

Introduction

“In 2005, 172 young Chileans received scholarships to study abroad. This year it will be more than a thousand; next year it will be 2 500, and in 2010 we will reach 3 300. Thus, over the course of a decade we will have contributed to the specialised education and training of more than 30 000 people.”

President Michelle Bachelet,
Presentation of the Chile Bicentennial Scholarships, Santiago, 2008

The BCP (*Bicentennial Fund for the Training Abroad of Advanced Human Capital* or *Becas Chile Programme*) is a bold policy initiative providing scholarships to outstanding students in a wide variety of levels and subject areas. President Michelle Bachelet unveiled the initiative in 2008, and the policy has been rapidly implemented subsequently. The government now seeks to take stock of the experience to date, identify strengths and weaknesses of the policy process, and consider options for taking the initiative forward in the future.

A joint OECD-World Bank mission on Human Capital Formation Abroad was assigned to assist the government in assessing the *Becas Chile* initiative. The mission was provided with detailed information about the operation of the policy and had the opportunity to interview a range of individuals and agencies involved in the programme. This introduction summarises the terms of reference for this review and explains how the report is organised.

Terms of reference

Objective

The objective of the review is three-fold:

First, it sets out to obtain an overview of relevant best practices at the international level, through the analysis of similar initiatives in different countries, their impacts and the lessons that can be drawn from them. Emphasis is placed on the objectives and results of each particular programme.

Second, the review assesses the design of the Human Capital Formation Abroad policies established in Chile under Becas Chile and its articulation with other important national scholarship programmes, contrasting them with international best practice analysis. There is an assessment of the objectives, type and number of scholarships offered, prioritised areas, benefits included in the scholarships granted, international strategy and affirmative actions towards the inclusion of least favoured students. Additionally, an in-depth analysis of the institutional framework of the BCP is provided.

Third, the review provides recommendations for the improvement of this policy, pointing out which aspects of these recommendations should be prioritised.

Scope

The scope of this review for international experiences is best practices considered relevant by the OECD and the World Bank in terms of Human Capital Formation Abroad. The scope of Chilean policy includes Becas Chile as well as a revision of national scholarship programmes that complement it, in the fields of post-graduate studies, vocational and teacher training.

Operation

A joint OECD-World Bank review team visited Chile in August 2009 to review the BCP as an instrument to help Chile reach its goals for human capital development. The review team was co-led by Ian Whitman, (OECD) and Michael Crawford (World Bank) and included Tracey Burns (OECD), Michael Gallagher (Consultant-OECD and Rapporteur), Francisco Marmolejo (Consultant-OECD), Peter Tindemans (Consultant-World Bank), and Maria Paulina Mogollon (Consultant-World Bank).

The review report has drawn on the review team's collective knowledge of the Chilean tertiary education system, acquired in part from the production of the 2008 OECD-World Bank *Review of National Policies for Education: Tertiary Education in Chile*. The review team also included specific references to successful programmes and policies for human capital development used in a variety of OECD member and non-member countries.

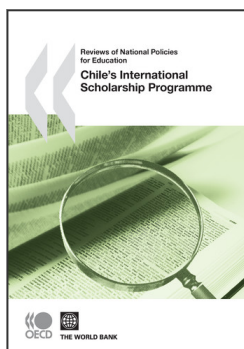
The operational counterpart within the Chilean government has been the Office of the Undersecretary of Finance in the Ministry of Finance. The counterpart provided the necessary technical support to the review team, including the provision of requested background information.

How the terms of reference are addressed in the report of the review

Throughout the report the review team draws upon a range of international experiences, to set the Chilean initiative in perspective, illustrate good practices, identify difficulties with particular approaches and drawn lessons from experience with policy reform.

Chapter 1 presents an overview of Chile's tertiary education system and the improvements underway to increase the country's research, development and innovation capacity. Chapter 2 describes the functioning of the BCP: it explains its origin and main provisions, compares a few of its dimensions with current international practices, and describes its key statistics, design principles and application evaluation process. Chapter 3 discusses the ability of Chile's human capital formation system to build capacity and foster innovation, and the challenge of attracting and reinserting scholarship recipient graduates into the country. Chapter 4 highlights the operational and institutional challenges facing the BCP and recommends ways in which these can be addressed. Conclusions are addressed at the end of the report.

The annexes are particularly important for readers unfamiliar with Chile. Annex A provides a brief summary of the country's society and economy. Annex B describes Chile's primary and secondary education system. Annex C explains the different mechanisms available for student financial support for tertiary first degree studies.



From:
Chile's International Scholarship Programme

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264086425-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD/The World Bank (2010), "Introduction", in *Chile's International Scholarship Programme*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264086425-4-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.