UNIVERSIDAD DE VIÑA DEL MAR
Viña del Mar, Chile

The University
Universidad de Viña del Mar is a fairly recent addition to the university system in Chile. After its founding in 1988, UVM opened its doors in 1990 with degrees in architecture, design, commercial engineering, civil engineering, information technology and journalism. UVM now has 11 different schools with multiple new degrees in each of them. UVM is the first private university in the region of Valparaíso and its reputation continues to grow within Chile and internationally. The university now has exchanges with over 250 universities worldwide.

The City
Viña del Mar is a lovely, hilly resort city on the Chilean coast. It lies side by side with Valparaíso along the waterfront. Viña del Mar was originally founded in 1874 as a vacation spot for elites from the Valparaíso-Viña area and Santiago, the capital city. Often described as a “suburb” of its more industrial neighbor, Valparaíso, Viña is now home to over 300,000 permanent residents who work in a number of industries including textiles, paint factories and food processing plants. Viña remains a popular vacation spot for Chileans and foreigners alike because of its well-kept beaches. During the summer months of January and February, exhibits, concerts and festivals abound in Viña as do tourists, making Viña a beautiful city full of people from all over the world.

Academic Calendar
The first semester starts at the beginning of March and ends in mid July. Students interested in studying at UVM during this semester must arrive by March 1 in order to participate in the orientation session, tutoring and registration. Students intending to remain for two semesters should begin in March, not August.

The Second Semester starts at the beginning of August and ends in mid December. Students interested in studying at UVM during this semester must arrive by August 1 in order to participate in the orientation session, tutoring and registration.

Am I eligible for this program?
All applicants for study abroad must have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5. Students who want to take regular courses with the Chilean students should have completed at least five semesters of university level Spanish including Advanced Composition (SPAN 3423). Those wanting to remain in the Intensive Spanish curriculum
could participate with only one year of Spanish, but 2 years are recommended. After four semesters of Spanish at OU, it is easy to complete the Spanish minor in one semester at UVM. This destination is very popular with OU students and the competition for places is strong.

**What could I study?**

In addition to the Spanish for Non-native Speakers program, students may take any course they are academically prepared to take. The Colleges of the university do not offer the complete range of academic areas that OU does, but it is still an extensive list: Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Law, History, Social Studies, Psychology, Spanish and Communication, Accounting, Business Administration, Journalism, Engineering: Computing, Environmental, Industrial, Construction, and Biochemical; Architecture, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Sociology, and Public Relations.

**What about academic credit?**

Grades received on reciprocal exchange study abroad programs through the University of Oklahoma are posted by the Office of Admissions as Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) on the OU permanent record. These grades are not factored into the participant’s Grade Point Average. Because each student is enrolled in 12 credits per semester while abroad, participants are expected to enroll in an equivalent number of credits at the host university. Academic systems around the world vary in what equals 12 OU credits. The decision about awarding credits is made in the Office of Admissions at OU. Classes within the Intensive Spanish Program equal three OU credits each.

**Where would I live?**

Students complete a housing application and are placed with families that have been screened by an organization that the university hires to check out the homes and families. Placements are made by a person working with the International Office of the university. Only one student is placed per family.

**How much does it cost?**

Costs at OU: All students participating on semester or academic year reciprocal exchange programs are enrolled at OU for 12 credits each semester abroad. Tuition and fees are billed through and paid directly to OU at the appropriate resident or non-resident rate. Fees are charged at the Arts and Sciences College rate, even if the student’s major is in a different college. All participants pay a $10/credit hour.
Room and Board: Recently the charge for a full semester with all meals included was $2500 USD.

How do I apply? Instructions for applying to any semester or academic year exchange program may be found in the “how to apply” section of our website.

For more information please contact: ea@ou.edu