



SET YOURSELF APART

# CHILE

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### TEACH

This experience helped me grow into an educator who is better prepared to work with diverse students. It gave me an idea of what it is like for English language learners in the US: learning Spanish I experienced the same, I remember the frustrations, I remember the tactics used to help me understand the language. I am ready to develop lessons for my future ELL students.

### EXPLORE & DISCOVER

For the first two weeks we studied Spanish at a language school, then for one week taught English to children in the public schools. The school set up cultural activities for us like Cueca and Salsa dance lessons, an asado (BBQ), and visits to historical and tourist sites like the house of famous poet, Pablo Neruda.

### STUDY & GROW

During our semester course we got to develop relationships with one another. We also connected with Universidad Mayor students, who we met in the US and became our penpals prior to traveling. I participated in Club HoLA, which helped me to learn Spanish and techniques for teaching language learners; and my research on literacy development gave me experience in creating English lessons.



Crystal with Chilean elementary school students (above) and while hiking the Andes Mountains (right)

[Click to read Crystal's blog!](#)



### ADVICE

Don't hesitate. Don't contemplate. Don't rob yourself of a life-changing experience. Just do it!

*"I knew this trip would help me gain new perspectives, develop an appreciation for a new culture, and therefore better prepare me for teaching diverse groups of students. I grew in so many different ways. I faced fears, tried lots of new things, and built confidence. I developed the mindset that there isn't anything I put my mind to that I cannot accomplish."*

### Favorite Aspects of the Program

- Challenging myself as an educator to think on my feet & get students excited about learning English.
- Falling in love with the students. Forming a connection with one in particular, who usually didn't engage in class.
- Facing my fear of heights & first time on horseback, all while surrounded by the unreal beauty of the Andes.