

# the Global GAUCHO



UCSB Education Abroad Program

Summer 2022

## From the UC Santa Barbara Faculty Director Professor Juan E. Campo

Resilience. After a year and a half of COVID closures and restrictions, our UCSB Education Abroad Program has come back as strong as ever. In 2021-22 we increased enrollments from zero to 345. Now, as EAP celebrates its 60th anniversary, we expect to send more than one thousand Gauchos to 35 countries in 2022-23. We are back to our pre-pandemic level of participation. Italy, Spain, the UK and France are the most popular destinations, but Germany and South Korea are also in the running. Programs in Australia, New Zealand and Japan, which were completely closed to our students, are re-opening for 2022-23. China is one of the few countries in the world that remains closed to study abroad students, unless they have Chinese citizenship. Several new program options have been recently or will be launched, including the University of Iceland, the London School of Economics, and business-related courses in Copenhagen and London.



We continue to pivot to keep the EAP dream alive—meeting with prospective students in person and via Zoom and conducting information sessions about academics, financial aid, housing, health and safety, and international travel. Climate change, which had serious impacts on countries in western Europe this summer, will also be addressed. Our goal is to be able to continue sending more than one thousand students abroad by 2023-24. Our gateway to the world will also allow us to receive several hundred EAP exchange students from our partner universities abroad.

I want to personally thank all of you who contributed to our Scholarship Fund and the Director's Fund for Excellence last year, and invite all of our alumni readers to consider giving. The economic impacts of the inflation and housing shortages, combined with the ongoing effects of COVID have affected the finances of many of our students. They will

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## My Time in Barcelona By Kimberly Brouard (Spain)

Studying abroad in Spain showed me not only a new culture but also a new outlook on life that I would not have attained had I stayed in Santa Barbara. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity only brought to me by the generosity of the scholarship that I received.

Academically, the new system that I encountered was very rewarding. It was refreshing to take a break from the rigorous pace of the UCSB quarter system and to experience the semester system that provided additional instruction time. This was especially great for being able to explore Spain as I was able to achieve a great work-life balance that I had struggled with here in the US. While I had taken language courses taught in Spanish, this was the first time that I had taken a subject course (Psychology) taught in a foreign language. Although challenging, I believe this truly made my Spanish comprehension skills stronger. It also forced me to get out of my comfort zone and speak to other students in Spanish.



Kimberly in Spain

One of the first things that I had learned in Barcelona was the youthful spirit of the people no matter the age and their emphasis on "Carpe Diem", or living in the moment, kind of mindset. I was forced to go against my nature of being constantly at my study desk. I ventured out more with friends and learned that it is okay to prioritize happiness at certain moments. Ultimately, I was able to still excel in my courses while also adventuring through the streets of the gothic quarter on a search for the best tapas.

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# The Elliott Family EAP Scholarship

By Nicholas Elliott '11

The pleasant murmur of voices on the street below, children chasing each other and laughing in a foreign language. Church bells chime in the morning, bright Tuscan sun filters through dark green shutters. Footsteps on the cobblestones, reverberating against medieval stone walls, well worn before Christopher Columbus.

I vividly recall the feeling that first morning in Italy, discombobulated from jet-lag but passionately excited for life. I didn't know it just then, but the next 12 months would be some of the most challenging, exhilarating and rewarding months of my life.



Born and raised in California, I had the great fortune to embark on a few international excursions with family during my formative years. These trips gave me a glimpse into other cultures, languages, and customs. Not everyone drives on the right side of the road. Not everyone speaks the same language or eats the same food as we do in America.

During my college application process, I took special notice of the University of California's robust Education Abroad Program, noticing the multitude of study options and extensive supporting resources. Freshman year, almost before looking at my class schedule, I was already researching options for an international exchange opportunity.

Junior year finally arrived, and Italy became a reality. I spent two months in Siena on an intensive language program, and another 10 months in Padova, a city in Northern Italy outside of Venice. I lived with Italian roommates and took all of my courses in Italian at a 900 year old, 100,000 student University. I gained lifelong friends in my roommates and their family, I learned a new language and culture, and I saw a dozen European countries.

I returned to my senior year at UCSB with a sense of appreciation and awe. I had lived most of my life in one reality, and in returning to that reality I saw how many other realities, cultures, cities, customs, and friends existed.



In a present moment, one cannot know the impact a decision might make in the future. Some decisions may make little difference; they drop like stones upon the floor, momentum arrested. Others may continue to roll, gain speed, and turn into avalanches of future moments and experiences and connections. My decision to study abroad changed my life for the better; it opened my eyes to a broader world, it gave me the confidence to figure it out (whatever the scenario), and it brought friends and family into my life that I cherish to this day.



Studying abroad comes with many costs, and I count myself forever grateful for the opportunity I was privileged enough to experience. The Elliott Family Scholarship is our way of giving back, of opening an opportunity for someone that might otherwise prove impossible. If you are considering an abroad experience, please, give it some extra thought. There are resources available that can help transform the idea into reality. One can never fully foresee the avalanche of future ripples a single decision can make!

