

The option to specialize in implantology in Brazil for Chilean dentists.

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Curiosity and the continuous advancement of dentistry forces many dentists to specialize, with oral implantology being one of the most in-demand programs. Although in Chile there are 12 dental schools that offer this specialty, some of its graduates point out two weaknesses: too many theoretical class hours and too few complex cases.

Given the above, at the time of specialization I considered programs that offer: 1. Part-time modality, for work and academic life compatibility; 2. Teachers with recognized clinical and scientific backgrounds (demonstrated by indexed publications); 3. Accessible costs to avoid bank loans, and 4. Large number of practical hours to develop clinical skills. When looking abroad, Brazil was the first option because it has the best Latin American universities and represents half of the scientific articles in periodontics and implantology.¹ I chose the Universidade São Leopoldo Mandic, the eighth best school of Dentistry in Brazil (Available at <http://ruf.folha.uol.com.br/2017/ranking-de-cursos/odontologia/>).

The program, directed by Dr Fabiano Capato Brito, lasts 28 months, 4 days per month (12 hours per day), it costs US \$ 490 per month, and has a waiting list of 1,600 patients. By the fourth month of specialty, I had already treated 60 to 100 new cases, with patients paying 25% of the fee that patients pay in Chilean dental schools. The activities are carried out in specialty clinics, including six ambulatory operatory rooms, a post-operative room, a radiological center and a research and post-graduate laboratory.

I have treated various complex cases, which are exposed to the faculty in order to make therapeutic decisions based on the best available evidence. On the other hand, professors give real scientific conferences, always presenting original publications and results in bone regeneration, soft tissue management and biomaterial technology, among others.

Considering the local scenario, specializing abroad is a good option. However, the requirements to certify the specialty in Chile must be considered.

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