

From the
UC Santa Barbara
Faculty Director

Professor Juan E. Campo

Travel. Learn. Live. This is the slogan that we use to capture the UCEAP experience and convey it succinctly to a new generation of Gauchos. It also links them to the generations of alumni who have preceded them and included study abroad in their undergraduate careers. In retrospect, most students consider study abroad to have been both indispensable and transformative. They have traveled abroad, many for the first time. They have learned not only in the classrooms of their host universities, but also in the wider world that transcends the boundaries of any classroom, or any one nation for that matter. And they have lived — with host families, with students from the country where they are studying, or with other international students. Their travel, learning, and living abroad result in unparalleled experiences which they will never forget.

As I conclude my sixth year as Faculty Director, I have come to recognize a new facet to study abroad that may well distinguish today’s EAP participants. They not only ‘travel, learn, and live’ — they engage. By this I mean that they seek out opportunities to engage the world outside the classroom setting to enrich their lives, gain practical experience, and make a difference in the lives of those

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Studying in “Pomegranate” Spain

By Nicole Dodd

(EAP Granada, Spain, ’14)

I spent six years of my life studying Spanish in a classroom, complete with over-priced textbooks, oral exams, and Hispanic literature. When I applied to participate in an immersion program in Granada for the full year, I assumed that this extensive academic preparation would be enough. I quickly learned that there are many things that you cannot learn inside a classroom. Transitioning from my halting, formal Spanish to a more free-flowing Andalusian vernacular was not an easy process, but it gave me a renewed appreciation for the Spanish language. This appreciation grew the more I studied Spanish linguistics at the University of Granada and the more I heard my local granadino friends speak. Their Spanish was distinct, and the city we lived in was unique.

The first thing I noticed about Granada was how it was heavily influenced by Arabic culture. Every day I would walk through the streets, passing the Arab markets and the buildings with Arabic tiling and lettering. At night, Granada’s most iconic landmark, the Alhambra, is fully illuminated and can be seen from all parts of the city, sitting atop the highest hill in Granada. Once I learned about the history of Al-Andalus, the Moorish occupation of the Iberian Peninsula, these Arabic influences became even more intriguing to me. Granada is still a fascinating combination of different linguistic and cultural influences, and that was something that I never would have experienced if I had gone to Madrid or Barcelona.

My favorite part about my time in Granada was building upon what I had learned in the classroom. I had learned so much Spanish sitting behind a desk, and finally I was hearing it and speaking it in my daily life. I was also learning fun facts about Spanish from my conversations, such as the fact that Granada means ‘pomegranate’ in English, and that every word in Spanish that begins with ‘al’ was actually adopted from Arabic. It turns out that even English has adopted words from Arabic; for example, both English and Spanish adopted the word ‘coffee’ from Arabic - who knew!

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The Lifelong Imprint of EAP
by Jan Koegler, EAP France ’79

It was August 1979 and UCEAP students, bound for a year in France, converged on the charter airline terminal at LAX. There was a large group of undergrads primed with anticipation, along with their tearful parents. I was ecstatic.

One week, four chateaux and several cathedrals later, our history of France orientation was in full swing. Our bus smelled strongly of aging and squashed camembert cheese, and wine bottles rolled across the floor with every curve. We were having a great time. “George,” our manic bus driver, however, was not. “J’en ai marre de çà!” he shouted (“I’m fed up with this!”) as he roared down the highway — one of the many colloquial educational moments that George provided.

In Grenoble, I got a room at the top of an old house ... at the end of the bus line ... with minimal-to-no-heat ... next to a cemetery. The once-a-week shower rules were strictly enforced and my laundry went with me on the bus to the laundromat. But it was charming.

School began, and to my shock, students lit up cigarettes, filling the room with smoke as the professor lectured. I listened closely to the professor and took notes in French. After about an hour it dawned on me that the course I was enrolled in was not a viticulture class on the “bons vins” (good wines) after all, but instead a course on “bovins et ovins,” cattle and sheep. Okay. I developed a love for good goat cheese.

