

# The UC San Diego Study Abroad Alumni Survey

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Updated 4/20/2010

The International Center sent out an email to 3,872 study abroad alumni. Names and PID's were compiled by the Programs Abroad Office of the International Center and sent to the Alumni Association, who provided us with the alumni's contact information. Of the 3,872 email addresses, 386 bounced back. That left us with 3,486 good email addresses. An email requesting participation in the survey was first sent on August 18, 2008. As of April 20, 2010, 1,010 participants (or 29%) responded.

The survey included nine demographic questions related to gender, ethnicity, UCSD college, major, financial aid, year of graduation, length of study abroad program, and region of study abroad program. The second set of questions asked alumni about the impact of study abroad on their personal and professional lives.

### Result Highlights

- One respondent graduated in 1973! Others graduated in 1975, 1977, 1978, 1983, 1984, 1986, and 1988 (as well as every year since 1990).
- 55.1% of respondents studied abroad for a full year. Another 31.3% studied abroad for a semester.
- Students studied abroad in all regions of the world, but the majority (57.3%) studied abroad in Western Europe.
- Only 30.8% of respondents were male, which parallels the percentage of UCSD males who go abroad and is similar to the national participation rate of males.
- Caucasians represented the largest ethnic group, with 64.3% of respondents.
- 51.4% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that study abroad influenced their choice of career.
- 39.0% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that study abroad helped them obtain their first job after college.
- 99.8% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the cross-cultural skills they learned abroad were valuable to them personally, and 93.7% agreed or strongly agreed that they were professionally valuable.
- A majority of participants also agreed or strongly agreed that their study abroad experiences:
  - influenced the way they track international events (88.5%),
  - impacted their likelihood to engage in international activities (94.5%),
  - impacted their interest in post-study abroad travel (95.9%),
  - impacted their friendships (94.1%),
  - would lead them to urge others to study abroad (99.98%), and
  - were overall valuable (99.9%).

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

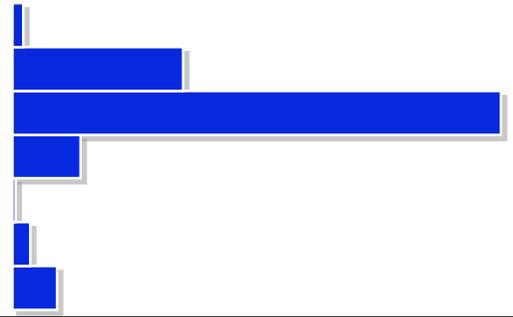
### What is your gender?

<b>Female</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>69.3%</b>
Male	300	30.7%



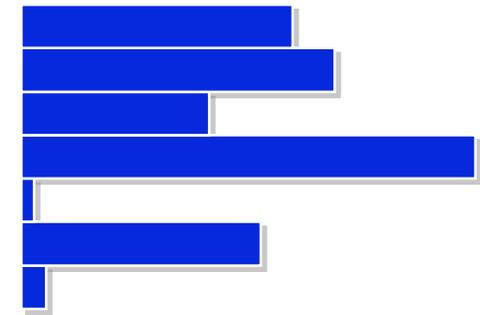
### What is your ethnicity?

African American	13	1.3%
Asian American	220	22.4%
<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>64.4%</b>
Latino	87	8.9%
Native American or Native Alaskan	3	0.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	22	2.2%
Other	57	5.8%



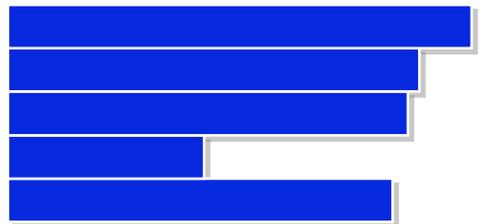
### From which college did you graduate?

Marshall (Third College)	179	18.2%
Muir (Second College)	207	21.0%
Revelle (First College)	124	12.6%
<b>Roosevelt (Fifth College)</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>30.5%</b>
Sixth College	8	0.8%
Warren (Fourth College)	158	16.0%
Graduate Student	16	1.6%



### Scholarships and/or financial aid were essential to my participation in a study abroad program.

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>25.1%</b>
Agree	218	22.2%
Disagree	212	21.6%
Strongly Disagree	104	10.6%
Not Applicable	204	20.8%



### Did you live at International House?

Yes	114	11.8%
<b>No</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>88.2%</b>



