

When three Chileans came to study in Rotorua they found the accent and the meal times difficult to adjust to.

Simon Osorio, Andrea Baigorria and Fabian Veliz came to Rotorua from Chile in February to study English at Waiariki Institute of Technology.

They did not know each other before they came, but they all won scholarships to study in New Zealand.

Simon is from the city of Puerto Montt in the South of Chile and Andrea and Fabian are from the centrally located capital city Santiago.

When they first arrived the students found the meal times strange and the New Zealand accent hard to understand.

Andrea says in Chile the main meal is at lunch time, and they just have coffee and maybe a sandwich in the evening.

The students found they were getting very hungry during the day, having to wait for dinner for their main meal.

"At the beginning it was very difficult," she says.

They all spoke some English when they arrived but had trouble understanding New Zealanders, as they were used to hearing English with an American accent.

The students had the choice of coming to Australia or New Zealand.

Andrea says she chose to come



**NEWCOMERS:** (From left) Fabian Veliz, Andrea Baigorria and Simon Osorio have been in Rotorua for four months.

New Zealand because she had always wanted to come here.

"It was an old dream, always I wanted to travel here," she says.

She says she had heard about

New Zealand, researched it and seen pictures of it.

New Zealand and Rotorua also suited her interests, as she is going to study adventure tourism at Waiariki next semester.

Fabian came here because he had a choice between Melbourne and Rotorua, and he decided it would be easier to learn English in Rotorua, because he knew lots of Chileans in Melbourne.

"I have many relatives and thought that is not a good idea for study.

"I think I made a good decision, here in Rotorua there is not much Spanish spoken."

Simon chose to come go to New Zealand because he read about both New Zealand and Australia and decided he liked the sound of New Zealand more.

"New Zealand is very similar to my city," he says.

"The summer, the winter, the spring and the landscape

But Andrea and Fabian say Santiago is very different from New Zealand and Rotorua.

"Santiago's a big, very busy city," Fabian says.

"It's very different to here," Andrea says.

Fabian says Santiago is a good place.

"The people is very trendy."

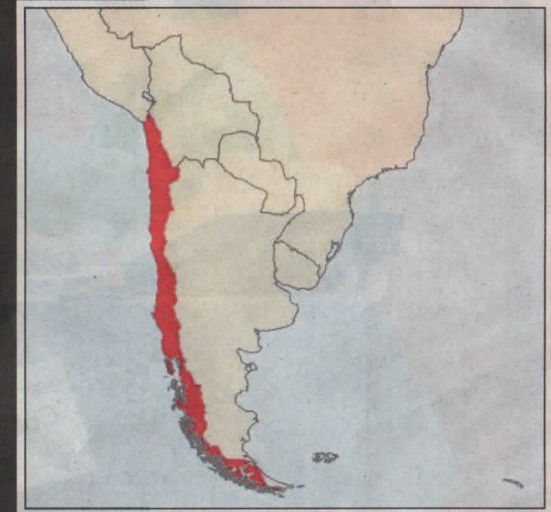
He says there are many things to do including a great nightlife and in the winter skiing in the Andes Mountains.

He says activities in Santiago stay open a lot later than in Rotorua, and the public transport is more frequent.

Andrea says the location of Santiago means it is an hour to the mountains and an hour to the beach.

But she says the capital city can be dangerous.

"There are many robbers, you



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**LONG:** The red area shows Chile.

PICTURE: FILE

"Here you can walk at night, in Santiago, no."

Chile has a very varied landscape and the climate varies hugely from north to south.

In the north there are deserts, in the middle there are valleys, in the south there are trees and lakes, and right at the bottom there is ice.

"It's the longest country in the world," Fabian says.

It is situated along the west coast of South America and the seasons are roughly at the same time as the seasons of New Zealand.

Andrea says the people, the cultures, the food and the way of speaking differ across the country.

"The people in Santiago are very different from the south and north," she says.

The three students are staying with local families and are enjoying living in Rotorua.

**■ The students will be speaking about their country and the culture at the Neighbours in Our Community meeting on Friday June 24 at Rotorua Arts Village (RAVE), 1240 Hinemoa St**

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