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Market Intelligence Chile

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KEY ACRONYMS & ORGANIZATIONS

Selected organizations and acronyms referenced throughout the guide

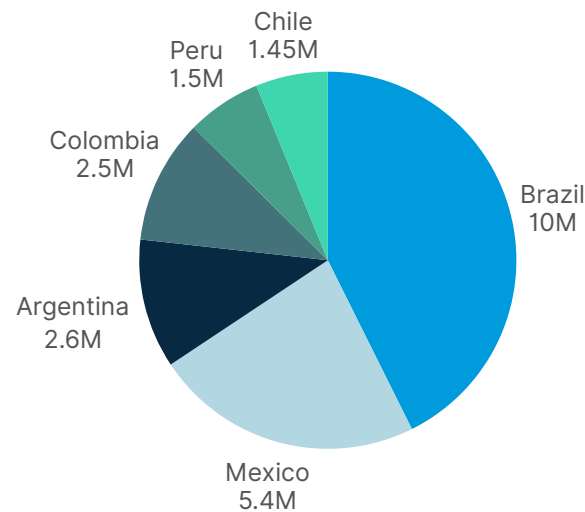
*Spanish language acronyms/abbreviations

Acronyms	Organizations
<u>AMTC</u>	Advanced Mining Technology Center
<u>ANID*</u>	Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo (National Research and Development Agency)
<u>CCM*</u>	Consejo de Competencias Mineras (Mining Competencies Council)
<u>CENIA*</u>	Centro Nacional de Inteligencia Artificial (National Center for Artificial Intelligence)
<u>CFT*</u>	Centros de Formación Técnica (Technical Training Centres)
<u>CNA* Chile</u>	Comisión Nacional de Acreditación (National Accreditation Commission)
<u>CNC*</u>	Cámara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo de Chile (National Chamber of Commerce, Services, and Tourism of Chile)
<u>CORFO*</u>	Corporación de Fomento de la Producción (Production Development Corporation)
<u>CRUCH*</u>	Consejo de Rectoras y Rectores de las Universidades Chilenas (Council of Rectors of Chilean Universities)
<u>CUECH*</u>	Consortio de Universidades del Estado de Chile (Consortium of State Universities of Chile)
<u>CUP*</u>	Corporación de Universidades Privadas (Corporation of Private Universities)
<u>EPV*</u>	Empresa Portuaria Valparaíso (Valparaíso Port Authority)
<u>ESO</u>	European Southern Observatory
<u>FIA*</u>	Fundación para la Innovación Agraria (Foundation for Agricultural Innovation)
<u>FONDECYT*</u>	Fondo Nacional de Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico (National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development)
<u>FONDEF*</u>	Fondo de Fomento al Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico (Fund for the Promotion of Scientific and Technological Development)
<u>H2 Chile</u>	Asociación Chilena de Hidrógeno (Chilean Hydrogen Association)
<u>ICM*</u>	Iniciativa Científica Milenio (Millennium Science Initiative) Administered by ANID
<u>INACH*</u>	Instituto Antártico Chileno (Chilean Antarctic Institute)
<u>INIA*</u>	Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (Agricultural Research Institute)
<u>IFOP*</u>	Instituto de Fomento Pesquero (Institute for Fisheries Development)
<u>IP*</u>	Institutos Profesionales (Professional Institutes)
<u>MINEDUC*</u>	Ministerio de Educación de Chile (Chilean Ministry of Education)
<u>MinCiencia*</u>	Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología, Conocimiento e Innovación (Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation)
<u>QS</u>	QS World University Rankings
<u>SENCE*</u>	Servicio Nacional de Capacitación y Empleo (National Training and Employment Service)
<u>SHOA*</u>	Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada de Chile (Chilean Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service)
<u>SIES*</u>	Servicio de Información de Educación Superior (Higher Education Information Service)
<u>SUBPESCA*</u>	Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura (Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture)
<u>SUBREI*</u>	Subsecretaría de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales (Undersecretariat for International Economic Relations)
<u>THE</u>	Times Higher Education World University Rankings
<u>TTO</u>	Technology Transfer Office
<u>Vertebral</u>	Asociación de Institutos Profesionales y Centros de Formación Técnica de Chile (Association of Professional Institutes and Technical Training Centers of Chile)

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN
REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Indicator	Regional Overview
Countries	33 (ECLAC, n.d.)
Population	650+ million inhabitants (ECLAC, 2024)
Tertiary Enrolment	30+ million students (UNESCO IESALC, 2026a)
Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate	53% (2023) (UNESCO IESALC, 2026b)
Institutional Landscape	Diverse public and private higher education landscape (UNESCO IESALC, 2026a)
Private Higher Education Institutions	49% of enrolment (UNESCO IESALC, 2026b)

Largest Higher Education Systems (# of students)



* Approximate enrolment, latest available national data.

Sources: ECLAC (n.d.); ECLAC (2024); UNESCO IESALC (2026a); UNESCO IESALC (2026b); ECLAC (2025); OECD (2025); INEP (2025); SEP (2024); Secretaría de Educación, Secretaría de Políticas Universitarias (SPU, 2025); Ministerio de Educación Nacional (n.d.); SUNEDU (2022); Servicio de Información de Educación Superior (SIES, 2025).

How Higher Education is Changing

Higher education systems across Latin America are undergoing structural shifts that directly shape opportunities for Canadian institutions:

- **Graduate education is becoming more career-oriented**, with rising demand for master’s degrees, professional programs, and executive education linked to employment outcomes.
- **Alignment with workforce needs is strengthening**, as institutions connect academic programs with labour-market demand, industry priorities, and national skills strategies.
- **Research is becoming more applied and industry-engaged**, expanding collaboration through applied research, technology transfer, commercialization, and innovation partnerships.
- **Flexible learning and alternative credentials are growing**, including microcredentials, short programs, modular learning, and online/hybrid delivery for professional development and lifelong learning.
- **Internationalization is becoming more strategic**, shifting beyond mobility toward research collaboration, faculty mobility, joint programs, and long-term institutional partnerships.

