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**Franck CHADELAT**

Double Degree

Master of Science in Civil Industrial Engineering

Universidad de Chile, Chili

2013/2016

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## **Master of Science in Civil Industrial Engineering Universidad de Chile, Chili**

### **Why did you choose to do a Double Degree abroad?**

Among all the possibilities we have to study abroad, I think that the Double Degree is what fitted best my expectations. I consider that being a student is one of the best ways to deeply discover a country. It gives you the atmosphere and time to make good relationship and fully discover the culture, share, broaden your mind and travel.

### **Why Chile? How different was the education system?**

I wanted my experience to be as profitable as possible. And since I developed a strong interest for both the Spanish language and South America, I decided to go to Chile which seemed to have the best mix of academic level, safety, touristic interest and social structure. The education system was however quite different: much more theoretical and "schoolish". We had about 1 evaluation a month!

### **And life on campus?**

Universidad de Chile doesn't really have a campus, each department has his own site. The engineering one is the combination of an old and beautiful building with a brand new one with all the facilities for studying and doing sports. The few student associations are very dynamic and having a beer and good talks inside the patio on Friday nights is part of the students' life!

### **What about the integration with other students at UChile? Were there events organised on campus?**

The integration with my classmates was easy because my Chilean colleagues were really open, curious and friendly. Above that, I chose to be part of the handball team of the University and it was a good way to make strong and extra curricular friendships. Sports events (mostly football), concerts, parties, conferences, and a bunch of non-official "events" such as barbecues and gatherings: there is always something to do!

### **Were courses in Spanish? How hard was it to follow?**

Before leaving for Chile, my Spanish was quite bad but then I realized that I had a solid base, deeply hidden, but very useful! Most of my courses were in Spanish, however the industrial Master is getting more international and is opening classes in English (with good English speaking teachers that used to live in the US or in Europe).

### **What do you do now? What are your plans?**

Back from Chile, I spent 5 months looking for a job before being hired on an "interim" contract for a 1 year mission in Renault, in logistics. I'm finishing and already thinking of the next step of my professional life, hoping to have an opportunity to integrate the Renault group.

### **Do you think your experience at the University of Chile helped you get this position?**

For this job particularly my experience in Chile was helpful, because one of my valuable skills was to speak Spanish. However, when I started looking for a job it was sometimes difficult to identify in the professional market.

### **What would you say to students who are thinking about studying abroad? Any advice?**

Two years in Chile have been a tremendous personal experience and I've grown a lot. I would not dare to give advice because it's a hard choice and one needs to be fully committed to enjoy the decision of studying abroad, but I think it's worth it!

### **Finally, can you tell me one of your best memories at UChile?**

I think one of my best memories is my last day. Not because I was leaving, but because it was also the day of my last exam, my "soutenance", finishing, among my closest friends, two incredible years! The flashback I had at this moment was a happy moment and I was happy to have lived this experience.

### **Is there anything else you would like to add?**

I strongly recommend to everyone willing to do a Double Degree abroad to gather all the information available to be well informed at the moment of making the decision. This can be done by reading the SERSE reports, asking previous students questions, visiting the university website, learning about the country, its culture, etc.