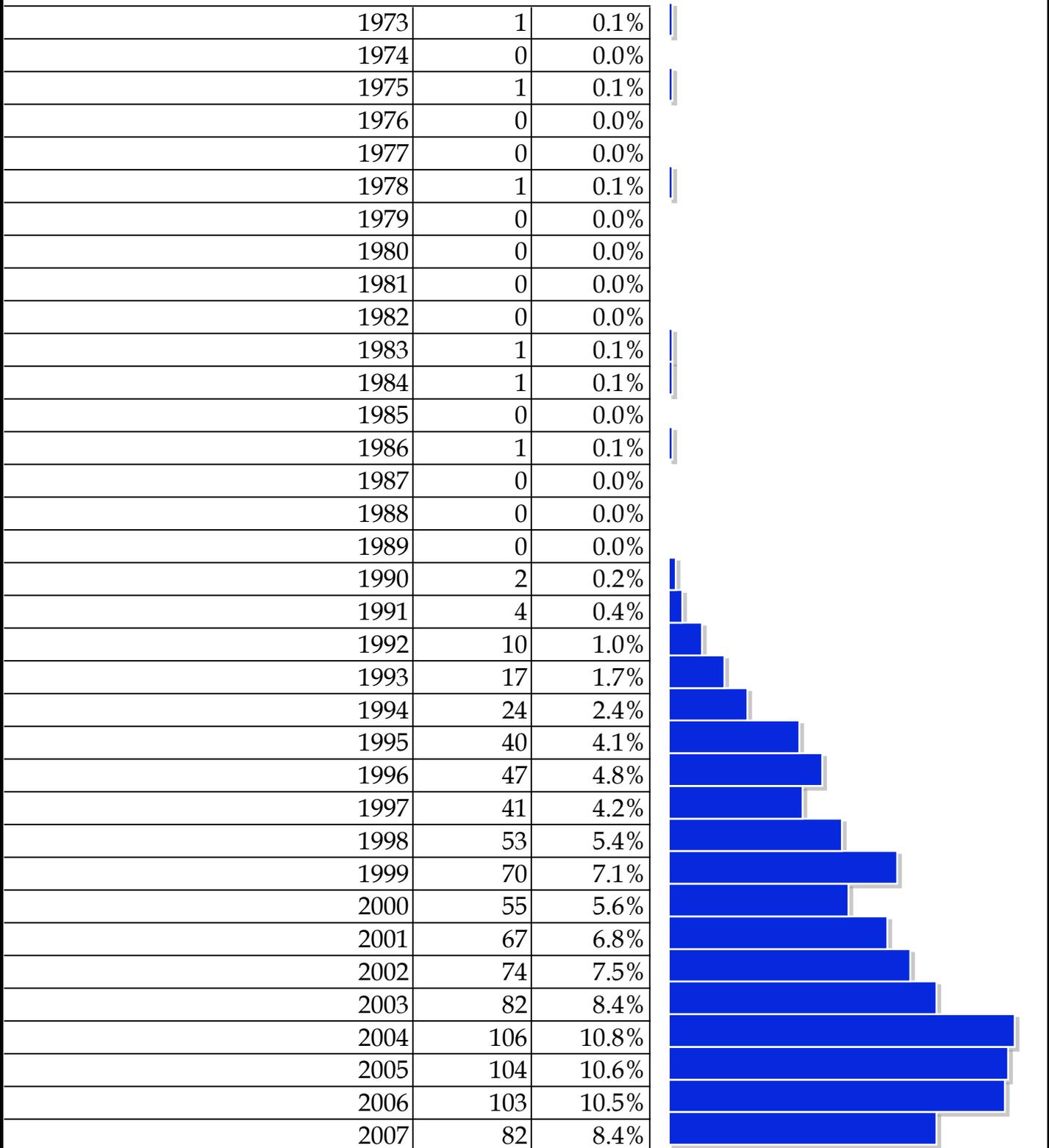
## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### In which major or field of study did you graduate?

Anthropology	37	3.8%	
Bioengineering	11	1.1%	
Biological Sciences	145	14.7%	
Chemistry and Biochemistry	36	3.7%	
Chinese Studies	12	1.2%	
Cognitive Science	19	1.9%	
Communication	74	7.5%	
Computer Science and Engineering	8	0.8%	
Critical Gender Studies	3	0.3%	
Dance	1	0.1%	
Earth Science	1	0.1%	
Economics	107	10.9%	
Engineering	26	2.6%	
Environmental Systems Program	7	0.7%	
Ethnic Studies	17	1.7%	
German Studies	6	0.6%	
History	63	6.4%	
Human Development	43	4.4%	
Individual Majors	1	0.1%	
International Studies	43	4.4%	
Italian Studies	2	0.2%	
Japanese Studies	12	1.2%	
Judaic Studies	2	0.2%	
Latin American Studies	14	1.4%	
Linguistics	17	1.7%	
Literature	93	9.5%	
Mathematics	13	1.3%	
Music	4	0.4%	
Philosophy	6	0.6%	
Physics	4	0.4%	
<b>Political Science</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	
Psychology	85	8.6%	
Religion, Study of	4	0.4%	
Russian and Soviet Studies	5	0.5%	
Sociology	53	5.4%	
Theatre	13	1.3%	
Third World Studies	5	0.5%	
Urban Studies and Planning	21	2.1%	
Visual Arts	39	4.0%	

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

**What year did you graduate from UC San Diego? (If you graduated more than once from UC San Diego, please select the degree during which you studied abroad.)**



## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

**What was the length of your study abroad program? (If you studied abroad more than once, please list the longest duration of your studies abroad.)**

Five weeks or less	9	0.9%	
Six to ten weeks or one quarter	128	13.0%	
One semester	309	31.5%	
<b>One year</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>54.7%</b>	

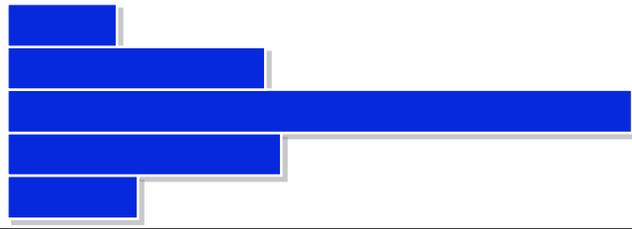
**In which region of the world did you study abroad?**

Africa	33	3.4%	
Asia	155	15.8%	
Caribbean	10	1.0%	
Eastern or Central Europe	48	4.9%	
Latin America	121	12.4%	
Middle East	36	3.7%	
North America	9	0.9%	
Oceania	81	8.3%	
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