Sources: OECD et al. (2025); UNESCO IESALC (2026a); OECD and IDB (2022); UNESCO (2022); QS (2026); AIRC (2025).

Key Market Dynamics

Research & Innovation

Latin America’s research and innovation indicators remain below those of more research-intensive economies, creating opportunities for international research collaboration and capacity building, joint projects, and innovation partnerships.

Indicator	Latin America	OECD
High-tech employment	2.1%	7.7%
Digital-intensive employment	15%	21%
Labour productivity growth	0.9%	1.2%
Researchers per million inhabitants	668	4,358*

Source: OECD et al. (2025), UNESCO UIS (2026).

* Number of researchers in Europe and Northern America



Degree-Seeking Student Mobility & Funding

International student mobility continues to grow across Latin America, making graduate recruitment an important entry point for Canadian institutions. Students increasingly choose destinations based on **employability, academic quality, research excellence, scholarships, and career outcomes**. Scholarship agencies, financing organizations, and institutional funding mechanisms play a large role in supporting mobility. Partnerships with these entities and alignment with national funding priorities can strengthen **long-term graduate recruitment and research collaboration strategies**.

Sources: UNESCO (2026); OECD (2025); AIRC (2025); UNESCO IESALC (2025); QS (2026); OECD et al. (2025).

Language & Bilingual Education

Language skills remain a critical driver of **employability, mobility, and research collaboration** across Latin America. Demand for English-language education remains strong across Latin America, supporting opportunities in professional training, graduate preparation, and discipline-specific programming. Growing interest in multilingual competencies also creates opportunities for **French-language pathways, bilingual programs, and partnerships with Francophone institutions**.

Sources: UNESCO (2022, 2024); British Council (2023); Ethnologue (2026); Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).



Canada's Competitive Position

Canada's strengths in **applied research, innovation, inclusive education, and university-industry collaboration** align well with regional priorities, positioning Canadian institutions as potential partners in talent, research, and workforce development.

Chile exemplifies these dynamics and stands out as one of the region's most strategic markets for Canadian engagement.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Chile offers one of Latin America's strongest environments for long-term academic, research, and innovation partnerships. Its mature higher education system, internationally recognized quality assurance framework, competitive research funding, and strong culture of university–industry collaboration make it an attractive market for Canadian institutions seeking to expand research collaboration, graduate education, executive education, and innovation partnerships.

Chile's national priorities—including critical minerals, the energy transition, digital transformation, and sustainable agri-food, bioeconomy, and biotechnology—align closely with Canadian strengths, creating multiple opportunities for high-impact institutional collaboration.

Sources: INE Chile (2024); SIES (2025); OECD (2025); ANID (2025); CORFO (2025).

- Research-intensive universities, nationally funded research centres, and an internationally recognized quality assurance system create a high-quality environment for research collaboration, graduate education, and long-term institutional partnerships. (SIES; ANID, OECD, 2025).
- **Approximately 1.45 million students are enrolled across 130+ higher education institutions**, providing a focused market for graduate education and institutional partnerships. (SIES, 2025).
- A well-established quality assurance framework supports institutional transparency, international credibility, and informed partner selection. (MINEDUC; CNA Chile, 2025).

Strategic Opportunities for Canadian Institutions



Research & Innovation

Competitive research funding and nationally supported research priorities create strong opportunities for international collaboration.

Opportunity

Joint research, co-supervision, researcher mobility, applied R&D, research networks.



Graduate Education & Talent Development

Mature graduate education ecosystem and a highly qualified talent pool.

Opportunity

Master's and PhD pathways, cotutelle, graduate partnerships, scholarship-supported mobility, and selective recruitment.



Executive Education & Workforce Development

Industrial transformation is increasing demand for executive education, professional upskilling, and customized workforce development.

Opportunity

Executive programs, microcredentials, customized training, professional upskilling.



University–Industry Collaboration

Strong innovation ecosystems and commercialization mechanisms create opportunities for applied research and industry-sponsored collaboration.

Opportunity

Applied research, technology transfer, industry-sponsored projects, innovation partnerships.



Internationalization & Language Training

Internationalization is a strategic priority across Chilean higher education, with universities expanding research collaboration, academic mobility, and global engagement while demand for English and French language capacity continues to grow.

Opportunity

Joint and dual degrees, faculty collaboration, academic mobility, institutional agreements, English/French for Academic Purposes (EAP/FAP), discipline-specific language training, graduate preparation, and bilingual workforce development.

Sources: ANID (2025); CORFO (2025); OECD (2025); CRUCH (2025); Government of Canada (2025).

Market Implication

Canadian institutions should position Chile as a strategic partnership market rather than a high-volume recruitment destination. The greatest opportunities lie in building long-term institutional relationships through collaborative research, graduate education, executive and professional learning, technology transfer, and university–industry engagement. Institutions that align their expertise with Chile's research and innovation priorities will be well positioned to secure externally funded partnerships, expand graduate talent pipelines, and develop sustainable academic collaborations.



COUNTRY MARKET PROFILE

1. Market Context & Strategic Drivers

Chile combines a stable institutional environment, a mature research and innovation ecosystem, and nationally coordinated priorities in critical minerals, clean energy, artificial intelligence, guided by the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (2021–2030), and sustainability. These priorities align closely with Canadian strengths, creating opportunities for long-term collaboration in research, graduate education, innovation, executive education, and university–industry partnerships.