Today’s EAP students in France can no longer smoke in lecture halls, and they might Skype instead of write a letter to tell about their “bovine and ovine” class or other adventures of the day. What hasn’t changed in the long history of Gauchos going on EAP is the incredible learning and growth that occurs, often due to the challenging situations we find ourselves in abroad.

Just as students do today, after my many adventures, I left France a changed person. EAP left a lifelong imprint on me, and I see that spark and spirit in current UCSB EAP students. It gives me such great pleasure to help the EAP program provide financial assistance to current students, so that they can have this experience too. At reunions, I have been lucky to hear from newly returned students, and see the amazing energy in the room when common experiences of alumni from 1962 to 2016 bridge EAP’s 54-year span.

Jan continues to make EAP a part of her life as a donor to the EAP Scholarship Fund. Please join her efforts to enable more UCSB students to have the incredibly important opportunity to study abroad by returning the enclosed envelope or going to https://eap.ucsb.edu/donate-now. For more information about giving, contact Jodi Kirkland at 805-893-3729, jodi.kirkland@ucsb.edu.

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Studying in “Pomegranate” Spain
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When I returned to UCSB, I felt as if I were an expert in Spanish; yet, there was still so much left to learn. When I was presented with the opportunity to complete a senior honors thesis with the Linguistics department, I was inspired to dig deeper into the Spanish language. I decided to study the Spanish that was spoken during Al-Andalus (from the years 711 to 1492), a topic that allowed me to continue studying Spanish and feel connected to the home I had left behind in Granada. During my research, I discovered even more interesting things about the Spanish language, like how Spanish adopted an Arabic suffix during the Al-Andalus occupation. I had heard this suffix used in conversation a handful of times, with words like andalusí and marroquí, but I had no idea that this stressed i had actually been borrowed from Arabic. Completing my thesis took months and was hard work, but I loved every moment of it because of my personal connection to my research.

Living in Granada for 11 months gave me the rare opportunity to experience a whole new type of learning. The things I had learned from textbooks and instructors at UCSB came to life in Spain and I felt a deeper appreciation for all my years of schooling. My classroom learning inspired me to study abroad in Spain for the full year and, in turn, my experiences in Spain inspired me to want to learn even more in the classroom when I returned to UCSB. Granada sparked a passion in me for research and academia, and that’s something that I never would have experienced if I had simply sat behind a desk at UCSB for my four full years of university.

Not only did Nicole write her honors thesis about the influence of the Arabic language on Spanish, she then shared her research with the UCSB community by participating in the Undergraduate Research Slam competition and was selected as a semi-finalist.
A familiar language in a foreign city. A country that doesn’t live up to its spicy name — Chile. These were but some of the fascinating paradoxes I found in my seven months studying abroad. I chose Chile because I expected it to have some similarities with the Mexican culture that I grew up with. This proved to be true, but living in Chile also provided its own challenges. One experience particularly stands out. This pertained to my identity as a “gringo” or stereotypical White American, as many Chileans identified me. This didn’t initially unsettle me as I thought it was a joke. However, it began to get under my skin as they kept using it. It wasn’t only the Chileans who used it, but every international student I met as well. I believe that they couldn't fathom what was a “Mexican American,” “Chinese American,” or any person with dual racial identity. This led me to an internal soul searching as I struggled to figure out who I was: A gringo? A Latino? An American? After many long talks with my family and peers, I came to the realization that I could choose my own identity and that I wouldn’t be limited by some label. These are the types of revelations you have when you study abroad.

"Mainland Chinese are very rude and unwelcoming" claimed my friends in Hong Kong when they heard that I was heading to Beijing to study. As a consequence of these repeated warnings, I arrived in Beijing quite wary – not expecting any kindness from anyone. But to my surprise, interactions with locals slowly transformed my opinions. One interaction, out of many, that comes to mind was when my friends and I were on a hike in Guilin and it suddenly started to rain. The downpour was so hard that we could barely see a few feet in front of us. As we were walking by a small house, two elderly people waved at us from their porch, inviting us to shelter from the rain. They then told us stories about the hiking trails near their house and gave us towels to dry off, warm water, and mosquito repellant. Once the rain lightened up, we thanked them for their hospitality and promised to say goodbye when we looped back around. I realized that I arrived in China holding many misconceptions. Studying abroad has made me aware of biases that shape my worldview. Instead of forming opinions based on hearsay, I now understand the importance of first-hand experience.

"Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar!" rings out five times daily from the towering minarets of the many competing mosques all over the city. Sounds that for many Westerners trigger gut-checks and anxious glances, are exactly the sounds that signify the continuation of peaceful society in Amman, Jordan. While at times seemingly as different as humankind possible, the people, community, culture, and life of the Middle East were all things I came to love. When Ahmed, a Syrian I helped tutor in English, announced it was his birthday, and the cake and balloons were brought out for the entire class, it reminded me of similar birthdays I celebrated in grade school. However, I knew this was very different. I knew Ahmed had lost three of his family members during the last two years in the Syrian civil war, and had in fact never celebrated a birthday before. But while the thought of this brought tears to my eyes, Ahmed’s eyes were full of tears of happiness alone. I got to know Ahmed well during my time in Jordan as I spent many tense hours as an English tutor, critiquing his grammar on such wrenching subjects as his family’s struggle to find asylum. Despite all this, Ahmed, just like my childhood classmates, relished celebrating his birthday with friends. It took studying in a society so divergent from my own for me to realize how similar we all truly are.
The UC Santa Barbara EAP office wishes to thank the following for their generous donations during the 2015-2016 academic year:

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they encounter. The modalities of this engagement vary. They include internships, such as those we offer in the Scottish and Irish Parliaments, Chinese NGOs and businesses, Chilean broadcast media centers, and public health clinics in Ghana. They also include opportunities for original research in labs in Germany, Japan, and Singapore, in tropical rain forests in Costa Rica, in the oceans of Australia, and through sociological fieldwork in Mexico. In addition, our students become engaged as volunteers working, for example, with refugees in Jordan and teaching English in many different parts of the world.

Engagement also enhances the efforts of our EAP staff and student peer advisors in their work with the wider UCSB campus community to recruit more non-traditional and under-represented student cohorts. As a newly designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, we have developed Spanish-language videos featuring students and parents, and conducted special advising outreach efforts directed at first-generation and transfer students. We are also collaborating with the College of Engineering and other departments to recruit more STEM majors for EAP.

In conclusion, I invite you, as EAP alumni, to engage with EAP. Please consider supporting our efforts to provide more scholarships for our students. And stay in touch with us through Facebook and LinkedIn!
EAP Gauchos – Where Do they Go? Where Do They Come From?

UCEAP is a reciprocal exchange program with prestigious host university partners around the world. We work with over 120 universities abroad in 43 countries. UCSB sent over 1,000 students on EAP this academic year and hosted 250 from around the world.

Reflections of a Chilean Gaucho

By Camila Torres Medina

When I applied to UCSB I wasn’t sure what to expect from this university and from this exchange experience. I was told about the incredible campus and fun classes but it wasn’t my dream.

What is UCSB now?

UCSB is the sunset on the beach and people smiling on the street. UCSB is bicycles to school and a free bus to go downtown. UCSB is sand on my feet and books in my bag. UCSB is the longest hours of happiness but the shortest 6 months of my life.

UCSB is learning to cook, and knowing how to manage my own finances. UCSB is sport and wellness. UCSB is loving your body the way it is!

UCSB is freedom. Picking up the courses I have always wanted to take. UCSB is their willingness to teach you a hundred times the same just to be sure you understood.

Only at UCSB you go from a “can you lend me a pencil?” to “you have to go to Chile and visit me!” in a few days.

UCSB is trips around California. UCSB is openness and respect. UCSB is accepting diversity and its significance.

UCSB is bringing my passport everywhere, and making it my new Gaucho identity.

UCSB will always be... my long distance love.
EAP Photo Contest - These are some of our finalists in this year’s student photo contest.

"Homework Session in the Southern Sahara"
Lougou Village, Senegal
Annick Adams
EAP Senegal

"Above the Clouds"
Montepulciano, Italy
Jennie Christensen, EAP Spain

"The Batu Caves"
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Alexis Wilkman, EAP Singapore