



Natalia Figueroa

Natalia Figueroa is a fifth-generation Mapuche woman and Political Science major at Utah Valley University (UVU), concentrating in Global Politics. Her family's journey from the ancestral Mapuche territories to Vina Del Mar, Chile, instilled in her a deep commitment to preserving her cultural heritage while advocating for social justice. Despite leaving the reservation, her family has kept Mapuche traditions alive, shaping Natalia's perspective on resilience, community, and the importance of defending marginalized voices.

At UVU, Natalia serves as President of the Foreign Affairs Club and is a Senior and she is an active member of Rotaract (affiliated with Orem-Lindon Rotary) and the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF). Through her leadership roles, she promotes dialogue, diplomacy, and student engagement in global affairs, fostering collaboration on initiatives that address real-world challenges and advance sustainable development.

Her commitment to human rights is deeply personal; her great-great uncle perished in a concentration camp during the Holocaust after defending human dignity. This legacy continues to guide her dedication to peace, justice, and global solidarity. Natalia is actively involved in initiatives aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those supporting Indigenous communities, sustainable development, and environmental protection in mountain regions.

Looking ahead, Natalia aspires to pursue a career in the Chilean government or international affairs, where she hopes to contribute to diplomatic efforts, strengthen global partnerships, and advance policies that protect vulnerable populations, defend human rights, and promote sustainable, inclusive development.