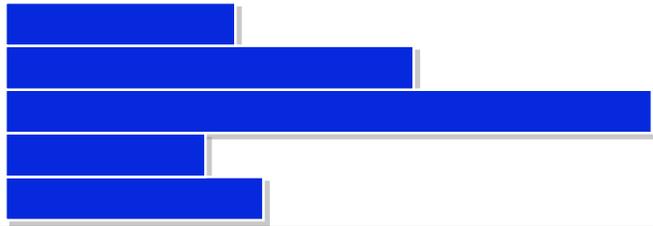
**My study abroad experience influenced my choice of major.**

Strongly Agree	77	7.8%
Agree	182	18.5%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>44.8%</b>
Strongly Disagree	193	19.6%
Not Applicable	92	9.3%



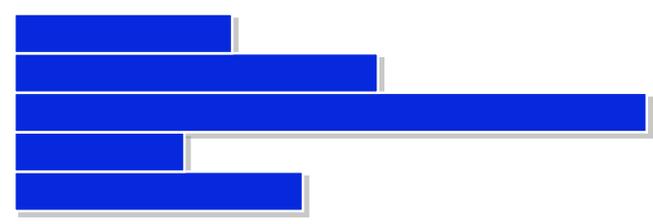
**My study abroad experience influenced my decision to attend graduate or professional school.**

Strongly Agree	130	13.2%
Agree	231	23.4%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>37.1%</b>
Strongly Disagree	113	11.5%
Not Applicable	146	14.8%



**My study abroad experience influenced my choice of graduate or professional school area of study.**

Strongly Agree	127	13.0%
Agree	212	21.7%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>37.8%</b>
Strongly Disagree	99	10.2%
Not Applicable	168	17.2%



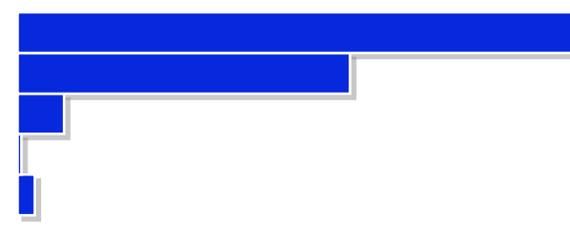
**The cross-cultural skills I learned abroad are valuable to me personally.**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>78.0%</b>
Agree	210	21.5%
Disagree	3	0.3%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.1%
Not Applicable	1	0.1%



**The cross-cultural skills I learned abroad are valuable to me professionally.**

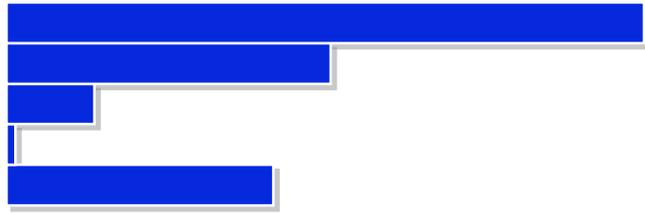
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>58.4%</b>
Agree	341	34.8%
Disagree	47	4.8%
Strongly Disagree	3	0.3%
Not Applicable	17	1.7%



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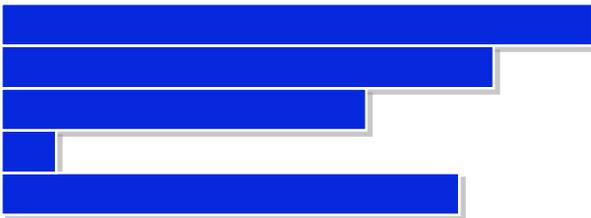
**The language skills I learned abroad are valuable to me personally.**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>48.2%</b>
Agree	237	24.5%
Disagree	64	6.6%
Strongly Disagree	6	0.6%
Not Applicable	195	20.1%



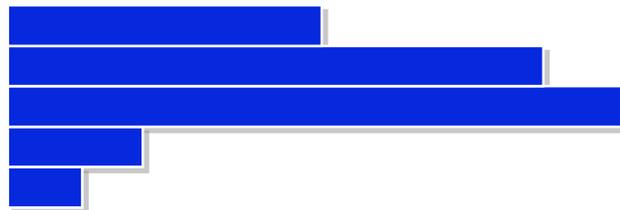
**The language skills I learned abroad are valuable to me professionally.**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>30.2%</b>
Agree	244	25.1%
Disagree	181	18.6%
Strongly Disagree	27	2.8%
Not Applicable	227	23.3%



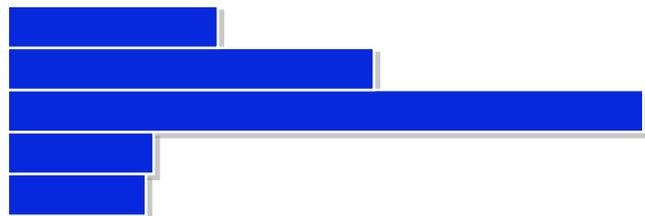
**My study abroad experience influenced my choice of career.**

Strongly Agree	182	18.7%
Agree	311	32.0%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>36.8%</b>
Strongly Disagree	78	8.0%
Not Applicable	43	4.4%



