

EDITORIAL

International mobility for undergraduate students.

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For some, studying abroad is a distant dream, perhaps an opportunity for the postgraduate stage. For others, it is a certain possibility from the first years of the undergraduate stage, and even before entering university. The interest to leave the borders of your country is that the possibility of studying part of the university studies abroad is a great opportunity to grow academically and personally.

The Universidad Autónoma de Chile is an institution responsible for the training of professionals of excellence and has a number of tools to achieve this goal. Among these is the possibility of expanding the borders of studies for their students allowing them to study one or two semesters of their programs abroad. This exchange is carried out through the Undergraduate International Student Mobility Program, maintaining the category of regular student of the Universidad Autónoma de Chile. In the same way, our University receives students from different parts of the world (*Universidad Autónoma de Chile, 2018*).

The important thing about this International Undergraduate Student Mobility Program is that it ends up providing opportunities not only to those who leave the country. The University also receives students, so the students who stay in the country also know other realities from students who attend one or two semesters at the Universidad Autónoma de Chile.

In the case of medicine, fifth-year students of the University have completed internships at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, USA. This gave them the possibility of interacting with clinical centers such as hospitals and community centers. In this case, one of the main objectives of the exchange is for students to understand and compare the Chilean reality with the United States, in order to improve and optimize their own medical work once they graduate. For this purpose, they not only focus on the great development of medical technology in the United States, but also on the social medical reality, especially in terms of the coverage of health insurance. This confrontation of the health systems generated an investigation carried out by students of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of New York who were in Chile for one year. The idea of this study was to analyze the AUGE (*Garantías Explícitas en Salud - Explicit Healthcare Guarantees*) system in depth, reflecting on the possibility of applying it in the United States (*Universidad Autónoma de Chile, 2014*).

This cooperation between the Universidad Autónoma de Chile and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York shows that these exchange opportunities can benefit not only students, but the communities where those students work once they finish their studies. It is important that this community benefit be considered a priority objective of the internships, not only in the



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postgraduate program, but even in the undergraduate program.

The way in which this community benefit can be achieved through international internships should consider what happens in the cooperation between the Universidad Autónoma de Chile and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. On the one hand, the improvement in the strictly disciplinary (*clinical, in this case*) will impact the professional practice of students once they graduate. On the other hand, exposure to other realities will impact on the social interaction of future professionals with their community. Finally, the exchange will generate instances for the development of research and development that improves the quality of life of people.

In summary, the international mobility of undergraduate students is an opportunity for the university to continue developing its mission in teaching, extension and research at the service of the community.

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