

EMBASSY SANTIAGO

Summer Work and Travel Pilot Program Timeline and Fact Sheet

Introduction

In an effort to expand and refocus the Summer Work Travel (SWT) Program in Chile toward college students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to practice English in the United States, U.S. Embassy Santiago is launching a pilot program that includes travel scholarships and a pre-departure English course with the Binational Center (BNC) in Concepcion, Chile for a select group of SWT applicants: underrepresented, economically-disadvantaged students who would otherwise have little to no access to English conversation outside of the classroom. Pilot program participants will also receive a reduced program fee and will be specifically matched with job placements to maximize their use of English.

Participant Profile and Eligibility:

The ideal Pilot Program participants are lower-income students enrolled in accredited, full-time university studies in Concepcion. Students must have an intermediate to advanced level of English and must demonstrate the need for additional conversation practice in English. Students should have had little to no exposure with the United States.

Program Timeline:

- **May 19th, 2017** **Deadline for nomination submissions** (see nomination process below). Participants nominated by local universities in Concepcion.
- **May 20th – June 16th** Binational Center vets nominees and does final selection (15 students). List of participants sent to XPA agency.
- **June – July, 2017** XPA helps students start formal SWT application process, checks English level, and provides students with free online English classes to start improving their levels prior to official job placement.
- **July – August, 2017** Job placements are finalized by InterExchange (students will still need to interview for jobs with employers/interexchange, but will have a special curated list of positions that will allow them to use their English)
- **Oct or Nov, 2017** Two week English course with Binational Center, focusing on the hospitality industry and practicing real world role playing scenarios. Binational Center conducts TOEIC test #1.
- **Dec 2017 – Mar 2018** Students work in U.S.
- **March 2018:** TOEIC test #2 to measure English progress

Program Costs:

Pilot Program participants will be responsible for covering the following expenses:

- \$700 USD program fee (*reduced from \$1600 USD*)
- \$35 USD Sevis fee
- \$160 USD MRV fee
- \$140 USD Medical Insurance (*approximately*)
- Travel expenses (*the US Embassy will provide \$1000 USD for travel expenses for each participant, but participants will have to cover anything over this amount*)

Total cost to participants: Approximately \$1035 - \$1400 USD, depending on flight costs

Students will be paid for their work in the United States, typically around \$10 USD/hour, depending on job location.

Nominating Process

Pilot Program participants will be nominated by Universidad de Concepcion and Universidad del Bio Bio. Nominations are due by May 19th following the steps listed below. Each university can nominate up to 15 students:

- **STEP 1:** *Identify potential Pilot Program participants.* Using the participant profile above, once you have identified potential participants discuss the program with them to see if they have interest and availability to participate in the program. Please explain that their nomination will need to be approved and vetted before their participation is guaranteed.
- **STEP 2:** *Prepare the nomination form.* Briefly explain the candidate's background and the justification for participation. Send completed nomination forms via e-mail to Andrea Arjona at aarjona@ichnc.cl and Luis Ramirez at lr Ramirez@ichnc.cl with Marcela Hidalgo copied (HidalgoMC@state.gov) by Friday, May 19th.
- **STEP 3:** *BNC Selection Committee.* Members from the Binational Center will meet to vet nominees. Approximately 15 participants will be selected.
- **STEP 4:** *Program Preparation.* Once the BNC finalizes the list of participants, XPA agency will take over and help the students with program logistics, including their applications, work placements, and exchange visas.

Impact:

In addition to experiencing U.S. culture and gaining paid work experience, students will improve their English, consequently improving their ability to move into jobs that require English. Students will take the TOEIC two times—before the program and again upon their return from the United States to measure their progress.