



 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

REGIONAL OFFICE



**DRCLAS REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT
2006 - 2007**

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Annual Report 2006-2007

The DRCLAS Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, has made great progress institutionalizing opportunities for Harvard students to study, research and work in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru as well as working with Harvard faculty on projects to create knowledge and contribute to the region.

The innovative DRCLAS Summer Internship Program (SIP), first piloted in Santiago in 2005, has become Harvard's largest internship program. In 2006, 58 College students traveled to Buenos Aires, Caracas, La Paz, Lima, and Santiago for a two-month summer experience that included an internship placement, weeklong orientation, host-family stay, organized seminars and support from DRCLAS staff. During summer 2007, 64 students participated in internships in non-profit, public, international and private sector organizations in those countries. DRCLAS and the Office of Career Services collaborated to provide students with grants that allowed many to participate.

With assistance from Harvard's Office of International Programs and the Business School's Latin America Research Center in Buenos Aires, study abroad opportunities increased greatly with the Buenos Aires-based program. During the past academic year, 16 students enrolled in three Argentine universities with the DRCLAS program.

The Regional Office also works extensively with Harvard graduate students. In collaboration with the Medical School, the Regional Office has developed an intensive Spanish language program combined with an internship opportunity at local non-profit organizations. The program's objective is to build the students' Spanish language skills

relevant to their future medical practice, while facilitating students' work in a local social organization.

The School of Public Health's winter term course "Health Reform and Community Medicine in Chile," directed by professor Thomas Bossert in Santiago, has become one of the School's most popular offerings. The course allows students to see major public health policy and implementation initiatives through the eyes of policy makers and community leaders. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on policy or evaluation project.

The Regional Office continues to work with faculty from across the University to promote research and policy initiatives ranging from social housing to literature, and from anthropology to educational reform. For example, the Regional Office is collaborating on a major effort to improve the quality of early childhood education in Chile. The project builds on a successful July 2006 conference on "Enhancing the Quality of Early Education" held in Santiago; it was cosponsored by the Fundación Educacional Oportunidad, DRCLAS, Harvard's Graduate School of Education and the Chilean Ministry of Education. The project aims to make a major contribution to the development, implementation and evaluation of successful early education interventions that promote language skills development for low-income children in Chile. The project receives support from the Chile-based Fundación Educacional Oportunidad, Instituto de Desarrollo de la Educación para las Américas (IDEA) and UNICEF.

In recent years, the Regional Office has welcomed Harvard faculty and staff working on different world areas, including

representatives of the Asia Center, the U.S.-Japan Center, and the Davis Center for Russian Studies. Collaboration includes assessing how DRCLAS's overseas model might be relevant to other international initiatives at the University.