Sources: OECD (2025); SIES (2025); ANID (2025); CORFO (2025).

1.1. Chile at a Glance



Strategic Priority Sectors	
Critical Minerals & Sustainable Mining	Green Hydrogen
Renewable Energy & Decarbonization	Artificial Intelligence & Digital Technologies
Climate Adaptation & Water Security	Ocean, Marine, Antarctic & Polar Sciences
Sustainable Agri-food, Bioeconomy & Biotechnology	

Sources: INE Chile (2024); UN DESA (2024); World Bank (2025); SIES (2025); OECD (2025).

High-Potential Engagement Areas

Research partnerships | University–industry collaboration
Graduate education | Technology transfer | Executive education
Workforce development | Institutional partnerships | Dual degrees
Cotutelle agreements

1.2. Political and Institutional Context

Chile operates under a four-year presidential term. The current administration, led by President José Antonio Kast since March 2026, may introduce changes to national funding priorities; however, Chile's higher education and research systems continue to operate within a stable institutional framework. Because a significant share of research funding is allocated through national competitive funding programs, aligning institutional collaboration with Chile's research and innovation priorities is an important consideration for Canadian institutions.

The **Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)** oversees higher education policy, while the **Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation (MinCiencia)** sets national science and innovation priorities through its **National Research and Development Agency (ANID)**, the country's principal competitive funding agency for research, graduate education, and international scientific collaboration. This coordinated governance model provides Canadian institutions with clear counterparts for policy dialogue, research collaboration, and higher education partnerships.

Sources: MINEDUC (2025); ANID (2025); Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation (2025).

1.3. Economic Transformation & Investment Drivers

Chile's economic transformation is driven by industrial decarbonization, digitalization, productivity growth, and the development of higher-value industries. These trends are increasing demand for advanced research, highly qualified talent, applied innovation, and stronger collaboration between universities and industry. For Canadian institutions, these trends create opportunities to contribute through **collaborative research, graduate education, executive education, applied innovation, and partnerships with universities, government, and industry.**

Sources: OECD (2025); World Bank (2025); SUBREI (2025)

Research, Innovation & Commercialization Ecosystem

Chile's universities are at the centre of the country's research and innovation ecosystem, supported by competitive funding from ANID. Complementing this ecosystem, the **Production Development Corporation (CORFO)** and university Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) help translate research into commercialization, entrepreneurship, and industry partnerships.

Current collaboration increasingly focuses on applied R&D, technology transfer, workforce development, and innovation projects in strategic sectors. Competitive funding mechanisms such as ANID's FONDEF support applied research and collaboration between universities and industry and public-sector partners; the ANID-administered Millennium Science Initiative funds high-level research institutes and centres while strengthening advanced research training; and CORFO innovation programs support technology development, commercialization, entrepreneurship, and pilot projects. Together, these mechanisms enable universities, government, and industry to translate research into innovation, talent development, and productive transformation.

Canada and Chile have developed a well-established higher education relationship supported by university-to-university agreements, collaborative research, academic mobility, and graduate education partnerships. Bilateral cooperation has been further strengthened through formal mechanisms such as the **Canada–Chile Strategic Partnership Framework**, the longstanding scientific cooperation established between the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Chile's former National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT), now the **National Research and Development Agency (ANID)**, and the recent **Memorandum of Understanding between ANID and NSERC**. Academic mobility initiatives, including the **Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP)** and the **Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program**, further support institutional partnerships, researcher mobility, and collaborative research. Existing collaboration in strategic fields—including sustainable mining, clean energy, astronomy, climate and Antarctic research, health sciences, and engineering—provides a strong foundation for expanding long-term institutional and research partnerships.

Sources: ANID (2025); CORFO (2025); Global Affairs Canada (2025); OECD (2025)

2. Understanding Chile's Higher Education Ecosystem

Chile combines research-intensive universities, professionally oriented institutions, and a robust quality assurance framework that provides multiple entry points for research, graduate education, workforce development, and institutional collaboration.

Sources: MINEDUC (2025); SIES (2025); CNA Chile (2025); OECD (2025).

2.1. Higher Education System

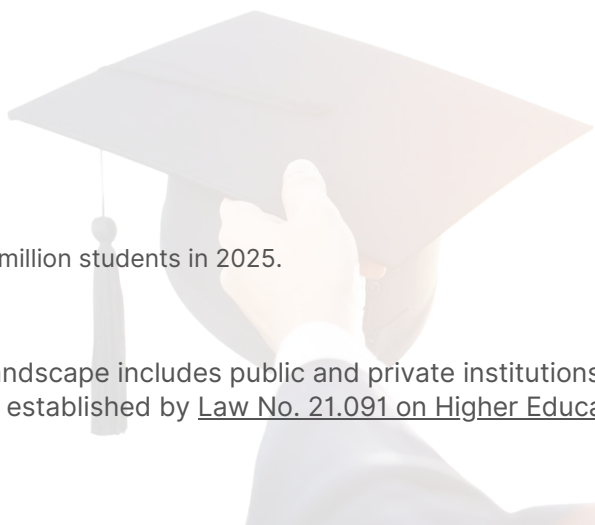
Key System Characteristics



System scale: The sector enrolled approximately 1.45 million students in 2025.
(SIES, 2025).



Public and private participation: The institutional landscape includes public and private institutions governed under the national legislative framework established by Law No. 21.091 on Higher Education.
Source: Law No. 21.091, 2018; MINEDUC, 2025.





