A Study Abroad Guide for First-Generation Students

Why Study Abroad?
Studying abroad during your college career provides you the opportunity to add an international perspective to your academics, gain volunteer, research, or internship experience, practice independence and self-reliance, travel the world, and make life-long friends. The UCSB Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), the ONDAS Student Center (OSC), and the Education Abroad Program (EAP) strongly encourage EOP and first-generation college students to study abroad. Feel free to contact our offices for more information!

Why UCEAP?
The University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) is the official study abroad program at UCSB. In addition to guaranteed UC units and the ability to use your financial aid, UCEAP students are supported by a network of people throughout the world. Your study abroad experience will be guided by trained staff that are there to support you as you prepare to study abroad, when you arrive, throughout the program, and upon your return.

How do I afford study abroad?
The cost of studying abroad can be comparable to attending UCSB!
• Affordable options: Some programs cost less than attending UCSB
• Think non-traditional: Programs in Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean are often less expensive
• Program lengths: Year-long programs are less expensive per unit
• Financial Aid and Scholarships: exclusive UCEAP and UCSB EAP scholarships available

COVID-19
Where could YOU be next year?
We understand concerns surrounding COVID-19 and what the future may hold. As of now, UCEAP programs through March 15, 2021 have been suspended, and programs starting after this date are scheduled to proceed as planned. UCEAP is continually monitoring the pandemic and will take action based on the best interest of our students’ health and safety.

First-Generation Students & Concerns From Loved Ones
Studying abroad may seem like a challenging experience for first-generation students and their families/loved ones to plan for, and we are here to try to help ease some of those concerns. Here are some benefits to studying abroad that you can share with your loved ones along with testimonials from first-generation students and a first-generation student’s mother (in Spanish).

Benefits of Studying Abroad
• Graduate on time with proper planning: Take unique major, minor, GE, or elective courses abroad that are not available at UCSB
• Résumé booster: Gain international and cross-cultural experience highly valued by employers today
• Volunteer/Intern: Participate in a program with a built-in internship or find your own internship and volunteer opportunities
• Conduct research or fieldwork: Gain hands-on, practical experience in a lab setting or out in the field
• Foreign language skills: Learn, improve upon, or become fluent in a foreign language

Student Voices
Contact Us!

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
To schedule an appointment: https://eop.sa.ucsb.edu/about-us/staff
Email: EOP@sa.ucsb.edu
Phone: (805) 893-4758 (leave a message and wait for a call back)

Opening New Doors to Accelerating Success (ONDAS)
Email: ondas@ltsc.ucsb.edu
Phone: (805) 893-3457
Calendar: ondas.ucsb.edu/home