

BELEN CUMSILLE ROJAS

Featured Alumna

Current location: Temuco, La Araucanía, Chile

Dialogue Role: Intern, Education Program, Summer 2014

Program Associate, Education Program, 2015



What is your occupation or most recent work experience?

I currently work in the Institutional Planning and Analysis Unit at Temuco Catholic University, where I have been since 2018.

What has surprised you most about your career?

It has been an unpredictable journey that has taken me to many unexpected places. After my master's program in Austin I was planning to return to Santiago (Chile), but instead I started a job in Washington, DC at the Dialogue. Then, when I returned to Chile, I had never thought about moving outside of the capital, Santiago, but I am currently living in Temuco, southern Chile. It has been a discovery to learn how flexible your skills can be and how to adapt to different jobs and settings.

What advice would you give to a young professional?

I would recommend being open to new opportunities and challenges. It is the time to try different professional paths and find what works best for you. You may have some preconceptions of what a certain position or workplace may be like, but they can always surprise you. You just have to stay open to the experience!

What was your most impactful Dialogue moment/experience?

I am not able to pin one down. I have great memories of the events, the research and, of course, my colleagues. There was always something going on at the Dialogue: one of the programs was releasing a report, another was organizing an event or there was an important meeting. We had to be prepared to do different tasks and collaborate with all the programs. I also appreciate the emphasis the Dialogue places on education in the region, which is an interest I have kept pursuing in my career.