Quality assurance framework: Institutional and program accreditation is administered by the **National Accreditation Commission (CNA Chile)** under the national quality assurance system. (CNA Chile, 2025; Law No. 21.091, 2018).

Sources: MINEDUC (2025); SIES (2025); CNA Chile (2025).

Institution Type	No. of Institutions (2025)	Primary Role	Primary Collaboration Opportunities
Universities	58	Undergraduate, graduate and doctoral education, research, innovation and public engagement	Graduate education, joint research, doctoral partnerships, mobility and institutional collaboration
Professional Institutes (IP)	31	Professionally oriented education aligned with labour-market needs	Applied education, workforce development, professional programs and customized training
Technical Training Centres (CFT)	43	Technical and vocational education focused on employment-oriented skills	Technical training, applied learning, industry partnerships and workforce development

Sources: MINEDUC (2025); SIES (2025); OECD (2025).

Strategic Characteristics Shaping Collaboration

System Feature	Key Facts
 Graduate Education & Research	Research-intensive universities, supported by ANID's competitive funding ecosystem, position Chile as a strong partner for graduate education and international research collaboration.
 International Engagement	Internationalization is embedded across Chile's higher education system through research partnerships, academic mobility, and global collaboration.
 Applied Learning & Industry Engagement	A mature innovation ecosystem connects universities, industry, and government to accelerate applied research, technology commercialization, workforce development, and industry-responsive talent development.

Sources: ANID (2025); Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation (MinCiencia, 2025); Ministry of Education (MINEDUC, 2025); SIES (2025); CORFO (2025); OECD (2025).

Work-Integrated Learning & Experiential Education

Work-integrated and experiential learning is well established across Chilean higher education through internships, applied research, service-learning, community-engaged education, and collaboration with industry, civil society, and surrounding communities. These approaches create opportunities for Canadian institutions to develop applied education initiatives with both economic and societal impact.

Additional information on Chile's higher education governance and quality assurance framework, work-integrated learning and experiential education, and bilateral cooperation frameworks is provided in [Appendix A — 2.1 Higher Education System](#).



2.2. Key Institutions & Stakeholders

Chile’s higher education ecosystem includes government agencies, university networks, research organizations and technical-professional institutions. These actors provide distinct entry points depending on the intended form of collaboration.

Partner Category	Representative Organizations	Primary Role	Strategic Value for Canadian Institutions
 Higher Education Governance	MINEDUC, <u>Subsecretaría de Educación Superior</u> (Undersecretariat of Higher Education), <u>Superintendencia de Educación Superior</u> (Superintendence of Higher Education)	Policy, system coordination, institutional oversight, and regulatory compliance.	Institutional engagement, regulatory understanding, due diligence, and engagement with regional higher education ecosystems.
 Quality Assurance	<u>National Accreditation Commission (CNA Chile)</u>	Institutional and program accreditation.	Partner assessment and quality assurance.
 University Networks	Council of Rectors of Chilean Universities (CRUCH), Learn Chile, Consortium of State Universities of Chile (CUECH)	Coordinate university collaboration, internationalization, and sector-wide engagement across Chile's higher education system.	Principal gateway for identifying institutional partners, accessing university networks, and developing long-term academic and research collaborations.
 Research Organizations	National Research and Development Agency (ANID), Millennium Institutes	Research funding and scientific collaboration.	Joint research, mobility and graduate supervision.
 Innovation Organizations	CORFO, Technology Transfer Offices	Innovation, commercialization and industry engagement.	Applied research, technology transfer and industry partnerships.
 Technical-Professional Networks	Vertebral, Professional Institutes and CFTs	Applied and employment-oriented education.	Workforce development and applied learning partnerships.
 Industry Associations & Industrial Clusters	Industrial Development Society (SOFOFA), Mining Council (Consejo Minero), Salmon Industry Association of Chile (SalmonChile), Chilean Hydrogen Association (H2 Chile)	Industry representation, innovation, and workforce development.	Connect with industry, employers, and innovation ecosystems for applied research, executive education, and talent development.
 Private Sector & Innovation Partners	National Copper Corporation of Chile (Codelco), Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM), Antofagasta Minerals, Empresas CMPC S.A. (CMPC), ARAUCO	Industry collaboration and innovation.	Partnerships for applied research, technology development, executive education, and workforce initiatives.
 Regional Innovation Hubs	Santiago Metropolitan Region, Antofagasta Region, Valparaíso Region, Biobío Region, Coquimbo Region, Magallanes Region, Los Ríos Region, and Los Lagos Region	Regional research, innovation, and industry ecosystems.	Facilitate regional partnerships, research collaboration, and engagement in strategic sectors.

Sources: MINEDUC (2025); CNA Chile (2025); CRUCH (2025); CUECH (2025); ANID (2025); CORFO (2025); Vertebral (2025).

Detailed profiles of Chile's principal government agencies, national higher education associations, and leading universities relevant to institutional collaboration are provided in [Appendix B — 2.2. Key Institutions & Stakeholders](#)



2.3. Collaboration & Funding Ecosystem

Canada–Chile collaboration is supported by complementary research funding opportunities alongside faculty-to-faculty relationships, shared research interests, academic mobility, and existing institutional agreements. Together, these mechanisms create a strong foundation for collaborative research, graduate education, innovation, and long-term institutional partnerships.

