Study Project or to participate in a guided, monthlong practicum. **Sample topic areas:** women’s health; psychiatric illness and community outreach; drug and alcohol treatment; traditional and intercultural health; Chilean AIDS policy; promotion and prevention policies; indigenous health practices; epidemiology.