Adventures Abroad Await!

Right before my junior year as a PSB major at UCI, I decided to study abroad. It’s now 14 years later and I can remember the days of strolling down the cobble stone streets of Florence, Italy as if they were yesterday. I had NO idea the impact that choice was going to make on my life. And trust me, it can do the same for you once you make the same decision!

Here’s why YOU should do it:

It’s in the UCI Social Ecology Mission Statement—“...to examine how human beings interact with their social, behavioral, legal and physical environments and to help solve real world problems, both locally and globally.”

Graduate on time – I did. You can still graduate in 4 years because you will take the courses required for your major on the program abroad. Yes, you can find Child Development, Deviance and Urban Policy in Singapore, the Netherlands, New Zealand... Or, try something totally different like Gender & Crime in Australia or Madness in Society in France.

It is absolutely affordable! Some programs cost about the same as attending UCI and some are even less. Plus, you can take your financial aid with you and apply for scholarships.

Get a job after graduation! “A just-released survey of recent college graduates has revealed that studying abroad may be one of the best ways for college students to find jobs sooner after graduation, related to their majors, and at a higher salary” (IES Abroad Survey, 2012). Even my grad school interview (for a counseling program) ended up being all about my time in Italy.

Intern or do research while studying abroad. You don’t have to sacrifice study abroad in order to gain experience. Do it all while studying abroad! After class, conduct research on juveniles in Mexican prisons or intern in the Scottish Parliament.

Study in English. And, you don’t just have to go to England. There are LOTS of programs where courses are taught in English, despite the language of the locals (e.g. Argentina, France, and Japan). Or, learn a new language abroad and fulfill your entire language requirement in one term. Of course, if you’re one of those people that already know 3 languages, go ahead and put it to use!

It’s not too good to be true! Walking by the Vatican each day on your way to class can also be a reality for you. Become like the hundreds of other Anteaters Abroad that just can’t stop talking about life abroad. All you have to do is grab your Starbucks coffee and head into the Study Abroad Center that’s just across the way. The good news is that there’s a Study Abroad Advisor in the Study Abroad Center (ME!) that completely understands where you, as a Social Ecology major, are coming from. I’ll see you soon.

By: Bonnie Hooes
Past Participant of Study Abroad
UCI Social Ecology Alumn
UCI Study Abroad Advisor
Introducing the 2012-2013 Social Ecology Interns

Administrative Intern

Hello, Social Ecology students! My name is Chelsea Mumma, and I am the new Administrative Intern for the School of Social Ecology. I am a third year Psychology and Social Behavior major. My career goals are to continue to graduate school, earn a Psy.D., and continue into the field of Clinical Psychology. To me, aiding one’s mental health is a sincere and direct way of improving lives. What appeals to me about the School of Social Ecology in general is its effective application and influence on individual lives and the community as a whole. In my free time, I enjoy dancing ballet, playing golf, and hiking. I look forward to another spectacular year as an Anteater. Zot, zot, zot!

Field Study Intern

My name is Dheyani Malde. I absolutely love playing basketball and snowboarding. Basketball is my way of life, and unlike driving; snowboarding has no proper speed limit. I am fascinated by all cultures, especially the different foods. My all-time favorite dessert is baklava. I hate chocolate milk, but I love strawberry milk. I’m very talkative and usually don’t stop talking. Now for the serious information: I am currently a second year, majoring in Psychology and Social Behavior. I wish to pursue two future careers, in Sports Medicine and Clinical Therapy. My goal is to complete my Masters or further studies in London, which is my hometown!

Field Study Intern

Hi Everyone! My name is Maggie Anderson and I am a third year double majoring in Psychology and Social Behavior and Political Science. It’s been a busy start for me but I love every second of it and look forward to the rest of the year. I love sports and especially playing softball. I am also involved with ASUCI where I hold two positions one being the Co-Commissioner for the Visions Leadership Class under the Academic Affairs Office which I coordinate and teach a leadership class and I am also a Club Outreach Intern under the Student Services Office (the office that puts on all the big events like Shocktoberfest!) Being involved with UCI I have learned so much which has made my time here exciting! After I graduate I want to go into counseling because I love helping others or go to law school.

Urban Studies: Acquiring Alumni Wisdom

The School of Social Ecology presents the Urban Studies Alumni Career Night, Thursday, November 15, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Gateway, room 1517. This is a special opportunity for students to connect with alumni who are working in Urban Studies related careers. If you are an Urban Studies major and are curious about your potential career paths, or the field in general, this is an outstanding opportunity to gain knowledge from working professionals. What better way to help fuel your career direction than hearing the experience and knowledge of alumni? Information is power, and these seasoned individuals can provide a great deal of insight. Don’t miss this chance to have your questions and concerns answered about your potential future in the field.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

-Benjamin Franklin
Going through the Fall quarter, I have taken a few opportunities to reflect on transferring to UCI. It is not something I dwell on because I already feel part of the campus. Even as a commuter I feel like I have been here forever. Here is the secret to my comfort: I cheated.