Support Mechanism	Primary Purpose	Strategic Value	Representative Mechanisms
 Research & Graduate Student Funding	Support research, innovation, and talent development.	Enables joint research, graduate supervision, faculty collaboration, and applied innovation.	ANID competitive grants, FONDECYT, FONDEF, Millennium Science Initiative, and institutional funds ANID graduate scholarships and institutional scholarships.
	Support master’s and doctoral education.	Graduate recruitment, research training and student mobility.	ANID graduate scholarships and institutional scholarships.
 Mobility Programs	Facilitate student, faculty and researcher mobility.	Academic partnerships, exchanges, research internships, visiting scholars, and long-term research collaboration.	Institutional agreements, university mobility programs and Mitacs.
 Bilateral Cooperation Frameworks	Support long-term institutional collaboration.	Joint programming, research partnerships and capacity building.	Canada-Chile Strategic Partnership Framework and institutional agreements in science, technology and innovation.
 Innovation & Commercialization Support	Support long-term institutional collaboration.	Commercialization, entrepreneurship and university–industry collaboration.	Canada-Chile Strategic Partnership Framework and institutional agreements in science, technology and innovation.
 Industry Partnerships	Connect education and research with employers’ needs.	Executive education, customized training and industry-sponsored research.	Corporate partnerships, sector associations and industry clusters.

Sources: ANID (2025); CORFO (2025); MinCiencia (2025); Government of Canada (2025).

*The availability of publicly funded programs and competitive funding opportunities is subject to annual government budget allocations, policy priorities, and the publication of funding calls.

Practical guidance on funding opportunities and partnership mechanisms relevant to Canadian institutions pursuing research, graduate education, and innovation partnerships in Chile is provided in [Appendix C — 2.3. Funding & Partnership Support Ecosystem](#).

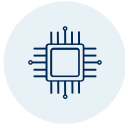
Implications for Canadian Institutions

Chile is best approached through targeted institutional engagement rather than broad market entry. Research universities and ANID-supported networks provide the strongest foundations for collaborative research and graduate education, while CORFO, technical-professional institutions, and industry organizations create opportunities in applied innovation, workforce development, executive education, and university–industry collaboration.

3. Shared Priority Areas & Strategic Alignment

Chile Strategic Priority Area	Evidence of Strategic Priority	Strategic Alignment with Canada	Collaboration Opportunities
 Critical Minerals & Sustainable Mining	Chile's National Lithium Strategy prioritizes sustainable production, value-added activities, technological development, and public-private collaboration to strengthen Chile's position in the global lithium value chain.	Canada's expertise in mining engineering, critical minerals, battery materials, environmental management, and sustainable resource development complements Chile's transition toward higher-value mineral industries.	Joint Research • Graduate Education • Cotutelle PhD • Mining Engineering • Battery Technologies • Sustainable Mining • Workforce Development
 Green Hydrogen	Chile's National Green Hydrogen Strategy 2026–2030 prioritizes domestic demand, export competitiveness, local value creation, industrial decarbonization, and human capital development, positioning green hydrogen as a strategic pillar of Chile's productive transformation.	Canada's expertise in hydrogen technologies, clean fuels, electrolysis, energy systems, and industrial decarbonization aligns closely with Chile's emerging hydrogen economy.	Joint Research • Graduate Education • Dual Degrees • Hydrogen Technologies • Demonstration Projects • Executive Education • Industry Collaboration
 Renewable Energy & Decarbonization	Chile's energy transition framework targets 80% renewable electricity generation by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, supported by continued investment in renewable generation, storage technologies, and grid modernization.	Canada's strengths in renewable energy, smart grids, energy storage, sustainable infrastructure, and clean technologies complement Chile's decarbonization agenda.	Joint Research • Dual Degrees • Clean Energy Systems • Energy Storage • Smart Grids • Applied Research • Executive Education
 Artificial Intelligence & Digital Technologies	Chile's National Artificial Intelligence Policy and Action Plan promote AI adoption, advanced digital skills, responsible AI governance, research, and digital transformation across the economy.	Canada's internationally recognized leadership in AI, cybersecurity, automation, digital innovation, and responsible AI aligns closely with Chile's digital agenda.	Joint Research • Graduate Education • AI & Data Science • Cybersecurity • Digital Innovation • Executive Education

Sources: OECD (2025); Government of Chile; Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation; Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism; InvestChile.

Chile Strategic Priority Area	Evidence of Strategic Priority	Strategic Alignment with Canada	Collaboration Opportunities
 Climate Adaptation & Water Security	Chile's <u>Climate Change Framework Law</u> establishes carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2050, prioritizing adaptation, water security, and environmental sustainability across all sectors.	Canada's expertise in climate science, water-resource management, environmental engineering, and resilient infrastructure complements Chile's climate priorities.	Joint Research • Cotutelle PhD • Water Management • Environmental Engineering • Climate Science • Capacity Building
 Ocean, Marine, Antarctic & Polar Sciences	Chile's extensive coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone support national priorities in marine research, aquaculture, ocean conservation, sustainable fisheries, and maritime innovation.	Canada's internationally recognized expertise in ocean sciences, marine technologies, aquaculture, and coastal resilience provides strong opportunities for long-term collaboration.	Joint Research • Research Mobility • Cotutelle PhD • Marine Sciences • Aquaculture • Ocean Technologies • Coastal Innovation
 Sustainable Agri-food, Bioeconomy & Biotechnology	Chile's Sustainable Productive Development Policy (DPS) identifies biotechnology as a strategic investment area alongside green hydrogen, lithium, the circular economy, and Industry 4.0, positioning science, technology, innovation, and sustainability as key drivers of productive transformation. <u>InvestChile</u> also identifies the food industry among Chile's priority sectors for investment and innovation.	Canada's strengths in agri-food innovation, biotechnology, bioeconomy, sustainable agriculture, food systems, and life sciences align closely with Chile's transition toward higher-value, knowledge-intensive, and sustainable production.	Applied Research • Graduate Education • Dual Degrees • Biotechnology • Bioeconomy • Agri-food Innovation • Technology Transfer

Sources: OECD (2025); Government of Chile; Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation; Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism; InvestChile.

