



Public commitment in academic activities

Dissemination of artistic culture

Training people to serve the common good

Public role of the university

PUBLIC ROLE AND ENGAGEMENT WITH SOCIETY



PUBLIC ROLE AND ENGAGEMENT WITH SOCIETY

Since its creation, the Universidad Católica has maintained and exercised a strong public vocation and function. Its commitment to the country is reflected transversally in all its activities, from the training of professionals for Chile and the world, and the creation and transfer of knowledge that directly benefits society, to its numerous initiatives that contribute to public policy, education, health, arts and culture, and, in general, to improving the quality of life of people.

In recent years, special emphasis has been placed on further enhancing the public role of our university and making known both internally and externally the contributions that UC makes to the country. However, the current times impose new challenges due to the strong changes that Chile and the world have experienced. Today, society is experiencing a deterioration of the sense of community, and this requires us to redirect our efforts and move towards a greater bidirectionality in our relationship with it. The university goes out to meet society, to the public, and it is precisely the social and the public

“The social duty of the student, and of the UC community in general, must be in the DNA of our university”.

La UC Dialoga / 2020

that broadens the view of our community, teaches us and formulates new challenges for us.

In this regard, there is no doubt that in the coming years we will face important and urgent challenges as a country. The current coronavirus pandemic has not only caused unfortunate loss of human lives, but has also posed important health, social and economic challenges. The looming economic crisis will involve high unemployment and will set back many of the social advances that Chile has achieved. In addition to this, we must not forget the challenges already on the agenda of our country and the world, such as sustainability, the effects of climate change, the new demographic profile of the population and the problems associated with inequality, which highlight the shortcomings in terms of social

cohesion and the urgent need to consolidate a better coexistence in a scenario of diversity.

The service of the common good is an essential Christian principle and must remain at the heart of our work. To carry out this task, the commitment must be resolutely to the Truth, to the Logos, especially when the conviction regarding these principles has weakened in all environments. Our contribution to this common good and to the solution of public problems is a challenge that we must address in an institutional manner, through our different spheres of action.

Training people to serve the common good

The university aspires to provide its students and graduates with an training of excellence, which not only stands out for its academic and professional aspects, but also for its service to society and the country. Our educational project aims to form people of integrity, who include in their education the interest and appreciation for the common good and the cultivation of public virtues. As part of our hallmark, we expect our students and alumni to take a binding role with public problems and contribute to the resolution of society’s needs.

In this purpose, the School of Government and the Public Policy Center play a fundamental role. This school, created in 2016, seeks to contribute to an interdisciplinary training of professionals who are capable of creating innovative solutions, promoting

“Commitment to the public is not just about performing a social action, but implies a broader view of contributing to the common good and that is what we have to instill in our students”.

University Superior Council Day

dialogue and collaboration between the State, the private sector, and social and citizen organizations. The Public Policy Center, meanwhile, contributes significantly to linking teaching with the national reality and the real and urgent problems of the country, through programs such as Puentes UC and UC Propone.

To advance in this formative process with a public and social sense, and as mentioned in the Academic Challenges and Innovations axis, we propose to reorient some programs and curricula and expand the offer of courses and extracurricular activities that promote our students’ commitment to the common good.

PROMOTING SERVICE TO THE COMMON GOOD AS A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT IN THE TRAINING OF INDIVIDUALS

OBJECTIVE / 1 Public role: objectives and actions

- / Reviewing and reorienting programs and curricula in order to foster a sense of public and social awareness in the training of our students and incorporating content such as citizenship training, care for the environment and community appreciation, among other topics.
- / Promoting in the formative process the skills of listening, dialogue and respect for others, as well as inspiring the development of public virtues.
- / Stimulating the participation of students and academics in the work of the Pastoral UC, specifically in its initiatives oriented to solidarity, community work, missions, training and culture.

HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC COMMITMENT IN ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE / 2 Public role: objectives and actions

- / Defining mechanisms and instruments that encourage scientific research in the public interest, which can be permanently installed in the academic career, and incorporating public commitment in the academic evaluation instruments.
- / Defining minimum thresholds of public engagement activities in the different academic categories. For this purpose, a classification of activities that are publicly relevant for each area should be made.
- / Creating a systematic record and report of participation in committees, commissions, initiatives and relevant public engagement activities.

Public commitment in academic activities

The university is a space for knowledge and reflection that must be linked to the health, social, institutional and economic challenges of today's Chile. As part of its public role, the university must investigate, generate evidence and reflect on the country's challenges, as well as contribute to the public policy debate.

