

To the Selection Committee  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison

My name is Sebastian I. Molina. I am 22 years old, and I am a fifth-year student of Business Engineering at Universidad Austral in Valdivia, Chile. In addition to my studies, I have had economic engineering assistantships since 2021 and I am currently working on my research project (thesis) about the waste generated by agricultural businesses. Furthermore, I am an athlete and have played soccer since I was a child. I had the opportunity to develop as a soccer player in "Deportes Valdivia" from the second professional division of Chile, and I now play on the university soccer team. I also have had work experiences during my school vacations.


I know people who were selected for this scholarship several years ago and others who were involved with this program at Universidad Austral de Chile. Through them I know the quality of the education provided at the prestigious University of Wisconsin and how valuable the experience was to their professional development.

My motivations for applying for the scholarship are related to my academic goals. My time in college has awakened in me a great interest in the field of economic sciences, and more specifically agricultural economics. Approximately 30% of Chilean companies are related to the agricultural industry, making it a key sector for the progress and development of Chile. I know that The University of Wisconsin has an excellent agricultural economics department, and I am hopeful that I might further my education in that field while at the University of Wisconsin.

I highly understand the importance of promoting public policies that encourage optimal and sustainable production in agriculture. I believe that the education and experience I would receive at the University of Wisconsin would help prepare me to make a contribution to Chile's development in this field. Additionally, I intend to participate in future research and studies to put me on a path to continue my studies in a graduate program. Moreover, I would like to share the knowledge acquired to help my classmates with their academic development through assistantships or workshops. My goal is to work in research at the UACH and I believe I have a good chance of achieving it. I will put all my efforts to do it.

With respect to ways to advertise this opportunity in Chile, I suggest contacting the offices in the major universities in Chile that coordinate international student affairs. At my university, that office is located in the Academic Building. Information about the Neale Silva Scholarship should be posted where students congregate, including in the individual faculties. With the approval and support of the administration of the UACH, I plan to prepare information to post and to make a presentation about the program to give to students and faculty at my university after I return. Also, while in Madison I would like to learn more about the history of the program, and specifically get the information I would need to connect to program alumni. Upon my return, I plan to reach out to them to encourage their participation in recruiting good candidates. I personally know two alumni from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. With their help I am confident we could conduct similar outreach to students and faculty at other universities in Chile. The Neale Silva Scholarship offers an exceptional opportunity that needs to be widely publicized.

Sincerely,



Sebastián I. Molina