

the Global GAUCHO



UCSB Education Abroad Program

Summer 2021

From the UC Santa Barbara Faculty Director

Professor Juan E. Campo

Closure. This is the word that captures our attention as we reflect upon the year past and anticipate the one to come. Although classes and advising activities have continued remotely, UCSB has been closed to in-person teaching since March 2020. All UCEAP programs were closed from summer 2020 to summer 2021. None of our students



was able to enrich their education by traveling, studying, and immersing themselves in other cultures. Many of our programs in non-European countries will remain closed next year as well. Japan has even closed the Tokyo Olympics to all spectators this year after postponing them in 2020. Indeed, the pandemic has caused most countries of the world to close their borders to some degree, which had and is still bound to have lingering economic, social, and political consequences. Yet in view of the pandemic and the many other extraordinary challenges confronting our nation and the world — climate change, refugee migrations, species extinctions, weapons proliferation, militant populism—we are called to open ourselves to both think and act globally more than ever before. This entails fostering greater understanding, respect, and cooperation across political, cultural, and racial boundaries. **EAP challenges closure by helping our students to realize these ideals, increasing the likelihood that they will take the lead in making the world a better place in the decades to come.**

So we continue to pivot to keep the EAP dream alive—meeting with prospective students via Zoom and conducting online information sessions about covid impacts on our host countries, academics, financial aid, housing, health and safety, and international travel. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to send several

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A New Interest in Biomedicine

By Jadie O'Connor (Sweden)

Jody Linick & Christer Hagghult EAP Scholarship Recipient

During the spring semester of my junior year, I studied abroad at Lund University in Sweden to add some nuance to my coursework in biology. Although my time in Sweden was cut short due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was still an extraordinary experience that shaped me in so many ways. Studying at Lund widened my perspective as a science student; mainly because I was able to take an advanced Immunology course that was not offered back at UCSB. This class taught me some amazingly useful and timely lab techniques and gave me a first-hand glimpse of industry research through a fascinating fieldtrip to a local biotechnology company. Furthermore, it was enlightening to view my studies

through a new cultural lens, as my professors were Swedish and I was able to collaborate with a diverse collection of both Swedish and international classmates. All of these insight-



Jadie in Lund, Sweden

ful academic experiences, combined with actually witnessing my studies in disease mechanics unfold in real time as Covid-19 gripped the world, really helped me awaken a new interest in a career in biomedicine. As someone who spent a lot of my college experience anxiously mulling over where to apply my biology degree, discovering a possible future path was monumental, and it would not have been possible if I had not decided to study abroad.

Academics aside, simply living in a completely different country helped me awaken a level of independence and adaptability that I never knew I had. Being a student in Sweden for several months

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The Chapin Family EAP Scholarship

Supporting future generations of EAP participants



Brad Chapin '00 and his family reside in Ladera Ranch, CA

When I was a freshman in high school in 1992, my English teacher told us one day that if we do nothing else in life, be sure to study abroad during college. I was 14 at the time. I can't explain why, but her words stuck with me. From that day until I left for Scotland on September 21, 1998, I was dead-set on making sure I followed her advice.

Through UCSB's Education Abroad Program (EAP), I spent the 1998-1999 school year abroad studying politics at Glasgow University. What a completely

ridiculous year that was. I didn't know a single person when I showed up. I left with life-long connections and forever changed. I can safely say I made the best of my time abroad. I traveled like I'd never get the chance to do it again. I was cast in multiple theatre shows on and off campus (yes, the directors took full advantage of their token American actor). I danced into the night with complete strangers and best friends alike. I became a local at a few pubs. I religiously followed the Glasgow Rangers. I joined the mountaineering club despite having no clue how to set up a tent at the time. And, I was usually the sole American in my politics classes trying to explain the nuances of the American political system much to the bemusement of my fellow students.

As much as I loved every little thing about my time in Glasgow, it would not have mattered where EAP placed me for my year abroad. That year was destined to change my life and to shape who I would become. I cannot begin to reduce to words the countless material ways that year transformed me and forever impacted my life. I owe that to the opportunity I was given to take part in the EAP program. I remain grateful to this day. As I think back, I realize there was never a moment when I questioned whether I would have the financial resources to be an EAP candidate (even though I was on loans at the time). Therefore, when I reached a point in my life where I was able to give back, it was an easy decision to support the future generations of EAP participants. I think of the Chapin Family EAP Scholarship as my grown up way of paying for the car behind me in the Starbucks drive-thru. It's the least I can do to say thank you and to make sure no Gaucho is denied their life-changing experience abroad. And from a selfish standpoint, it keeps my connection to UCSB active and interactive. Turns out, that's pretty meaningful too.