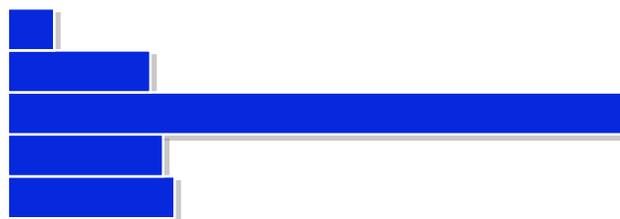
**My study abroad experience helped me obtain my first job after college.**

Strongly Agree	137	14.0%
Agree	239	24.5%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>42.5%</b>
Strongly Disagree	95	9.7%
Not Applicable	90	9.2%



**My study abroad experience positively impacted my initial salary.**

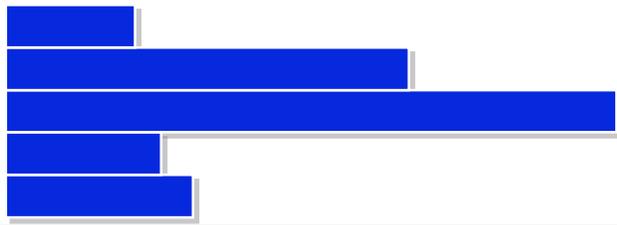
Strongly Agree	40	4.1%
Agree	124	12.6%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>54.9%</b>
Strongly Disagree	135	13.7%
Not Applicable	145	14.7%



## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

**My study abroad experience positively impacted my career trajectory and salary.**

Strongly Agree	84	8.7%
Agree	263	27.1%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>41.2%</b>
Strongly Disagree	101	10.4%
Not Applicable	122	12.6%



**My study abroad experience influenced the way I track international events.**

Strongly Agree	363	37.2%
<b>Agree</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>50.8%</b>
Disagree	100	10.2%
Strongly Disagree	11	1.1%
Not Applicable	7	0.7%



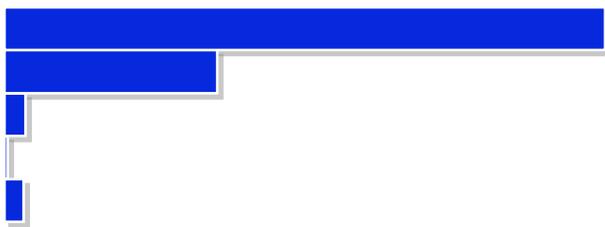
**My study abroad experience has impacted my likelihood to engage in international activities.**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>49.9%</b>
Agree	432	44.3%
Disagree	53	5.4%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.1%
Not Applicable	3	0.3%



**My study abroad experience impacted my interest in post-study abroad travel.**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>70.3%</b>
Agree	243	24.9%
Disagree	23	2.4%
Strongly Disagree	3	0.3%
Not Applicable	21	2.1%



**My study abroad experience impacted my participation in post-study abroad volunteer opportunities.**

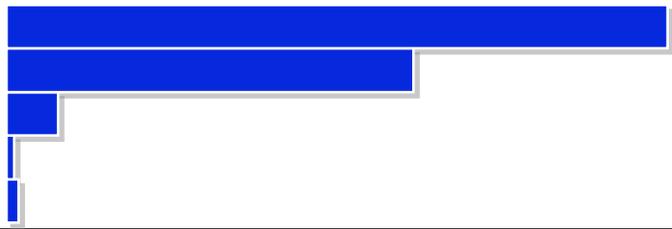
Strongly Agree	193	19.7%
Agree	283	28.9%
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>32.7%</b>
Strongly Disagree	24	2.5%
Not Applicable	159	16.2%



## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

**My study abroad experience positively impacted my friendships.**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>58.1%</b>
Agree	349	35.8%
Disagree	44	4.5%
Strongly Disagree	6	0.6%
Not Applicable	10	1.0%



**I would urge others to study abroad.**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>94.7%</b>
Agree	50	5.1%
Disagree	2	0.2%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
Not Applicable	0	0.0%



**My overall study abroad experience was valuable.**

<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>92.2%</b>
Agree	75	7.7%
Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.1%
Not Applicable	0	0.0%