The challenges we face as a result of the new social needs must become evident in our teaching and research work, always safeguarding our identity. We must emphasize the relevance of academic work for the common good, advancing in the integration of knowledge at the service of society. In the coming years, we intend to broaden our vision in order to understand the deep reality, but also the daily reality, of the national community and to make efforts to learn about the diversity of the Chile we live in. Our challenge will be to promote initiatives aimed at strengthening ties and reaching all corners of the country and the territories surrounding each campus, without neglecting the connection and reference that the international reality provides.

“We must train academics to go to the encounter with the public and, thus, be able to take charge of the country's problems”.

University Superior Council Day

As already mentioned, the work of the School of Government and the Public Policy Center is of vital importance to link UC's academic work with the main challenges of society, with innovative and interdisciplinary approaches. The work of both units must continue to advance, deepening their respective tasks and articulating their work in a synergic manner.

“The University can make a great contribution from the academy to find ways to overcome the social and economic crisis”.

La UC Dialoga / 2020

Public role of the university

Along with promoting public commitment in the training of people and academic work, the university must strengthen its contribution and presence, as an institution, in the major problems facing the country. This public role is part of the ethos of our university and, therefore, has a transversal, fundamental and institutional character. An important challenge is to ensure that the vocation of service to the common good is present in the actions of all members of the university community.

The university must continue to strengthen the transfer of applied knowledge to the public, similar to what other foreign universities do (Knowledge Exchange). To do so, we must promote concrete initiatives of linkage with parliament, government, and the business and civil society, so that the knowledge generated by the university can be appropriated by these instances.

It is also important to develop and articulate university social responsibility programs with environments close to the campus and with target groups related to the different disciplines, with special emphasis on communities and people with social disadvantages.



STRENGTHENING THE PRESENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNTRY

OBJECTIVE / 3 Public role: objectives and actions

- / Building a shared definition of the concepts of “public commitment” and “public role” among all the university's stakeholders.
- / Actively promoting the voice and public presence of various authorities of the university in relevant issues of the country.
- / Structuring an active link between UC research centers and the legislative agenda, which allows us, as a university, to contribute to these projects and, in turn, that this agenda nurtures the work and reflection within our institution.

CONSOLIDATING OUR PUBLIC ROLE AND COMMITMENT TO THE DISSEMINATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ARTISTIC CULTURE IN ALL AREAS OF ITS ACADEMIC WORK AND IN ITS LINKS WITH SOCIETY

OBJECTIVE / 4
Public role:
objectives and actions

- / Increasing and effectively positioning creation, research, dissemination and innovation in, from and about the arts.
- / Opening new routes for the internationalization of the UC, leading the integration of the arts in international networks and develop courses derived from the Artifica la UC model - in an online format to incorporate into the curriculum of other universities outside the country.
- / Increasing the links of the UC with society as a whole, through the strengthening, development and encouragement of festivals, cycles and seasons, art exhibitions, theater productions, promotion of the activities and collections of the Extension Center, the UC Heritage Archives, and Artifica projects with the participation of UC academics, staff, students, and alumni.

Dissemination of artistic culture

The promotion, extension and education of the community around artistic creation and research, both inside and outside our university, has reached important achievements. Ten years after its installation, the Office of Arts and Culture (DAC) is now fully consolidated, while the UC Extension Center has achieved an important national positioning as well as the activities of our Faculty of Arts, associated with spaces such as the UC Theater, the Macchina Gallery or the concert seasons of the Institute of Music (IMUC). In addition, the acquisition of Beethoven Radio will allow an even stronger link between our artistic and cultural creation and society. At the international level, the UC has actively joined the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) network. With its "Artifica la UC" program, the DAC has multiplied the permeating potential of the arts, creativity, aesthetic experience and culture in all areas of the university. Our challenge is to scale up what

"Opening the doors of the university to society".

La UC Dialoga / 2020

has been achieved, consolidating our leadership in artistic creation, the cultural link with society, and the internationalization of the arts.

It is important to position ourselves as a leading institution in our public role as agents of culture and the arts in Santiago, Chile and abroad. For this, we must have new physical and symbolic spaces for the development of the arts inside and outside the university, which will allow us to achieve a strong presence in the national and international art scene. We will achieve this through the participation of our artists in biennials, fairs and festivals, high-impact publications on culture and the arts, and by adopting a more active role in public policies on arts and culture in the country.