Life can be pretty crazy. In late Summer 1999, I had just returned from Glasgow and was wandering aimlessly around a sports department store in my hometown when I came face to face with someone I hadn't seen in four years -- my freshman high school English teacher. I stopped her and asked her if she remembered telling us to go abroad seven years earlier (she didn't!). I gave her a hug and thanked her for changing my life.



Stay passionate about life.

Be happy.

Go Gauchos!



Study Abroad: Transforming Hearts, Minds and Lives

Three UCSB EAP student peer advisors reflect on their experiences in Singapore, Spain, Brazil and Germany

Cyric N. (Singapore)



While preparing to study abroad, I was both excited and nervous. Being more a homebody and introverted person, I have never traveled to a country so far away from home without my parents. However, going abroad was the best decision I've ever made. Of course, I was homesick in the beginning, but I soon became so comfortable being in Singapore that I felt like I was a local staying there permanently. My favorite class abroad was the Biophysical Environment of Singapore, which talked about the geology and climate of Singapore. Another course I enjoyed was the Culture and Power of South-east Asia which covered the relationships of S.E. Asian countries and their relevant issues. This course certainly helped me learn more about this region of

the world. One of my favorite memories abroad is definitely traveling with my friends to Thailand for recess week. The thing that made this trip special is that we were all from different countries, like France, Germany, U.S., Britain, Hong Kong.

Jackie S. (Brazil and Spain)

I cannot imagine my college experience without studying abroad. I remember showing up to the EAP office my freshman year and seeing all of the places of where I could go and study. The fascination about walking through the streets of Barcelona or Rome no longer seemed like a dream. As soon as I applied, these dreams became tangible. Studying abroad is a fun, challenging combination of excitement, spontaneity, and adaptability. I have learned so many life lessons abroad. I learned that on the metro, it is always best if you wear your backpack in front of you, no matter if you think you look weird. I learned that in order to master a new language, you have to get out of your comfort zone, swallow up your pride, and allow yourself to make mistakes. I most importantly learned that I can actually do extremely hard things. My heart swells everytime I reflect upon my times abroad. I feel so proud for allowing myself to experience the world and its beauty. If I had allowed fear to hold me back, I would have never visited the Louvre or I would have never experienced Brazilian Carnival. I would never have woken up to little kids screaming "vale" while living in Barcelona and I would have never discovered my love for nature while hiking Dois Irmãos in Rio de Janeiro. When I was abroad, I was blessed to live a life that I even envy now in 2021. I learned how to truly savor the life that I have been blessed with. With the world slowly opening back up again, I cannot wait to resume that life that I had to abruptly say goodbye to and I am beyond excited.



Mark B. (Germany)



I think the biggest impact that EAP had on my life is the realization of what I can accomplish. Thousands of people go abroad every year but I was still nervous to set foot on the plane and embark on my longest time away from California. What if I get homesick? What if I can't handle the pressure of being in a school where I'm only speaking German? These thoughts came eventhough I've been to Germany many times and speak German almost fluently. Luckily, the opposite happened. While there were definitely some growing pains (like having to carry cash everywhere (the horror!)), Berlin quickly grew on me and I learned that I would be okay. I spoke German with everyone who would deal with my finicky grammar, and it was no

big deal if I had to slip in an English word every now and then. Berlin is the quintessential international city, so the diversity in language was one of the coolest parts about it. Living on my own was also a challenge for which I was nervous about but embraced. My time abroad really showed me that I can get things done when I put my mind to it. I've been applying this mindset to other areas in my life, and I notice myself taking on and succeeding at more challenges.

Director's Letter *continued from page 1*

hundred Gauchos abroad this fall and winter. Thus, despite closures, students are scheduling their pre-departure orientations as our gateway to the world begins to re-open. Our goal is to be able to send more than one thousand students abroad by 2022-23. Our gateway will also be reopening this year to receive several hundred EAP exchange students from our partner universities abroad.

I want to personally thank all those who continued to contribute to our scholarship fund last year, and invite all of our readers to consider giving now. The economic impacts of the pandemic have affected the finances of many of our students and their families. They will need financial aid, including scholarships, more than ever before in order to participate in EAP when it resumes this fall. Please help us keep their dreams alive and generously donate. Your generosity will open a world of opportunities to our students—making a better world for us all.

A New Interest in Biomedicine *continued from page 1*

was the farthest I had ever been from home, and each day, no matter how seemingly mundane, was always a learning experience. I had to grocery shop and navigate public transport while reading everything in Swedish, I had to familiarize myself with a completely new college campus and student community, and I always tried to closely observe the mannerisms of the locals in order to ease my transition into a different culture. I was able to make lifelong friends from all over the globe as well, and learn so much about their lives and views, while also obtaining an outsider's perspective on affairs in the US. In this way, grabbing coffee with someone from a different country (the beloved Swedish tradition of fika: "a regular coffee break with friends") often taught me more about the world than any formal class. I also became more comfortable with traveling and I wholeheartedly embraced the Swedes' strong emphasis on work-life balance. When I returned to the US, I felt like a new person: not only did I come back with a new professional goal, but I also returned as someone who was more confident, open-minded and ready to take challenges head-on. I will forever be grateful for the immense personal growth that Sweden gave to me, and I definitely hope to return in the future.