**Please comment on how your study abroad experience impacted you personally and/or professionally.**

578 Responses      See pages 9-48.

*Please note that responses have not been edited and are published verbatim.*

**What one piece of advice would you share with students who are considering study abroad?**

699 Responses      See pages 49-79.

*Please note that responses have not been edited and are published verbatim.*

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

<p>After graduating from UCSD, I returned to France, where I had studied abroad, to teach English for two years. I enrolled (and completed) a Masters program at a French university and have changed jobs twice. I have been living here for over three years now, I'm married to a French citizen, and we've even bought a house here! Study abroad literally changed the course of my life--I had never planned to move abroad</p>
<p>After graduating from UCSD, my study abroad experience led to a volunteering opportunity abroad, which was one of the best experiences of my life. My international experiences clearly distinguished my application from others when I applied to business school. Furthermore, the experience helped me to get selected to interview and an offer to participate in an extremely competitive internship position. After business school, I received a great job offer to market company products across the globe. My study abroad experience opened great opportunities for me and continue to have a very positive impact in my life.</p>
<p>After graduating, I returned to my host country to pursue a master's degree as a direct-enrolled student. But most importantly for me: As a student abroad I studied the United States from outside. I learned more in those years overseas about my own country's history, role in the world, and culture than I'd learned in the previous 20. This helped set me on my career path. Now, as I approach the end of a doctoral program in history, it's easy to see how those years overseas shaped the way I think, sparked curiosity in me, and helped</p>
<p>After my semester in Spain, I knew I wanted to travel/work abroad. I did so with the JET Programme.</p>
<p>After my study abroad experience at Cambridge, I decided to move to England and pursue a career there after graduation. The fact that I had attended such a prestigious British school during study abroad really gave me credibility when trying to secure work in London.</p>
<p>After spending time on Semester at Sea I got the travel bug. It was always in me, but after getting the taste of traveling to 10 different countries in a 100 days, it has yet to leave me. I spent almost 2 years traveling after graduating from UCSD. I then entered an International Education post-degree program in Australia and now I work for a International Education Non-profit organization. All in all, my experience has inspired me to not only be a global citizen, but also to respect people regardless of their background. Everyday I take the lessons I learned from my study abroad experience and implement them in my day to day life. We live in a globalized world, and I think it is imperative that all students should take the opportunity to study abroad, or at least travel overseas. I think it is the best education one can ever receive.</p>
<p>After studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, I became very comfortable speaking Spanish and interacting with people from Latino backgrounds. This has greatly helped me in my work as a medical student in the San Diego student-run free clinics. I followed up this study abroad experience with a recent 2 month trip working in public health in Rabinal, Guatemala. Studying abroad changed my life and world</p>
<p>After studying abroad my Spanish skills increased exponentially and I realized that I wanted to follow a career path that allowed me to use them. After graduation from UCSD I spent some time traveling and then accepted a job as a bilingual mortgage loan counselor. Knowing Spanish meant that I received a pay differential. After deciding that the mortgage loan industry was not for me, I began researching other jobs that would allow me to use my Spanish skills, and I ended up getting an MA in Spanish Translation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. I am now gainfully employed as a translation project manager and really enjoy my career. I have maintained some great friendships from my year abroad, it directly influenced my career choice and it made me more confident, open-minded, and culturally aware. Our world would be a different place if every US student, or citizen for that matter, spent time abroad.</p>
<p>after studying abroad, i knew that my international experience had not yet come to an end. Upon graduating, I searched out internship/job opportunities abroad and took advantage of UCSD's London Internship program. I moved to London 2 days after graduating to do a 3 month internship and ended up staying there 4 years -- obtaining a job in advertising and again experiencing living abroad. I wouldn't have traded that for</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

<p>After studying in Barcelona for a year (and attending UAB) I came back to SD and finished my final year. I couldn't WAIT to go back abroad - so after I graduated, I moved to Galway, Ireland. When I came back to the states after working in Galway I found that I was always asked back for interviews by employers primarily because they were intrigued by the experiences I had in Spain and Ireland. I had never travelled outside of CA before I moved to Spain. Now I have my sights set on travelling around the world as a career.</p>
<p>After studying in Ecuador during my junior year, I later returned to UCSD and earned a MPIA from IR/PS. I later worked for 10 years in international business, selling military hardware in Latin American countries. Now, I am pursuing my final degree, a J.D. from UC Davis, and plan to focus on international business</p>
<p>Alot of my patients speak spanish, and appreciate a doctor who can relate in the same language. Makes for better compliance.</p>
<p>Although I traveled to England and did not learn a language it was an amazing experience to meet people from different areas. It gave me a better understand of world events</p>
<p>Although I was already certain about what field I would go into, study abroad helped narrow down the specific job I would end up starting with. I also gained professional skills in South Africa that I would not have received at UCSD. In my personal life, I have become more accepting of practices that are not 'normal' in western societies, as well as more interested in international events.</p>
<p>Although I was already literate in the language, my experience in the country of origin of my family, helped define me as an individual and value both the culture of my ancestors and the one I am a part of. This is especially valuable since I am a bilingual educator and work with students who struggle with the assimilation/maintenance cultural issue.</p>
<p>Although my study abroad experience had almost no impact on my career, I enjoyed the experience immensely and urge everyone to study overseas.</p>
<p>Although my study abroad experience was not related to my major or future career, it strongly impacted my attitude towards world events and general knowledge. It is a cliché, but I would say it opened my eyes to what exists outside of the USA "bubble." I studied in Italy, which is not a developing country, but I have continued to work in international health in developing countries. I would like to think that my study abroad experience had some influence in this choice.</p>
<p>Although my study abroad program focused primarily on the area of study in which I majored, anthropology, I ended up choosing a different career path as an indirect result of my year abroad. But had I not gone abroad I may never have been exposed to the new career path upon which I embarked. So although I can't say my studies were directly relevant to my career now as a filmmaker, my experience there helped lead me to it. But in terms of what I learned personally and life skills that I gained, it was by far the most fruitful and rewarding year out of all four years of college.</p>
<p>amazing time in my life, i would not trade my experience for anything in the world :)</p>
<p>Among the top two or three "big" decisions I made in college that led to huge positive changes in my experience and career, the decision to go abroad takes first place</p>
<p>An invaluable experience! I trully believe that studying abroad is the best education anyone can have; it helps one to understand life.</p>
<p>As a direct result of my year abroad experience, I chose to go into social work and began working with immigrants from Mexico and Latin America. Learning Spanish has been incredibly useful in my professional</p>
<p>As a person in pursuit of a degree in Biochem/Chem at the time, my choice of country was greatly influenced by my major and intended career in medicine. It was rather difficult to choose classes that would help me to continue my studies. However, personally it was the experience of a lifetime! I got to live in one of the world's best known cities and enjoy all that that city and school had to offer. I particularly took advantage of all the arts and culture that were available and was overjoyed that I got to enjoy it at the student prices!</p>