# The Impact of Study Abroad and Lessons Learned

Recent UCSB EAP study abroad participants reflect on their experiences

"Studying abroad has proven to me my own capability and provided me with a sense of confidence to navigate not only cultural differences, but any situation life presents me with. Being on the cusp of college graduation, it has been made clear to me that in a globalized world, with more and more careers crossing cultural and political borders, globally-minded candidates have become the ideal. As I look forward to a career in foreign policy or journalism, I know whole-heartedly that studying abroad has already impacted my career goals and will continue to do so in a positive way."

- France Fall 2021 Participant



"The impact EAP has had on me since I've returned is how much fun and character development I had since I came back. I'm a lot more motivated and confident in myself with my studies and my Korean abilities. I've also made a lot of lifelong friendships with people from across the world, not just in Korea."

- South Korea Fall 2021 Participant

"I learned so much about myself and the culture while abroad. I feel like I grew tremendously as an individual and found out how independent, resourceful, and energetic I am, especially in London. I love the culture of the casual, bustling social life as well as the academic camaraderie. I felt at home in London and connected with so many people while abroad. EAP has made a lasting impression on me. I keep in contact with the friends I made and am eager to travel back to London. I now plan to find a job and move to London once I graduate to live there long-term and pursue my career goals in finance."

-UK-England Fall 2021 Participant

"I learned a lot about myself during my time in Milan, and as I traveled as well. I became a more confident communicator, both in English and Italian, and more confident in my ability to be independent. Since I've returned to California, I've noticed that I am more willing to try new things, join programs I might not have joined before, and am less fearful to meet new people. This experience expanded my love of travel and has inspired me to explore new places around the Santa Barbara area as well as plan future travel in the future. I am also now considering finding a career path that would allow me to live in Italy or Europe in the future, or potentially attend graduate school abroad."

-Italy Fall 2021 Participant



## Director's Letter continued from page 1

need financial aid, including scholarships, more than ever before in order to participate in EAP. Please help us keep their dreams alive and donate. Your generosity will open a world of opportunities to our students --- and help make a better world for us all.

## My Time in Barcelona continued from page 1

Coming back from Barcelona, I gained a new knowledge of myself that I had hoped for through the independence that the program offered. Going to a completely new country on my own, I was uneasy about being thrown into this new situation without the support system that I have at home. I also thought that my social anxiety would have gotten the best of me, but once I was abroad, I met so many new people. For example, I ventured on a three-hour road trip to the neighboring city of Zaragoza with students that I had met and had the time of my life making new memories and new friendships that I carried with me throughout my time abroad. I was able to find friends from all around the world in Barcelona who accepted and embraced me exactly as I was and who I still keep in touch with now, even though we are thousands of miles apart. It was here that I finally felt free and embrace the possibilities of meeting new people. Through this experience, I was able to finally be confident that I could be the person that I had always wanted to be and could not be more thankful for this experience.



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## Student Interest in Study Abroad Continues

Looking ahead to 2022-23, over 1,000 UCSB students are scheduled to study abroad to take advantage of this life-changing opportunity. In March 2022, interested students attended a Meet and Greet gathering to get to know the other participants.



## Give Day Success!

On April 7, 2022, UCSB EAP participated in the UCSB Give Day, an online day of giving. We thank our alumni and friends that generously supported us on this day, and would like to give special recognition to Drs. Leslie and Ernie Zomalt for their generous challenge gift which inspired others to support EAP on Give Day!

In collaboration with the Development Office, EAP held an on-campus event to raise awareness about study abroad and the importance of private philanthropy to our campus community. In addition to learning about the program, students were treated to a wide array of international snacks and coffee.



Click on the image above to view our thank you video.

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## Scholarship Celebration

In May 2022, Dennis Allen and Jennifer Cushnie hosted the UCSB EAP Scholarship Celebration at their home in Santa Barbara. An evening celebrating scholarship donors and recipients, the gathering provided this EAP community the opportunity to discuss the profound impact that study abroad has on one's life and the importance of supporting future students in this educational journey.



## Give Today!

Help Gauchos study abroad. Your valued contribution provides UCSB students the opportunity to take advantage of this transformative international experience that will impact their lives academically, personally and professionally. You can make a difference today.

Visit the UCSB EAP Alumni & Giving section of the website for giving opportunities. Or, contact Jodi Kirkland, Director of Development, at [jodi.kirkland@ucsb.edu](mailto:jodi.kirkland@ucsb.edu). Thank you!

# A WORLD OF THANKS

As the UCSB Education Abroad Program celebrates 60 years of sending students abroad, our team extends our sincere gratitude to our generous donors for their support during the 2021-22 academic year.

We would also like to recognize the leadership and dedication of our EAP Ambassadors. A very special thank you to Dennis Allen, Alicia Goldsmith, Rachel Gray, Jan Koegler, Jody Linick, John Lofthus, Jim Maloney, Michael O'Connell, Ellen Raede, Sudi Staub, Marie Williams, and Leslie Zomalt.

## **Donors of EAP Named Scholarships**

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### **EAP Matching Gift Organizations**

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\*These donors are helping to secure the future of EAP by generously including the program in their estate plans.