



SET YOURSELF APART

CHILE

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Santiago, Chile - May/June 2017

LANGUAGE LEARNING

Initially, I was attracted to the language aspect of IPDS-Chile. I had taken 8 years of Spanish and knew immersion would put me to the test! Each morning we attended classes at our language school. In classrooms, we implemented lessons - interactive read alouds, games, songs - that mainly focused on improving the students' English language fluency. Our first day we walked through the courtyard during recess and were swarmed by the kids, all trying their hardest to speak English. I began to love the challenge of communicating with Spanish speakers and became more self-confident in my abilities to communicate. Beginning to break a language barrier is a great feeling that only encourages further practice with the language.



Christine with the group in the Andes, horseback riding, and posing with some of her students.

[Read Christine's Blog](#)



*I had to remind myself several times:
"I'm actually hiking in the Andes Mountains.
The Andes. In CHILE."*

ADVICE

Take advantage of at least one IPDS experience! There is growth that can only be achieved by studying abroad. IPDS is the chance to step out of your element, into new environments -- especially a new culture and system of education. There is no better time than now, I PROMISE.

LEARNER EMPATHY

I feel that now I have a greater sense of empathy for what it is like to be a Language Learner. This will translate to a greater understanding of the needs of my future students. I plan to focus extensively on modeling, visuals, repetition and songs, which were used by our teachers in Chile. These tools are beneficial to most students whether they struggle with the primary language or not. The field placements in Chilean schools gave us such an exclusive glimpse of education outside of the U.S. I was ready to take this step to globalize myself as an educator, and spend some time in the shoes of Language Learner in an unfamiliar country.