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As a result of living in another country in college, I felt comfortable accepting an academic job in Canada. It prepared me to relate to people from around the world, and for the process of adjusting to a new culture.
Aside from meeting my best friends at UCSD, studying abroad was the best thing I could have done while in college.
Australia was similar to California.
Became a more engaged world citizen. Was able to perceive America from another view point. Learned the beauty and struggles of living in another culture. Was a jumping off point for world travel. Key to language fluency! Highly highly recommend the EAP program. For me I intentionally went to 5th college specifically for this program, even though it was not associated with my primary area of study, Ecology, Behaviour and Evolution. I wanted the traditional Renaissance, well rounded education. German did become my minor
Because I enjoyed my study abroad experience so much, I decided that I wanted to go and experience more cultures. I'm currently living and working in Asia.
because I survived studying abroad in a country I had never visited previously, England and I like the pace of life and the style of teaching, I decided to go back to England for my Master's at the University of Manchester. I believe if I had not participated in EAP, I won't have the courage now to seek something different.
Because of my familial circumstances, studying abroad was my only experience getting to live with other students and also my first chance to travel outside of the United States. Both of those opportunities were invaluable to me, and my time abroad is one of the key reasons why I have been very thankful to have been able to attend UCSD. I am very grateful for the scholarship I received that enabled me to study abroad and look forward to the time that I can support the scholarship program so that others may have this amazing
Because of my positive experience abroad, I am considering returning there to gauge whether working there will be feasible in the future.
Because of my study abroad experience, I strongly believe every college student should study abroad at some point, even if just for a semester. Although my study abroad experience has not had much if any influence on my career path, it was an invaluable personal experience that has made me a better citizen of the U.S. and the
Before studying abroad I did not even own a passport, now I have visited 12 different countries. Studying abroad was the single best experience I received from all of my schooling and truly changed my view of the world as a whole.
Being abroad during 9-11 really impacted my life. I was able to talk to people from different countries and see their perspective on the U.S. I also had an internship in the city jail. I worked with a psychologist and an educator. I learned Catalan and was able to live in an official bilingual area. During interviews, I always mention my abroad experience. It is a vital part of my UCSD experience and will continue to shape my career
Being so far away from everything you know for a year was one of the hardest years of my life, but it was also one of the best years of my life. The friendships i have made there are still going strong five years later. You learn things about yourself that you never thought you would.
Best experience of my college career. The 1 year abroad was 1 year well spent and I learned more in that year then the other 3 years at UCSD. The knowledge and experiences I gained are not something that can be taught in a classroom but are valuable and relevant the rest of my life.
Best experience of my life!!! :)
Best experience of my life; enables one to pursue global business, consider obtaining degrees abroad, etc.
Best thing I did while at UCSD.
Best thing I have ever done.
best year of my life, hands down. i would encourage everyone to study abroad & discover who they really
broadened my perspectives, too many people believe the USA is how the rest of the world is. go out there and realize the difference yourself

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By far the best year of my life.
Cemented my love for Latin America, and now I do research in Mexico and Peru.
Cultural literacy is secondary to other skills; in other words first be an engineer, or lawyer, or whatever and then worry about understanding other cultures.
Don't be fooled by some of the "strongly disagrees" above - I did not go abroad to gain a better starting salary or get into graduate school (I studied film as a minor in Italy, but then went to medical school). HOWEVER - The results from this year have impacted my life so much. I met my wife there, and we now have two children. We travel back and forth often. I worked for 3 years on a joint project with Harvard establishing the specialty of emergency medicine in Tuscany.
During my time abroad I learned how to communicate with others of different cultures. I am currently a teacher and this is a valuable skill in my profession.
essential part of my education
Essential to being an open-minded, thoughtful, diverse human being. Would not trade the experience for
Even in a multi-cultural environment in America, especially in southern California, the inter-cultural experiences we have growing up with other ethnicities is still with an American twist. Going abroad and experiencing a different culture in a different environment definitely had a positive impact on my views
Ever since returning from Beijing in June of 2006. I have been searching for ways to return. I am currently hoping to receive a grant to conduct field research there in the next year. As cliched as it might sound , my experience abroad has truly changed my outlook on life and my plans for the future.
Everyone needs to study abroad! No matter your financial situation, major requirements, ties to home/friends/family, your life will only improve by an international study experience. Figure out a way to do it and go!
Expanded my view of the world. Engaged me to be more involved with others, across cultures. Certainly a great experience I would urge EVERYONE to do!
experience of a lifetime. Life changing. priceless. best time of my life, will never forget it. I miss it. It still brings a smile to my face. It was my fantasy year. only as a student can you undertake an experience like that. full time work changes everything.
Field of study: School of Medicine (not listed above) Study abroad truly changed my life. My wife and I both travelled together (she is a UCSD 95 grad and former EAP alumna as well) . Broadened my perspective of the world. Influences my current medical practice. Would be happy to speak to any prospective international student participants (chanas@pamf.org)
Gained new lifelong friendships and compelled me to pursue graduate degrees in international studies.
Gave me a new perspective.
gave me focus, helped me find my own voice, and to be proud of who I am and where I come from no matter where I may live.
Gave me new perspectives on looking at the United States through the eyes of a foreigner.
Going abroad was one of the best decisions I made as an undergrad. EVERYONE should do it.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