Last Spring, after receiving my acceptance letter to UCI, I debated about getting a head start and taking summer session. After going back and forth about losing my last month of summer to a wham- bam- thank-you- ma'am five week class, my sense of wanting to make sure I graduate on time won out. Also, to be honest, thanks to the generous financial aid department, I was able attend when I otherwise would have had to wait until fall. I digress.

Summer Session. Admittedly I was a bit nervous. It sounds preposterous for someone who has been through a few years at Junior College and holding down a job in the process. Call it a case of the unknown. I had only visited the campus a couple times before. Because of this, I made sure to get to school in plenty of time just in case I got lost. While I never officially lost my way, there were many moments of standing around and holding a map wondering how the heck I could have passed up a two story- plus building. After a couple weeks of keeping my map firmly on hand, I started to feel my way around campus. Not only learning where the buildings were but also how long it would take me to walk to each building. In the grand scheme it was a small feat but it is the little things in life that make or break a day.

Now, with Fall quarter steadily under way, there is an element of being “an old hand” to where everything is located on campus. Because I “cheated” and got a head start, I was also able to meet people. It can get lonely walking on campus and seeing everyone talk to friends can make you feel like the lone wolf. Even for someone who is not actively involved in clubs or activities (and does not care to) this can be a little depressing.

My word of advice to other transfers who were not able to cheat? Get familiar with the campus. Walk around with no destination in mind. There is nothing like knowing exactly where you are at all times. Even better is when someone walks up to you and asks where a building may be. Second, if you cannot get involved, (I recommend you at least join one club or even go to the gym and find workout buddies), make friends in class. Even if it is only for a quarter. You never know who you will see in future classes. I sat next to a fellow student all during summer session. We became friendly but forgot to exchange names. Come fall quarter, we spotted each other in another psychology class (we did exchange names this time). Point is, put yourself out there a little bit. It will come as a nice surprise that most people feel the same as you. It makes the campus feel smaller and makes going to class that much easier.

By: Melissa Wetzel

UCI Transfer Student
Speaking Up: Recommendations for Field Study

Dean Val Jenness and Field Study Director Ashley Vikander want to hear what you think! What can we do to enhance the Field Study Program? Join us for a Field Study Focus Group on Thursday, January 24, 2012 from 2:00-4:00 pm in SBSG 5105.

The Field Study Committee recommends the following. What do you think?

• Clarify goals of Field Study (recommended goals are: promote community engagement, to facilitate civic education and help students develop into informed and active democratic citizens)

• Develop modules to balance field study goals and course flexibility

• Review prerequisites

• Leveraging and expanding university and community resources (create a Field Study Advertising Board)

RSVP: Sign up at: https://eee.uci.edu/signupsheet/fsfocusgroup/

Prerequisites for field study are:

• Social Ecology 10 – Research Design
• Must be in good academic standing, with a minimum overall GPA of 2.0
• Must be a declared major within the School of Social Ecology
• Must be junior or senior standing
• Be accepted to a field study placement.
• Submit Field Study Course Enrollment Form by established deadlines. Students must have obtained field placement PRIOR to submitting form.

“Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.”

~ Author Unknown
Workshops: Revving Up for Graduate

November 6: Statement of Purpose/Personal History Statement
What’s the difference between the personal statement and the statement of purpose? This workshop will deconstruct this important component of the graduate application and provide helpful hints for writing a winning statement.

November 13: Funding Your Graduate Education
The workshop will provide a basic overview of funding at the graduate level and will review resources you can use now to get a jump start on securing funding.

All Workshops on Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 pm, Graduate Resource Center (Student Center, Room C114).

Counseling Center Groups: Share, Learn, Grow

Finding Your Calm: Mondays, 1-2:30 pm. The goal of this group is to help students increase awareness of their personal reactions to stressors, learn anxiety management techniques, practice breathing and relaxation exercises, and gain support from others. Contact: Yuli Liu, Ph.D. & Dianna Gonzalez, Ed.M.

Overcoming Social Anxiety: Thursdays, 1-2:30 pm. This 9-week structured, skills-focused group is designed to help students overcome anxiety in a variety of social situations including public speaking, meeting new people, initiating and maintaining conversations. Contact Debbie Liu, Ph.D. & Lauren Jensen, M.A.

International Coffee Hour: Fridays, 12-1 pm. Come and meet interesting students from all over the world. Relax and enjoy lively conversations and refreshments. New members are always welcome. Contact Jonathan Flojo, Ph.D.

Campus Assault Resources and Education (CARE), Choices and Voices: Mondays, 3:30-5 pm. This group, sponsored by CARE, provides a safe and secure environment to discuss the ongoing needs of survivors of sexual violence. If you would like more information about this group, please contact Mandy Mount, Ph.D. at (949) 824-7273

Holiday Food Drive
Donation bins located in Social Ecology II in CLS and SBSG 4th floor lobby until Nov 19. Food collected will be distributed to the needy by Second Harvest Food Bank. Join the School of Social Ecology in making a difference this holiday season!

Food: canned meats, fish, soup, fruits, vegetables, pasta, hot and cold cereal, macaroni & cheese, rice, beans, peanut butter.

Personal Care: diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, soap.

*Please no glass containers or

Success is dependent on effort.
— Sophocles

Walk-in Hours: Monday—Friday, 9 am–3:45 pm (closed from 12–1)