UCEAP $1 million Scholarship Review Committee
Volunteers Needed

UCEAP alumni and friends are warmly invited to join the scholarship review committee. Use your experience of studying in another country to review scholarship applications from students preparing to go abroad in 2015. Application Readers are an integral part of our selection process and the process gives you a great opportunity to learn more about our current students. After completing a short training orientation, readers will evaluate and score applications from the comfort of their own home. To read and score applications you only need a computer or tablet with access to the internet. Participating in the reviews will take approximately 3-6 hours total. Reviews will take place in the first few weeks of October 2014.

For more information read the full program description and contact Stacey Lydon, Alumni Engagement & Scholarship Officer, at (805) 893-2832 or slydon@eap.ucop.edu.

Crowdfunding: Innovative Funding Options for Students
Helping UCEAP Students Raise Funds for Travel
Lack of sufficient financial resources is one of the primary roadblocks for study abroad. Many of our students receive scholarship support but a number of students do not. Purchasing airfare or paying for visa and passport applications before financial aid or scholarship funds are distributed is a big challenge. Many students do not have access to a credit card or family support, and they struggle to find resources to cover early expenses.

UCEAP is excited to announce a new pilot program aimed at helping students raise awareness and support for their study abroad experience. UCEAP has partnered with the crowdfunding site Indiegogo to provide UC students with a platform to raise funds towards their study abroad experience. UCSB student, Juan José Aranda is studying in Madrid this academic year. Juan's path to college and his decision to study abroad is inspiring! To read more and to support Juan directly, check out his campaign.

Donations made directly to students through Indiegogo or other crowdfunding sites are considered gifts directly to the student and are not tax-deductible. As a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, gifts made to UCEAP are tax deductible as allowed by federal law. For more information on supporting UCEAP students through scholarships, click here.

From Community College to Thailand:
The Study Abroad Story of UCLA Alumni - Kate Barnea

"Studying abroad as a college student was the greatest decision I made during my college career. So much so that I participated in three programs: Florence, Italy as a community college student; Bangkok, Thailand through UCEAP; and a global health program sponsored by UC San Diego in Amman, Jordan. Each program was different from the one before it. Italy was a bit short as I was only there for a quarter (three months), Jordan was intense as it was a summer program that partnered with Palestinian refugees, but Thailand had that "Goldilocks" factor: it was just right. The semester was enough time to become accustomed to the culture, complete the courses and perform my UCEAP-approved research." To read more about Kate's experience in Thailand and to learn about the new UCEAP Community College Transfer Scholarship that provides essential financial support for students like Kate, click here.
Program Spotlight: The University of Chile, Santiago
Faith Aguirre's first impression

A UCSB biology major, Faith Aguirre is currently studying at the University of Chile and shares her first thoughts and impressions of her study abroad experience.

"At the University of Chile orientation today, I met the other international exchange students from different countries and was so impressed that in addition to speaking their native language and English, they were also learning Spanish just like me! We took a tour of one of the campuses, Juan Gomez Millas, which is very well known for its 'paros' (student strikes) and has art on the walls of every building. Many of the murals are political, some are inspired by works of famous poets, and many are just beautiful to look at. I think it's pretty amazing to walk across the campus and see the student voices displayed all over. There is such a strong sentiment of having your opinion heard at La Chile that it's nothing short of inspiring."

"Also, I sat next to another UCEAP student on the bus today and asked her how she was doing. Her response was simply, 'Wow, so many emotions.' She expressed not only her nervousness for classes and excitement for all that is in store, but also her gratitude for being able to be where she is today. It really made me take a step back and evaluate how I came to be here in Chile today. Last December, this whole experience was just a hope and dream, a future that I didn't know would even be possible. I have so much to be grateful for today and every day, and I know that I will not take any bit of this experience for granted."

Exploring Internships at Thammast University, Thailand
Sarah Vella's Story

Sarah Vella, an International Studies - Political Science major and Boren Scholarship recipient from UC San Diego spent a year studying at Thammasat University in Bangkok through UCEAP. During her studies in Thailand she participated in an academic internship teaching English to sex workers and other migrants at the EMP OWER Foundation in Bangkok's infamous red light district - Patpong.

As Sarah explains, "Working in this slightly unusual non-profit was both educational and personally rewarding. I was able to meet the United States Ambassador to Thailand, Kristie Kenney, along with other well-known researchers in my field of
study. With NGO EMPOWER, I was also able to attend the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok and the ASEAN Peoples Forum in Myanmar. The time I spent with these women allowed me to see through stereotypes and to get to know them as individuals and to learn more about their personal lives."

Sarah describes her experience studying in Thailand and interning at EMPOWER as life changing. "My time abroad has reinforced some views, and changed others - allowing me to grow more open minded as a person. By being completely immersed in such a foreign culture to my own it has allowed me to see the world not in a case of black and white, but varying shades of grey."

Ghana Spotlight: Spring 2014
Community Service/Donation at Abono Clinic, Ashanti Region

The spring University of Ghana participants made a trip to the Abono Village in the Ashanti Region of Ghana for a community service day. They donated medicine, towels, antiseptics, cotton wool, etc. to the Abono clinic. The students helped the people of the community to weed and clear all weeds around the clinic. They also repaired mosquito nets, painted the clinic, and rehabilitated electrical fans and lights. Pathways from the road to the clinic and from the out-patient area to in-patient wards were also constructed.

Success! New University of Tokyo Research Internship Program

The first cohort of UCEAP participants in the University of Tokyo Research Internship Program (UTRIP) had a great experience in Tokyo. UCEAP students participated in this science research program in which undergraduates conduct hands on research in a lab setting. This year, the University of Tokyo accepted 29 out of 500 international students from top universities worldwide, five of which were UC students. Feedback from the students was all very positive. They are very satisfied with the program academically, spending many hours in lab, and their professors are very supportive and enthusiastic.