<p>Going to Spain for a second time and being able to get straight-A's in native-speaker political science classes made me miss my college-level use of Spanish so much when I got back that I decided to double-major in Spanish literature when I returned. My continuation of perfecting my literary Spanish led equipped me to be able to quickly master Portuguese on my own, which has been of great value to me personally: it is the native language of the woman I hope to marry, and we want to be able to speak it at home so that our children will grow up bicultural. It has also helped me professionally: it landed me an internship and later a job with the Brazilian government, where I learned professional translation among other skills. I now also have taken my translation abilities and completed the circle by applying them to Spanish in order to assist and translate for clients on the side as a supplement to my income. My language acquisition experiences have also made me</p> <p>Got married, didn't come back to the US for 5 years, during which time I lived in three different countries on two continents. Got a Masters Degree while abroad. Studying abroad was the best choice I ever made.</p>
Great conversation starter.
Great growth personally
Greater exposure / experience to global events
Has not impacted me professionally yet, but might in the future. Can't hurt it!!!
Having lived in San Diego my entire life, the year that I spent in a study abroad program in Puerto Rico enhanced my perspective on world events and cultures. This region has a dominant influence of Mexican culture, including from within my own biracial background, and experiencing a dramatically different culture that shared the Spanish language was a memorable journey both literally and figuratively. In my career, I specialize in Hispanic marketing, and I feel I am able to connect better with my diverse client base due to my
Helped me become a more well rounded person. Encouraged me to learn additional languages. Made friends that I'm still close with. Gave me a chance to travel around Europe after the program was over.
Helped open my eyes to the ethnocentric American mentality and offered a change of environment that was so crucial.
Honestly it was a little over 5 weeks maybe 6 weeks at the University of Granada in Spain - I went through a program CEA cultural experiences abroad. It was a fantastic way to speed up my spanish fluency as grammar study alone can be counterintuitive. It was a wonderful time!
How has it not impacted me??? After studying for a semester in Chile, I became much more aware of the world, and the U.S.'s role in it. My eyes were opened, I became more courageous and later went on to study & travel (even alone) to other parts of the world. I am still friends with the people I lived with and even had a friend whom I studied with who married one of the guys she met while we were abroad. Studying abroad broke down stereotypes and prejudices I didn't even realize I had about Latinos. My first real job out of college was managing a small company. Even though I didn't have the experience, my boss told me that because of my fluency in Spanish, my Media Arts background, and my study abroad he felt that I was the best candidate and could handle anything. Overall, it can lead to obsessions about travel. Now that I am in graduate school, I'm about to go off for a semester abroad in Spain. Earlier this year, I interned for a couple of
I absolutely loved my experience so much that I would appreciate a career in helping other students share an experience in studies abroad.
I am broke and in serious debt because of it.
I am currently in medical school and yesterday I did a breast biopsy on a woman who only spoke Spanish. I was able to explain the procedure to her and calm her down rather than having the attending physician talk to her through a language line.
I am in the Peace Corps now and I think that studying abroad prepared me for this experience.
I am now a Peace Corps Volunteer in Fiji. I am considering graduate school in a field directly related to one of the courses I took abroad.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

<p>I am still actively in contact with friends I've made during my study abroad both in Spain and in the US. In fact my best friends are the ones who shared this experience with me. To this day, I still speak Spanish on a personal and professional level. Much of the work I've done has required Spanish and has opened many doors for me. I currently live abroad and having lived abroad before has made this experience richer. But the most important benefit of studying abroad -- if it hadn't been for a Spanish friend I met, I wouldn't have met I became a better person after studying abroad. It opened my eyes to a whole other way of life than to what I'd been accustomed. It was the highlight of college for me and I believe I became a better student when returned for my last year of college.</p>
<p>I became a freelance translator based on my initial study of Japanese while abroad in Japan. Thank Christ for that because I don't want to do anything else.</p>
<p>I became aware of so much more outside of the US. I fell in love with another country aside from my own and those that I traveled through. The trajectory of my life changed in ways I never would of thought possible at the moment I set foot back in U.S. -eventually all for the better as I was armed with a willingness to seek</p>
<p>I became strongly interested in the Spanish language and Latino cultures. This led to my choosing a Spanish-language clinic in which to train during residency after medical school. I have used the Spanish language skills I've picked up over the years (starting with the abroad experience) in my profession as an ER physician I believe every student should have the opportunity to study abroad.</p>
<p>I believe I have a better understanding of the world because of my time abroad. I arrived right after USA entered IRAQ. It seemed like all of Western Europe only wanted to ask me about President Bush. But I learned so much from just living there and fielding questions, a lot about other worlds, and about myself. When I arrived I think I had a feeling of loneliness. And struggling through assimilation was such a right of passage I will never forget. I grew up a lot in those few months. And now when I look at other people or other countries, I understand a lot more of the web of the world. In the end this understanding has made me well spoken (but not the best writer), cultured, well traveled, full of confidence, and spoiled in a way. I will always remember my time abroad and when I look back I will always be proud that I went. Nothing every happens when you stand still. Sometimes I'm amazed that I have done so much at 25 and some people I know from</p>
<p>I believe that living/studying abroad helped me find a job with a European renewable energy company in California. I think it demonstrated an interest and knowledge of international affairs, and the ability to relate to people from other countries. Regardless of the professional impact though, the professional impact it has made on my outlook on the world and my own country has been profound. The friendships I made during the experience had a significant impact on my personal development during that time.</p>
<p>I built friendships that will last a lifetime that span the globe. I wouldn't trade those bonds for anything in the world. When an employer sees that you have taken the time to study abroad, it indicates to them that you are not afraid to step outside of your comfort zone, that you are prepared to face a challenge and that you can survive independently in a new environment. These life skills cannot be taught in a classroom.</p>
<p>I came back, to do my master degree. Here I met my future husband, and I work in the security sector, dealing with an international issue.</p>
<p>I can not understate how much the study abroad experience has affected my life. Had I not gone to France in 1993, I probably would have gotten a 'normal' engineering job in San Diego and worked my way up the ranks there. Instead, I've moved to Stockholm, work internationally on a daily basis, still practice my French fairly often and have a much wider appreciation for the world than I did before going abroad. THANK YOU!!</p>
<p>I can now speak fluently in Spanish and am so happy that I chose to go abroad as that is the main reason that I can speak the way I do now. It has driven me to be selective about what companies I want to work for so that I can eventually work abroad for them.</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