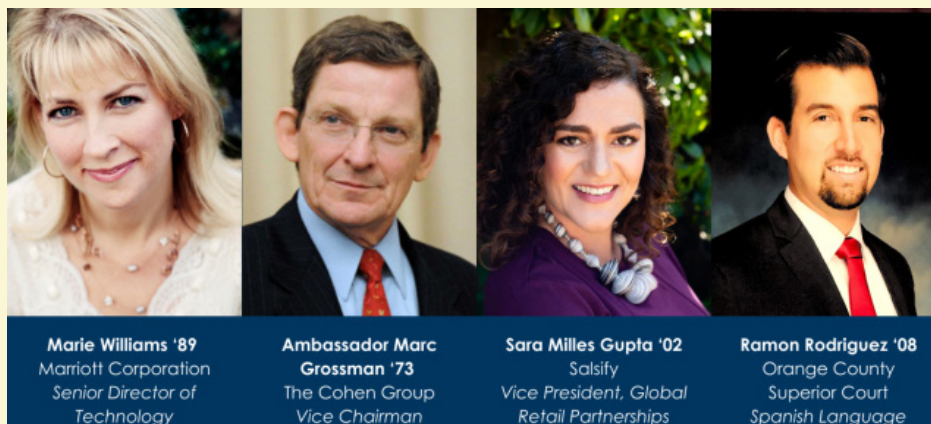


Jadie and classmates suited up for Immunology Lab

An Evening with EAP - Regional Reception for the DC Community

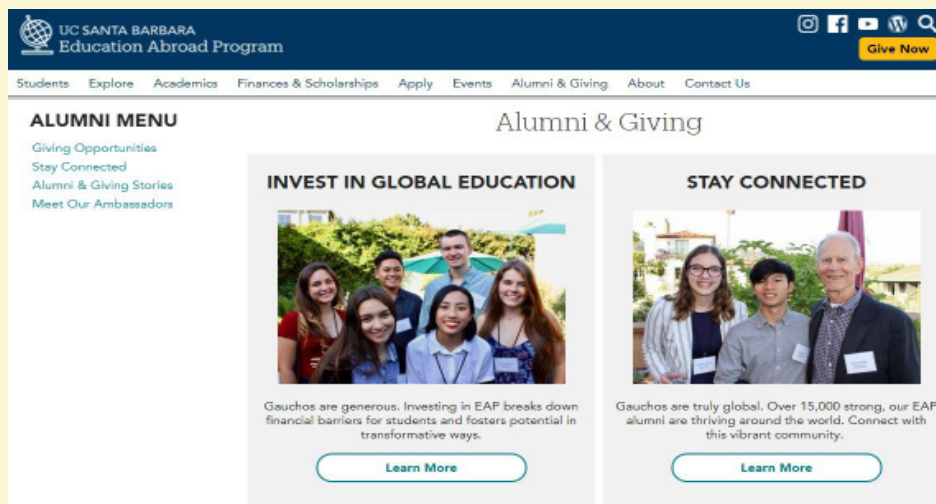
Hosted by Marie Williams '89 and Ambassador Marc Grossman '73, UCSB EAP alumni gathered virtually to meet each other, hear from recent EAP participants and learn about the current status of UCSB EAP. Attendees were treated with a virtual tasting of truffles from around the globe! With numerous UCSB EAP alumni in the Washington, D.C. area, the engaging attendees shared their own study abroad memories and had the opportunity to reconnect with the UCSB EAP program. Stay tuned - additional virtual alumni events may occur in the future!

Activating EAP Experience in Your Career



Integrated into the UCSB All Gaucho Reunion events in April, UCSB EAP hosted a virtual career panel, *Activating EAP Experience in Your Career*. Moderated by UCSB EAP alumna Marie Williams '89, the lively discussion included fellow EAP Gauchos: Ambassador Marc Grossman '73, Sara Miles Gupta '02 and Ramon Rodriguez '08. Panelists discussed how their study abroad experience impacted their professional lives from graduating to the present. View the [recording here](#).

Launch of the new Alumni & Giving section of the UCSB EAP website



Check out the new and improved Alumni & Giving pages! Read about fellow EAP Gauchos and share your own stories! Learn how you can invest in international education and stay connected with us.

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. Thank you!

A WORLD OF THANKS

The UCSB Education Abroad Program team extends our sincere gratitude to our generous donors for their support during the 2020-21 academic year.

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

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