Profile Feature as seen in Nature 14th December 2017
Universidad de Chile, one of the oldest and highest ranked in Latin America, was at the core of the creation of Chile’s Republic nearly two centuries ago. Rector Ennio Vivaldi discusses how Universidad de Chile is fostering collaboration with South American universities to showcase the knowledge generated there.

How is Universidad de Chile different? The role that the university has played in Chilean history is key, providing an intellectual network as well as contributing greatly to the development of critical thinking. Two Nobel Prize winners and 20 presidents have come out of our classrooms. Founded 175 years ago, in the new Republic of Chile, the institution of higher education was responsible for helping to form the identity of the nation. Subsequently, Universidad de Chile organised the national education system and in 1952 was a major contributor to the public healthcare system. In 1972 the university led the public healthcare system. It was a major contributor to the education system and in 1952 was a major contributor to the public healthcare system. In 1972 the university led the public healthcare system.

How is Universidad de Chile contributing to the country’s future? Our core mission is an orientation towards public service which addresses the country’s problems and contributes to solutions that become important cornerstones of national development. Chile is undergoing a pivotal period of development. Chile is undergoing a pivotal period of development. The multidisciplinary approach will proliferate in Caren.

Research projects with national and international financing conducted annually:

- 54 Technologies transferred to society through intellectual property rights
- 22 Centers of excellence
- 2 Nobel Prizes winners and 20 presidents of the republic
- 1850 Research projects in Chile in Scopus (SCImago Ranking)
- 1500 Transferred technologies
- 125 Nobel Prizes
- 2500 Patents
- 25002 Patents
- 90 Universities
- 50000 Students
- 10000 Faculty
- 5000 Researchers
- 2500 Patents

What are Universidad de Chile’s main objectives? We have a strong focus on internationalization and multidisciplinary research to tackle global challenges and approach them from a local perspective. Nowadays multiple perspectives are necessary to deal with complex future scenarios. We have translated into the creation of interdisciplinary networks in areas such as ageing, disaster management, intelligent cities design, renewable energies and social cohesion, amongst others. We have created the Center for Mathematical Modeling, which uses mathematics to solve problems coming from other sciences, industry, and public policies.

How do you interpret internationalization? We have been showcasing our research to create a better connection with other Latin American research bodies. Many European universities have a growing interest in connecting with South American science. Chile is a small country, but, given its level of development and its proven research capacity, we could act as a platform to strengthen the links between Latin America and more scientifically developed countries. At present, we have three-way projects that involve connections with other large Latin American universities such as Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and UNAM in Mexico as well as European and North American research institutions.

What is the Caren project about? Caren has been conceived as a modern science city, rather than a technological or industrial park. It will host impressive museums such as The Darwin in Chile Museum and the Natural Disasters Museum which will reflect the nature of Chile as a place prone to earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural phenomena. The multidisciplinary approach will proliferate in Caren, and the city will also host several university networks. In Caren, academics will physically come together with public research institutions as well as private companies which, in South America, are generally reluctant to invest in R&D.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE, FOUNDED IN 1842, IS THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY AND ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS IN LATIN AMERICA. WITH A TOP-Quality ACADEMIC BODY AND A HIGH PRODUCTIVITY IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND ARTISTIC RESEARCH, THE INSTITUTION HAS BEEN CONTINUOUSLY LINKED TO REFLECTION AND ACTION ABOUT NATIONAL AND GLOBAL MAJOR CHALLENGES, GIVEN ITS NATIONAL AND PUBLIC NATURE. INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION ARE THREE MAIN AXES OF THE UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, WHICH WILL MATERIALIZED IN THE ACADEMIC PROJECT PARQUE LAGUNA CAREN.

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