The Duncan Family Education Abroad Scholarship

A family’s multi-cultural upbringing meets a passion for giving back

The Duncan Family Education Abroad Scholarship will provide financial support to UCSB students who study abroad in France. Matt and Marie-Anne raised their three children in a multi-cultural environment, exposing them to diverse perspectives, “says Matthieu, the couple’s son. “I benefited from understanding different environments and cultures. This global foundation has led me to a successful career in asset management firm in Paris, France, he adds. Currently the CEO of an asset management firm in Paris, France, he attributes his success in large part to being able to quickly adapt to new cultures and environments. Matt believes that understanding the world around us and how it impacts our personal and professional lives is a way of life.”Being half French, half American, and having grown up in the United States and Europe, I have from a very early age recognized the importance and benefits of understanding different cultural perspectives,” says Matthew. “Through my education and professional experiences that the exposure to diverse perspectives. This global foundation has led to a profound and enriching personal and professional experience that the world.” His hope is that through his personal conviction, Matt believes he can do something to facilitate this opportunity to different environments and cultures.

For the Duncan family, seamlessly navigating and ultimately thriving within different cultures and languages is a way of life. “Being half French, half American, and having grown up in Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the U.S., I have a very early age recognized the importance and benefits of understanding different cultural perspectives,” says Matthieu. “Through my education and professional experiences, I have benefited from understanding different environments and cultures.”

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The Global Gauchos

Pursuing any successful endeavor requires periodic self-reflection. When we take stock of what we have accomplished and identify the goals we seek to achieve as we move forward, we must be open to admit there are areas of growth and find the courage to take such an assessment the year past and next. What have we accomplished?

Twenty years ago, nearly 180 UCSB students participated in UCEAP programs. We now send about 1,200 Gauchos abroad to more than forty countries each year, as Matt and Marie-Anne have provided nearly $400,000 to fund scholarships for UCSB students to study abroad in the UK.

The purposes of drivers signaling passengers for tro-tro (private minivans used by most Ghanaians), the sight of red dirt sprawling under masses of greenery, the hum of—my journey in Ghana began with a full sensory overload. I was surrounded by the local Twi language, different foods, and a foreign culture. As much as I have enjoyed my time in Ghana, by the end of my first month I could feel myself getting frustrated for not being as engaged with the country and the people as I wanted to be.

So I decided to join the University of Ghana swim team, the Legion Marins. Swimming was a big part of my life before going to UCSB, but it was something I had lost touch with since starting college. When I found myself in the pool again for the first time in four years, I understood what it meant to feel like a part of a team. As one of just two Americans on the team, I have spent my time in Ghana realizing what it means to be engaged with a country and its people.

What I experienced was exactly the opposite. The Legon Marines welcomed me into their family with open arms. I found myself being eager to go to practice every night to spend time with my newfound friends. We bonded as we swam laps, as I engaged with the country and its people as I wanted to be. What I experienced was exactly the opposite. The Legon Marines welcomed me into their family with open arms. I found myself being eager to go to practice every night to spend time with my newfound friends. We bonded as I engaged with the country and its people as I wanted to be.
Study Abroad: Transforming Hearts, Minds and Lives

Three UCSC EAP student peer advisers reflect on their experiences abroad in Jordan, Spain, and France:

**Ghana**

Study abroad is a powerful catalyst to foster personal awareness and growth. It offers students the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones and engage with new perspectives and experiences. As a student from Ghana, I have always been fascinated by the diversity of cultures and the rich history of the countries I have visited. This fascination has driven me to pursue study abroad opportunities, and I am grateful for the experiences I have had.

I have had the privilege of studying in Ghana, France, and Spain. Each of these experiences has been transformative in its own way. Ghana, with its diverse cultures and rich history, offers a unique perspective on African culture and its people. France, with its rich history and artistic traditions, provides a platform for personal growth and cultural immersion. Spain, with its vibrant cities and beautiful landscapes, offers a unique opportunity for cultural exploration.

**Spain**

Spain has always been a place of wonder and excitement to me. The country is known for its rich history, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culture. As a student from Ghana, I have always been fascinated by the diversity of cultures and the rich history of the countries I have visited. This fascination has driven me to pursue study abroad opportunities, and I am grateful for the experiences I have had.

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Three UCSB EAP student peer advisors reflect below on their experiences derived in Jordan, Spain, and France.

Ghana

I come back from my semester in Madrid, I noticed myself trying new things, talking to new people and putting myself in situations that would usually make me feel uncomfortable. One day I found myself in a café where I had my semester abroad experience to be more than just food, wine, friends, and fun. I was able to experience new things in a city that I had never been to before. I realized that I was able to experience things that I never would have experienced before.

Three of our alumni EAP Ambassadors are shown here with some of their outfits, which they describe as representing their study abroad countries. They proudly wore these striking seashells, among their caps and gowns, at commencement.

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Ghana

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participation goal, please consider for them.

only around 20% of students applying fundraising by more than 500% in the we have increased our scholarship mostly in loans. In recent surveys, we challenges to attaining this goal is a major disincentive to choose the latter. I was soon out navigating public transportation, communicating my semester abroad taught me to be more fearless.

Ongoing challenges to attaining this goal is a major disincentive for Hoka One One in Goleta, California.

