

The Duncan Family Education Abroad Scholarship

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



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 from a very early age recognized the importance and benefits of understanding different cultural perspectives," says Matthieu "Matt" Duncan. Matt and his wife Marie-Anne raised their three children 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 profound and enriching personal and professional experiences that the Duncan family wishes to offer to others.

Matt traces his educational roots back 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 and nimbly adapt to different environments and cultures. Matt believes that studying abroad through the Education Abroad Program can pave the way for understanding the world around us and he wanted to do something to facilitate this opportunity for UCSB students. The Duncan family decided to focus on two destinations in Europe that are closest to their hearts—the UK and France.

As a founding member of the UCSB UK EAP Scholarship Fund, Matt and a small group of other alumni have funded nearly 40 scholarships for UCSB students to study abroad in the UK. Now living in Paris, Matt and Marie-Anne hope to catalyze interest from alumni currently living in France to promote UCEAP studies in France—this was the genesis of The Duncan Family Education Abroad Scholarship. Driven by the desire to give something back to the University of California, Matt feels strongly about doing what he can to support the unique educational experience that he was 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 family scholarship, UCSB students will have the opportunity to deepen their own understanding of different cultures and ultimately, make a positive impact in the world.

The Duncan Family Education Abroad Scholarship will provide financial support to UCSB students who study abroad in France. Matt and Marie-Anne live in Paris, France. Their three children Caroline, Pierre, and Claire all studied at universities in the U.S. where they currently reside.