Further information on Chile's strategic academic fields, research ecosystems, representative institutions, potential partners, and engagement opportunities is provided in [Appendix D — 3. Strategic Academic Fields — Chile & Market Opportunities](#)

Cross-Cutting Opportunities for Canadian Institutions

Cross-Cutting Opportunity	Strategic Value
Graduate Talent & Workforce Development	Chile is strengthening advanced skills development and workforce capabilities to support innovation and productivity. These priorities create opportunities for Canadian institutions in graduate education, executive education, professional certificates, microcredentials, and industry-focused training.
Multilingual Capacity & Language Training	As Chile expands international research collaboration and graduate mobility, Canadian institutions can support EAP/FAP, discipline-specific language training, graduate preparation, and bilingual workforce development.
Applied Research, Innovation & Commercialization	Chile's Sustainable Productive Development Policy (DPS) positions science, technology, innovation, and knowledge transfer as drivers of productive transformation. Supported by ANID and CORFO, the ecosystem creates opportunities for collaboration in applied research, research commercialization, innovation management, entrepreneurship, intellectual property, and university–industry partnerships.

Sources: Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism; Ministry of Education (MINEDUC); Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation; ANID; CORFO; OECD (2025).



4. Strategic Engagement Pathways

The opportunities identified throughout this guide can be pursued through three complementary engagement pathways. Institutions will often combine these approaches as partnerships mature.

Pathway 1: Research, Innovation & Commercialization

Research and innovation provide one of the most effective entry points for Canadian institutions seeking to establish long-term institutional partnerships. This pathway focuses on collaborative research, applied innovation, and industry engagement.

Sources: ANID; Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation; OECD.



Joint & Competitively Funded Research

Develop collaborative research partnerships and secure externally funded research initiatives aligned with strategic priorities.

Partners: ANID; [Universidad de Chile](#); [Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile](#); [Universidad de Concepción](#); other institutions aligned with strategic priorities.

Support: ANID competitive funding programs, institutional research funding, bilateral and international research initiatives.



Applied Research, Innovation & Commercialization

Strengthen university–industry collaboration to accelerate innovation, commercialization, and societal impact.

Partners: CORFO, [Fundación Chile](#); [InvestChile](#); university Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs); leading research universities (e.g., Advanced Mining Technology Center (AMTC) – Universidad de Chile; Lithium and Sustainable Mining Research Center – Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile); Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH); [Chile Antarctic Interuniversity Alliance](#).

Support: Innovation funding programs, collaborative R&D initiatives, technology transfer and commercialization programs, and industry engagement platforms.



Researcher Mobility & Research Networks

Strengthen long-term international research partnerships through researcher mobility, faculty engagement, and collaborative research networks.

Partners: ANID; CRUCH; leading research universities; international partner institutions.

Support: Institutional agreements, researcher mobility programs, international research collaboration initiatives, and faculty exchange mechanisms.

Key Success Factors:

- Align collaboration with Chile's national research and innovation priorities.
- Integrate research partnerships with industry engagement and competitive funding opportunities.
- Establish long-term institutional relationships that support sustained research collaboration.

Best Suited For: Canadian institutions seeking to expand international research, strengthen university–industry collaboration, and participate in internationally collaborative and externally funded research and innovation initiatives

Sources: Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation; ANID; CORFO.

Pathway 2: Graduate Education & Talent Development

Graduate education offers a practical mechanism for developing sustainable institutional partnerships through faculty collaboration, joint supervision, graduate mobility, and research training.

Sources: MINEDUC; SIES; ANID.



Graduate Education & Faculty Partnerships

Develop long-term graduate talent pipelines by establishing faculty partnerships, joint supervision, and collaborative graduate programs.

Partners: ANID; CRUCH; graduate schools; international offices; leading research universities.

Support: Faculty networks, joint research projects, dual degree frameworks, cotutelle and joint supervision agreements, doctoral research stays, and institutional internationalization initiatives.



Scholarships & Graduate Funding

Respond to evolving workforce needs through microcredentials, professional certificates, stackable credentials, short courses, and lifelong learning programs aligned with digital transformation and strategic sectors.

Partners: ANID; leading research universities.

Support: National graduate scholarships, institutional funding, research assistantships, and other graduate funding opportunities, where available.



Graduate Mobility & Academic Exchange

Deepen long-term academic partnerships by facilitating graduate and faculty exchange between Canadian and Chilean institutions.

Partners: CRUCH; Canadian and Chilean partner universities.

Support: Graduate mobility agreements, institutional partnership frameworks, faculty exchanges, academic exchange initiatives, and Government of Canada programs such as the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP) and the Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program, where applicable.

Key Success Factors:

- Position graduate education as an extension of research and institutional collaboration.
- Build partnerships through faculty collaboration, research networks, mobility agreements, and joint supervision before scaling graduate education initiatives.
- Prioritize research-intensive universities and strategically aligned fields.

Best Suited For: Canadian institutions seeking to strengthen graduate education partnerships through research collaboration, joint supervision, faculty engagement, and the development of long-term graduate talent pathways.

Sources: ANID; Ministry of Education (MINEDUC); OECD

Pathway 3: Executive Education & Workforce Development

Chile's Sustainable Productive Development Policy (DPS) is increasing demand for executive education, professional upskilling, and workforce development across strategic industries. For Canadian institutions, this pathway creates opportunities to co-develop industry-responsive executive education, microcredentials, and customized professional training that support Chile's evolving workforce needs and innovation priorities.

Sources: CORFO; SENCE; ChileValora; OECD.