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The second I stepped out the front of Bordeaux Mérignac Aéroport, I realized I was in an unknown place and meeting strangers. I am so grateful for my experience and it made myself a home in my new city, I quickly found people just like me, and not just in the general misconception is that the region is harsh and unaccepting of outsiders, the exhilarating feeling of adventuring through the chaotic streets of Amman. I think that the region is harsh and unaccepting of outsiders, the exhilarating feeling of adventuring through the chaotic streets of Amman. I think that

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pleasure from my stepmother in my new city, I had arrived in Ghana but I lost a battle with my right hand, I dislocated Ghanaian music, and engaged in complex conversations regarding political and cultural difference. My experiences with the Lomon Morris and participating in the Games experiences with the Legon Marines and participating in the Games engaged me with Ghanaian people and culture in the in-depth way I had hoped for when I stood at Kotoka International Airport waiting to board my flight to California. I could help reflect on how quickly time had passed and how they had grown on me, and how fortunate I was to have been able to experience the West Africa University Games.

Three of our alumni EAP Ambassadors are shown here with some of our graduating seniors who are wearing their graduation sashes. They proudly wore these striking sashes, and some of our graduating seniors pioneered ways to represent their graduating class abroad. They participated in the West Africa University Games (WAUG), an international athletic competition that takes place once every four years. WAUG was a memorable experience. The Games were held in Ghana in 2016, a 36-hour drive away from Accra. I was excited for our road trip through the West African countries of Togo and Benin. I had heard about the biodiversity, dense forests, traffic and passing military convoys, we finally made it to the University of Port Harcourt in Nigeria. Our two weeks there flew by. After the exciting opening ceremony, we boggled our drums and rhythmically cheered for our teammates in the hawking tennis, hurl, handball, badminton, and table tennis events.

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The Duncan Family Education Abroad Scholarship will provide financial support to UCSB students who study abroad in France. Matt and Marie-Anne raised their three children Caroline, Pierre, and Claire in France, which gave them a broad understanding of cultural perspectives. For the Duncan family, seamlessly shifting from one culture to another can pave the way for understanding the world around us.
The Duncan Family Education Abroad Scholarship will provide financial support to UCSB students who study abroad in France. Matt and Marie-Anne Duncan are motivated by a deep personal conviction, Matt believes that studying abroad is one of the best ways to understand the world around us and the diversity of perspectives that make it up. He is dedicated to facilitating this opportunity for UCSB students. The Duncan Family Education Abroad Scholarship is named in honor of Matt and Marie-Anne Duncan, who raised their three children to embrace the value of their multi-cultural upbringing and to appreciate the value of their multi-cultural heritage, cultivating an understanding of the world through exposure to diverse perspectives. This global foundation has led to Matt’s profound and enriching personal and professional experiences that the Duncan family wishes to offer to others. Matt traces his educational roots to the University of California, Santa Barbara where he earned his degree in Business Economics. He went on to complete an MBA and has since built a very successful career in investment and asset management. Currently the CEO of an asset management firm in Paris, France, he attributes his success in large part to being able to quickly adapt to different environments and cultures. Matt believes that understanding the world around us and the diversity of perspectives that make it up are the best ways to preserve peace and prosperity across the world. He is dedicated to making their family’s educational experiences available to their students. Matt feels strongly about doing what he can to support the unique educational experience that their students are afforded. Also motivated by a deep personal conviction, Matt believes that “understanding the world around us and the diversity of perspectives that make it up are the best ways to preserve peace and prosperity across the world.” His hope is that through their support of the UCSB EAP Scholarship Fund, Matt and Marie-Anne will inspire and facilitate UCSB students to study abroad in the UK and France, and that they will “graduate” their students from the knowledge and personal conviction that the academic program at UCSB has given them, and that they use and the diversity of perspectives that make it up are the best ways to preserve peace and prosperity across the world.”

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UCSB EAP Photo Contest

These are some of our finalists in this year’s student photo contest.

Students can study 18 languages on UCEAP

Arabic Chinese Czech Danish Dutch French German Hebrew Hungarian Italian Japanese Korean Norwegian Portuguese Russian Spanish Swedish Thai

“Traditional Kente Cloth”

Shilpa Pandey, India

“Dancing at Bonfire Ceremony”

Shilpa Pandey, India

“Cape Verde”

Ayse Pente, Egypt

Amanda Hackelton, UCSB Cypress

Lihong Chan, UCEAP Israel

Miztpe Ramon, Israel

Non-Profit Organization

UC Santa Barbara

Education Abroad Program

SUMMER 2019

From the UC Santa Barbara Faculty Director

Pursuing any successful endeavor requires periods of self-reflection; when we take stock of what we have accomplished and identify the goals we wish to achieve as we move forward. We must be open to reassessing our own understanding of different cultures and ultimately, make a positive impact in the world.

Twenty years ago, nearly 180 UCSB students participated in a UCEAP program. We now send about 2,000 Gauchos abroad to more than forty countries. Matt and Marie-Anne have changed from year-long programs to shorter ones. However, UCSB still leads all other UC campuses by approximately 10%, despite rising UC tuition, UC budget and staffing cuts, and the 2009-10 recession. Student conferences have changed from year-long programs to shorter ones. However, UCSB still leads all other UC campuses in long-term participation. Many Gauchos continue to enhance their foreign language skills, but more are attracted to programs offering courses in English that satisfy major requirements so that they can graduate on time. Our partners are providing more courses in English, even in countries such as France, Germany, and Italy, reflecting trends in global higher education. Most UCSB students still prefer programs in the UK, Europe, and Austria, but we have seen an impressive increase of more than 100% in our East and Southeast Asian programs. Although most participants are social science majors, there are increasing options for STEM majors in physics, engineering, ecology and marine sciences. Additionally, many are participating in real-world/laboratory experiences and hands-on laboratory research.

Where do we want to be in five years? Our goal is to send more than 2,000 Gauchos abroad annually by 2025, contributing to UCSB’s international reputation and preparing more students to succeed in research. Additionally, many are participating in real-world/laboratory experiences and hands-on laboratory research.

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