



Program Updates

Students that studied abroad fall 2021 have returned to UCSB! We are excited to have them back as they are the first cohort since March 2020 to have studied abroad. We are grateful that our students once again have the opportunity to take advantage of this life-changing experience.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic is posing serious challenges for studying abroad, we are working to keep the dream alive. While there have been some program cancellations due to the pandemic, winter/spring 2022 programs are proceeding as scheduled. We are actively recruiting for 2022-23 programs and are meeting with many students who are eager to study abroad next year.

Love is in the Air!

With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, we want to acknowledge the many Gauchos that found love while abroad either during their EAP program or at a later point in their lives. If you are one of these Gauchos, we invite you to share a note about your own love story on our [Facebook](#) page or tag us on [Instagram](#)!

One Year Abroad: A Love Story

Gaucha and EAP alumna, Joanne Pon Rubin '79, shares how her EAP experience changed her life forever.

Written by Pamela Bellew



45 Years Ago

It was the fall of 1977 and Joanne Pon, a junior at UC Santa Barbara at the time, had made a life-changing decision to apply to the UCSB Education Abroad Program. At the same time, 136 miles south of UCSB, in Irvine, Barry Rubin, also a junior enrolled at UC Irvine, had made the same, life-changing decision...to spend a year abroad in the United Kingdom with the UCEAP.

Neither Joanne nor Barry knew it at the time, but their desire to travel, to leave the comfort of their Southern California communities, and to expand their horizons and "see the world," would alter the direction of their lives forever. The impact of that decision to enroll in EAP would truly affect their lives for decades to come, well beyond the 1977-78 academic year in which they

lived and studied at the University of Birmingham campus located in the suburb of Edgbaston, in Birmingham, England.

Read the [full story here](#).

Meet Amy B. - Spain Fall 2021 Returnee



Amy recently returned from a semester at the Complutense University of Madrid. Can you relate to her experience described below?

"The language barrier was definitely my biggest challenge while I was studying abroad but it didn't stop me from being able to succeed or have a good time. My classes were taught in Spanish and I was so nervous at first to speak since I didn't know if people understood me. It took a lot of emotional maturation for me to grow out of that fear but I feel

like that growth will also continue to help me later in life in areas such as public speaking or if I ever need to use my Spanish skills in my career or everyday life."

Welcome exchange students!



Earlier this winter quarter, UCSB EAP welcomed 104 new reciprocal exchange students from 15 countries. They are joining a continuing group of 131 exchange students that arrived in fall 2021. It is such a pleasure having this cohort at UCSB again this year!

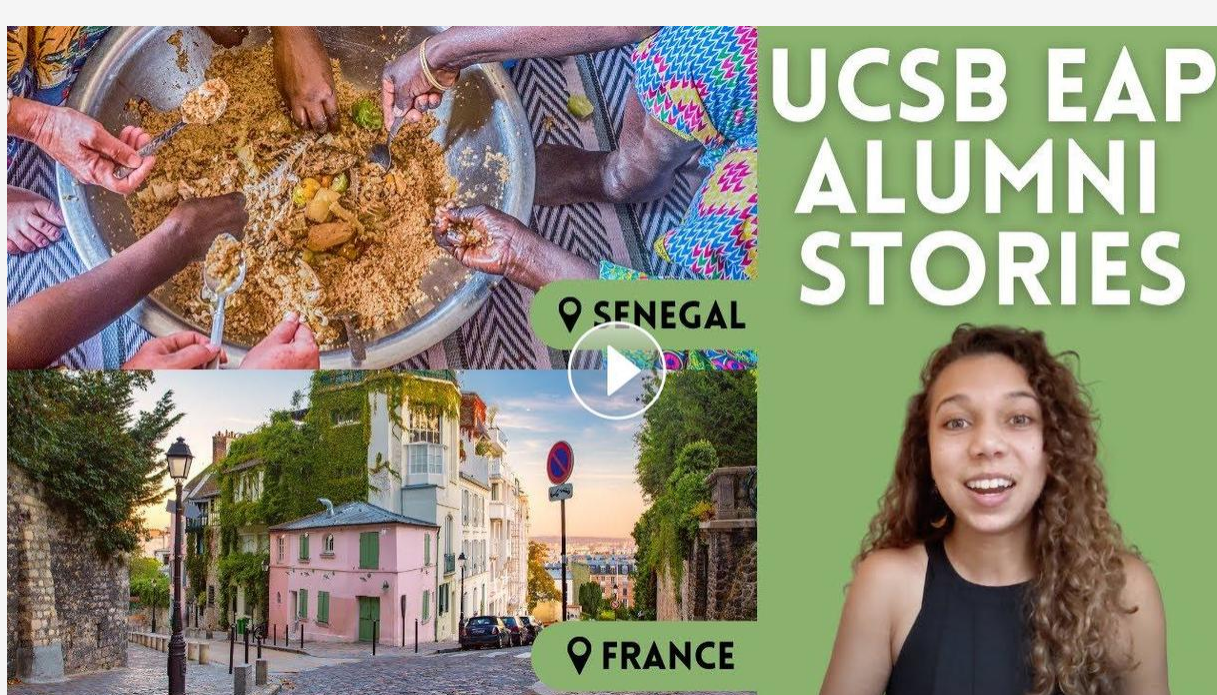
As pictured here, we recently welcomed this new cohort at an outdoor event.

Gilman Scholarship Recognition



The Gilman Scholarship is a federally-funded scholarship that supports students with a high financial need, many who are also first-generation college students. Earlier this year, UCSB was recognized as a top 20 institution for sending the most number of Gilman recipients abroad. Having sent 400 Gilman Scholars abroad in the past 20 years, UCSB ranks #4 in the nation in the "large institution category".

We are grateful for the Gilman Scholarship as it has made study abroad financially accessible for many of our students. Over 75% of EAP students require financial aid to study abroad so this, in addition to alumni giving back, helps to further support our mission.



New UCSB EAP Staff

Jeneen Mustafa (left) and Sam Lipiec (right) joined the UCSB EAP staff this 2021-22 year. Both are Regional Advisors and work with a wide variety of countries and programs. It has been great having them on our team!



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