Sector-Specific Executive Education

Strengthen executive capabilities and support organizational transformation through sector-specific leadership development.

Partners: CORFO, SOFOFA, Chilean Chamber of Commerce (CNC), Consejo de Competencias Mineras (CCM), leading universities and business schools.

Support: Executive education partnerships, customized corporate programs, leadership development initiatives, and sector-specific executive training.



Microcredentials & Workforce Upskilling

Develop in-demand technical, digital, and professional skills through flexible, competency-based learning.

Partners: SENCE, ChileValora, SOFOFA, continuing education units at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad de Chile, and Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez.

Support: Competency-based training, microcredentials, continuing education, workforce reskilling and upskilling initiatives, and flexible learning models.



Employer Partnerships & Applied Learning

Build long-term partnerships with employers through applied learning and industry-driven talent development.

Partners: CORFO, Fundación Chile, industry associations, employers, universities with strong continuing education and applied learning programs.

Support: Work-integrated learning, internships, applied industry projects, and university-industry collaboration initiatives.

Key Success Factors:

- Prioritize sectors where workforce needs are being shaped by Chile's economic and technological transformation.
- Co-design programs with employers and industry partners to ensure relevance and support sustained institutional-industry engagement.
- Leverage flexible, modular, and stackable learning models to respond to evolving workforce demands.

Best Suited For: Canadian institutions seeking to expand executive education, professional training, and long-term partnerships with employers and industry organizations.

Sources: SENCE; CORFO; ChileValora; Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism; OECD.

The organizations, examples, and engagement pathways presented are illustrative rather than exhaustive. Canadian institutions are encouraged to conduct further research and consult the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS), relevant government agencies, associations, sector organizations, and local partners to identify additional partners and collaboration opportunities.



5. Regional Opportunity Hubs

Chile's higher education, research, and innovation capacity is concentrated across distinct regional ecosystems, each offering different academic strengths, industrial clusters, research infrastructure, and collaboration opportunities. Rather than selecting partners based solely on geography, Canadian institutions should prioritize regions that best align with their institutional objectives and strategic areas of collaboration. Representative universities were selected based on research capacity, international engagement, regional specialization, and consistent recognition in major international university rankings (QS and Times Higher Education), while ecosystem partners reflect leading organizations shaping each region's innovation and economic development.

Antofagasta Region



Academic & Research Strengths:
[Universidad Católica del Norte](#), [Universidad de Antofagasta](#), mining and engineering research



Key Industries & Ecosystem Enablers:
Copper, lithium, mining technologies, automation, green hydrogen



Representative Employers & Industry Leaders:
[Codelco](#), [SQM](#), [BHP](#), [Antofagasta Minerals](#)



High-Potential Opportunities:
Applied research, critical minerals, technology development, university–industry collaboration

Coquimbo Region



Academic & Research Strengths:
[Universidad de La Serena](#), astronomy and astrophysics research infrastructure



Key Industries & Ecosystem Enablers:
Astronomy, scientific instrumentation, data-intensive research



Representative Employers & Industry Leaders:
[European Southern Observatory \(ESO\)](#), [AURA](#), [Gemini Observatory](#)



High-Potential Opportunities:
Astronomy, physics, data science, international scientific collaboration

Valparaíso Region



Academic & Research Strengths:
[Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso](#), [Universidad de Valparaíso](#), [Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María \(UTFSM\)](#), engineering, applied sciences, marine research, energy, and mining technologies.



Key Industries & Ecosystem Enablers:
Maritime logistics, engineering, energy, mining technologies, environmental technologies, and climate resilience.



Representative Employers & Industry Leaders:
[Port of Valparaíso \(EPV\)](#), [AES Andes](#)



High-Potential Opportunities:
Engineering, marine sciences, sustainability, clean technologies, climate research, and international research partnerships

A map of Chile with colored circles and lines indicating regional opportunity hubs. The hubs are labeled: ANTOFAGASTA (top left), COQUIMBO (top left), VALPARAÍSO (center left), LOS RÍOS / LOS LAGOS (bottom left), SANTIAGO METROPOLITAN (center right), BIOBÍO (center right), and MAGALLANES (bottom right).

Sources: OECD (2025); ANID (2025); CORFO (2025); InvestChile (2025); Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation (2025); CRUCH (2025); institutional websites.

Los Ríos / Los Lagos Region



Academic & Research Strengths:
[Universidad Austral de Chile \(UACH\)](#), aquaculture, marine and coastal sciences, veterinary sciences, environmental sciences, biotechnology, and ecosystem research.



Key Industries & Ecosystem Enablers:
Aquaculture, blue economy, sustainable fisheries, seafood production, marine biotechnology, environmental sustainability, and coastal innovation



Representative Employers & Industry Leaders:
[SalmonChile](#), [INTESAL](#), [IFOP \(Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture Research\)](#), regional aquaculture clusters.



High-Potential Opportunities:
Aquaculture, blue economy, marine biotechnology, sustainable fisheries, environmental research, climate resilience, applied research, and university–industry collaboration.

