Faculty Director's Message

Professor Juan E. Campo

Keeping the dream alive. That is the goal we are working toward this year as we take on the challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts. Never have we experienced such serious impediments to studying abroad in our 58-year history. In the past we successfully dealt with the SARS and H1N1 epidemics, as well as the 2008-09 recession, not to mention the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, Arab uprisings, and strikes in countries like France and Chile. These events demonstrated how resilient the UC Education Abroad Program and our students are. With few exceptions, students were able to complete their programs and make progress to completing their degrees. Enrollments grew quickly after these crises quelled.

This year we were well on our way to record enrollments of more than 1400 UCSB students in 2020-21-- the most ever. This is no longer the case, but we are encouraged by developments on several fronts. Many of our host countries have made positive strides toward containing the virus and are planning to reopen their universities. Meanwhile, UCSB EAP enrollments for spring 2021 remain comparable to previous years, and many students affected by this year's suspensions are planning to study abroad in the near future. Over 400 prospective freshmen and their parents participated via Zoom in our online Spring Open House in April, and I had to increase the size of my freshman Studying Abroad seminar this spring to accommodate high student demand. Meanwhile, our staff has effectively shifted to online platforms such as Zoom and YouTube to conduct their outreach and advising duties. In doing so, we prioritize student health and safety, and include the latest information about pandemic impacts in our host countries as part of our advising protocols.

The economic impacts of the pandemic have affected the finances of many of our students. They will need financial aid, including scholarships, more than ever before in order to participate in EAP when it resumes. Please help us keep their dreams alive and generously donate to our scholarship funds. Your generosity will open a world of opportunities to our students.
COVID-19 has changed our world, and the plans of so many of our students. Over 1,300 UCSB students have had their study abroad plans suspended due to the pandemic. Some of these students had to depart from their host countries quite suddenly in March, some were able to stay abroad, and others have only just been notified that their fall programs will not be running. Concurrently, the entire UCSB campus shifted to working remotely. For the UCSB EAP office, this meant a quick transition to Zoom info meetings, office hours, and classroom presentations. Although we really miss seeing our students in person, we are trying our best to maintain our presence. See our short video "We’re Here for You!"

In the process of helping our students navigate through the steps and disappointments of having their study abroad plans change, we have been constantly reminded of what dedicated staff and faculty we work with, how resilient our students are, and how much we love our UCEAP community.

Program Suspensions

UCEAP made the difficult but responsible decision to suspend all study abroad programs for this summer and fall. This has also meant that international EAP students will not be coming to the UCs for the fall. We hope that 2021 will bring a resumption of all programming. More info from UCEAP regarding the suspensions here.
"I was supposed to stay in Lyon until May 31st, not leave on March 18th! It boggles my mind to imagine what else I would've seen and accomplished had I stayed abroad. Every day I think about the friends that I made, my professors, my favorite cafés nearby my campus, my favorite dishes to order and make with my lovely roommates, and the once in a lifetime view that I had out of my apartment’s living room window. I have tears in my eyes just thinking about it. Even though I left too early, I had the most magical seven months of my life. Lyon was where I blossomed as a young woman, where I found the confidence to embrace who I am as a person. I will never forget that city and am forever grateful that UCEAP gave me the opportunity to live such an incredible experience." — Mary P., UCSB EAP France, McNamara Scholar

"In spite of, or perhaps because of, our traumatic exit from our UCEAP program, my roommates and I became extremely close during this experience. My whole journey forced me into self-reliance, in a different language no less, which greatly increased my self-confidence. The UCEAP group became basically a family to me.

Overall, my UCEAP experience was well worth the hardships I went through. I would not have traded this experience for anything.” — Sam A., UCSB EAP Spain, Karplus Scholar
“The world has been devastated in 2020 and UCEAP students were not exempt. The most positive and unexpected outcome of everything that’s happened to me this year was discovering my own resilience.

I was studying abroad in Bologna, Italy when suddenly, I had to quit my babysitting job, forgo my internship, and drop out of my interesting academic courses at the University of Bologna. I had five days to say goodbye to the friends I’d made…” -- Casie B., UCSB EAP

Read more from these three students and see their photos here.

Thank You

One of our Peer Advisors and returnees, Brandon Y., made a lovely statement of appreciation to all the students, staff and donors who helped make his own study abroad experience in Korea so worthwhile. We think you will find this short video very much worth the two minutes it takes to watch. Thank YOU Brandon!

Our Donors Mean the World to Us
Donor Spotlight
William Vollero (left), President of the Italian Cultural Heritage Foundation of Santa Barbara (ICHFSB), and Valentina Padula (right), ICHFSB Board Member and UCSB Italian Lecturer, show their obvious pleasure at meeting the UCSB EAP recipient of one of ICHFSB’s scholarships, Susanna M., UCEAP Italy.

"The joy of such moments is what we on the Board all work for." Read more here.

The UC Santa Barbara EAP office would like to thank this past year’s many generous donors. Please see the Donor Honor Roll here.

Photo Contest

Below are this year’s photo contest winners. Congratulations!

"A Date in the Park"
Kobe, Japan
Lucas Williams, UCEAP Japan
"Catching the Sunset"
Wadi Rum, Jordan
Aylin Solis, UCEAP Jordan

"El Albayzin"
Granada, Spain
Nick Sweitzer, UCEAP Netherlands
Please Donate

Please allow us to add your name to our Donor Honor Roll! Every dollar you give helps more UCSB students realize their dreams to study abroad. We believe that once the world of international study abroad reopens, we will experience tremendous demand for scholarship assistance. It's easy -- click and give now!

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