Detailed profiles of each hub—including major institutions, strategic industries, regional organizations, and collaboration opportunities—are provided in [Appendix E — 5. Regional Opportunity Hubs](#)

Santiago Metropolitan



Academic & Research Strengths:
[Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile](#), [Universidad de Chile](#), [Universidad de Santiago de Chile \(USACH\)](#), national research centres, graduate education, policy leadership



Key Industries & Ecosystem Enablers:
Digital technologies, life sciences, financial services, entrepreneurship, public policy



Representative Employers & Industry Leaders:
[ANID](#), [CORFO](#), [Start-Up Chile](#), [Fundación Chile](#)



High-Potential Opportunities:
Graduate education, research collaboration, executive education, policy engagement, institutional partnerships

Biobío Region



Academic & Research Strengths:
[Universidad de Concepción](#), [Universidad del Bío-Bío](#), applied engineering and manufacturing research



Key Industries & Ecosystem Enablers:
Advanced manufacturing, forestry, bioeconomy, Industry 4.0, materials



Representative Employers & Industry Leaders:
[CMPC](#), [Arauco](#), [ASMAR](#)



High-Potential Opportunities:
Industrial innovation, applied engineering, workforce development, university–industry collaboration

Magallanes Region



Academic & Research Strengths:
[Universidad de Magallanes](#), Antarctic and polar research



Key Industries & Ecosystem Enablers:
Green hydrogen, renewable energy, Antarctic science, climate research



Representative Employers & Industry Leaders:
[INACH](#), [Chile Antarctic Interuniversity Alliance \(AICA\)](#), [HIF Global](#), [ENAP](#)



High-Potential Opportunities:
Climate science, Antarctic research, renewable energy, emerging hydrogen technologies

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6.Strategic Partnership & Engagement Toolkit

Canada and Chile already benefit from a well-established higher education relationship supported by collaborative research, institutional partnerships, academic mobility, and university-to-university agreements. Canadian institutions can build on this strong foundation by aligning their strengths with Chile's strategic priorities and leveraging established higher education, research, government, and industry networks. The following toolkit outlines a practical approach for developing and scaling long-term institutional partnerships.

6.1. Partnership Development Framework

Stage	Illustrative Activities	Recommended Actions	Expected Outcome
 Build on Existing Relationships	Identify strategic partners and align institutional priorities with Chile's higher education and innovation ecosystem.	Participate in institutional missions; engage with CRUCH, Learn Chile, ANID, CORFO, universities, and government stakeholders; attend sector events and research conferences.	Market understanding, institutional visibility, and partner identification.
 Launch Collaboration	Establish initial collaboration through targeted initiatives aligned with institutional strengths.	Initiate collaborative research, graduate partnerships, faculty exchanges, COIL, executive education, or applied innovation projects.	Initial collaboration, institutional alignment, and relationship building.
 Expand Collaboration	Broaden successful initiatives across multiple academic and institutional areas.	Develop dual degrees, cotutelle agreements, executive education, applied research, university–industry partnerships, and collaborative funding proposals.	Multi-dimensional institutional collaboration and expanded engagement.
 Institutionalize the Partnership	Establish sustainable, long-term institutional partnerships.	Formalize institutional agreements, develop multi-year collaboration plans, pursue joint funding, and maintain recurring mobility and partnership activities.	Sustainable strategic partnerships with long-term institutional impact.

Source: Developed by the authors based on Global Affairs Canada, Trade Commissioner Service, Universities Canada, OECD, and UNESCO.

6.2. Key Engagement Platforms & Access Points

The organizations and engagement platforms listed are provided as strategic references and potential sources of support. Institutions are encouraged to consult the TCS, the Embassy of Canada in Chile, and relevant government agencies, sector organizations, as appropriate.

Engagement Channel	Key Platforms & Access Points	Strategic Value
Government & Market Intelligence	Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) ; Embassy of Canada to Chile ; Global Affairs Canada ; InvestChile	Market intelligence, stakeholder identification, government engagement, connections to national and regional innovation ecosystems, and guidance on relevant Government of Canada resources for international engagement, including visa and mobility information where applicable.
Institutional Missions	Universities Canada; CALDO Consortium; CRUCH; Learn Chile; bilateral academic and research missions	Build on established Canada–Chile academic relationships through direct engagement with university leaders, government agencies, research organizations, and industry partners to expand institutional collaboration.
Recruitment Platforms	EduCanada ; graduate education fairs; institutional outreach initiatives; bilateral recruitment missions	Graduate talent engagement, institutional visibility, and the development of long-term academic and mobility partnerships.
Industry & Innovation	CORFO; SOFOFA; SENCE; ChileValora; innovation clusters; employers	Applied research, executive education, workforce development, and long-term university–industry partnerships.

Sources: Global Affairs Canada (2025); Trade Commissioner Service (2025); InvestChile (2025); Universities Canada (2025); CRUCH (2025); Learn Chile (2025); CALDO Consortium (2025); EduCanada (2025); CORFO (2025); SOFOFA (2025); SENCE (2025); ChileValora (2025).

A detailed overview of recruitment events, partnership missions, and operational considerations is provided in [Appendix F – 6. Key Engagement Platforms & Missions](#).



6.3. Strategic Considerations for Canadian Institutions



Adopt a phased engagement approach. Long-term partnerships are typically developed by expanding successful collaborations over time rather than pursuing isolated activities.



Align institutional strengths with Chile's national priorities. Focus engagement where your institution's academic, research, and workforce development capabilities complement Chile's strategic sectors.



Leverage established networks. Organizations such as CRUCH, Learn Chile, ANID, CORFO, Universities Canada, and the Trade Commissioner Service can facilitate partner identification and institutional engagement.



Invest in sustained relationship building. Regular dialogue, reciprocal visits, faculty collaboration, and joint initiatives are essential to maintaining successful long-term partnerships.

Sources: Trade Commissioner Service (2025); Global Affairs Canada (2025); CRUCH (2025); ANID (2025); CORFO (2025); InvestChile (2025).

Conclusion

Chile provides multiple entry points for collaboration across research, graduate education, executive learning, and innovation. Rather than viewing these as separate opportunities, institutions should adopt a phased approach that begins with targeted collaboration, expands through faculty and institutional engagement, and evolves into long-term strategic partnerships supported by government, research, and industry networks.

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