I can say with 100% certainty that my study abroad experience was critical in obtaining my first job. My first job involved working with government officials from Latin America and so my fluency in Spanish and Portuguese definitely helped me get my job. Although I don't use my language skills in my current job, I hope to one day again have a job in which I could use those skills.
I chose a reputable college (London School of Economics) for my major and took relevant classes. As a result, the experience stood out on my resume and was a differentiator during my professional interview process. Also, if possible, go somewhere where you'll learn the language. You'll be happy you did later in life.
I chose to study in London because I was a Literatures in English major, and knew that I would find it to be a rich experience. I had considered Spain as well, because I was taking some classes in Spanish at UCSD. I even considered taking on Spanish Literature as a second major. Ultimately, however, my goal was to become an English teacher at the secondary level, so I decided to focus in on this area of study. I met many charismatic and ambitious individuals during my study abroad stay. By living in the college dorms, I was able to meet resident students, as well as other international students. It is difficult to describe the new energy and confidence I felt being able to experience life in a very different setting.
I consider it my favorite year at school. Just an absolutely amazing experience. I can't wait to move abroad for a little bit.
I currently reside in the country in which I studied abroad.
I currently work in int'l students in an academic counseling capacity. The language skills have helped me professionally and personally. It motivated me to volunteer for a year abroad after I graduated from college.
I definitely developed my personality and widened my horizons by getting to experience a completely different lifestyle. There were great friendships I still continue to maintain. It was also great to participate in classes that were run in a different manner than in the US or UCSD, with different emphasis and goals for
I don't think I would have been the same person. It changed me in profound ways.
I enjoyed the experience very much. I would recommend all students engage in this experience.
I experienced how much bigger our world is than our UCSD "bubble". Learning to be sensitive to others' cultural backgrounds will surely help me in my future, both personally and professionally.
I felt like I understood people's differences better once I returned, which is invaluable for the workforce. I grew tremendously on a personal level and relate to others in a more rounded way now. I realize that my way isn't always the right way and you learn that quickly when you are around other cultures that eat, dress, and talk differently than you.
I finally became fluent in French and now I teach it. I have been teaching high school French for 6 years now and I owe it to my study abroad experience. Otherwise, I wouldn't be a strong enough speaker to teach
i found my best friends and feel comfortable in the world beyond my own neighborhood.
I found my husband of five years studying abroad in Ireland.
I found that traveling and living abroad taught me a lot about America and the American way of life.
I frequently travel back to Spain, where I studied, to visit friends that I made while studying abroad. Likewise, I have friends from Spain who have come to visit me and my family. With regard to how my experience has impacted my professional career, I have been able to manage multiple international projects in Spain with confidence given my familiarity with the country and customs.
I gained lots of international perspective and am still extremely close with the friends that I made while in England. I hope to be able to continue my postgraduate studies in the UK and easily consider the year I spent abroad the best experience I had as an undergraduate.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

I got no help. No money. I was the only kid in my programs--both of them--with no stipend. This, of course, made me very angry -- but I wouldn't change it for the world. Bring on the credit card debt and starvation diets -- studying abroad is the single most important thing one can do as an undergraduate. Between Japan (during 4th year) and Iceland (post-graduation), my knowledge of the world and my drive to achieve has benefited greatly. There is simply no alternative to learning a new language, stepping bravely onto another continent, and growing as a person whilst
I graduated from UCSD in 2004 and studied abroad in Florence, Italy in Fall 2002. Leaving my bubble of Southern California and going out and living in another country for four months was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I was pushed outside of my comfort zone and normal way of life and learned something entirely new. I feel very fortunate to have been able to experience study abroad and see the world from another point of view. It has made me more aware of our international communities and let me know there is more to life outside of the U.S.A. My study abroad experience was also a catalyst for my professional career: while in France I met a man who gave me my first internship when I got back to the states, which ultimately led to my first job out of school. I highly encourage everyone I meet to study abroad while they are
I grew a lot in terms of becoming more of the kind of person I wanted to be. This growth was solely personal at the time, but now that I am both in the working world and in graduate school I know that the experience made me a better person overall, which impacts me professionally in an indirect way. One of the most important ways I grew was increased confidence, which was something that I really needed to improve. I returned two and a half weeks ago from a 3 week vacation to Europe in which I visited an old friend (who I knew before the year abroad), caught up with friends I met in Barcelona during my year abroad, and visited some cities on my own. Had I not studied abroad, I would not have felt comfortable taking the trip - especially the parts when I wasn't with friends (which was most of the trip).
I grew more personally in that one year spent in China than I did in probably all the rest of college put together. I graduated a year late because of it, but it was the single most valuable, formative experience of my undergraduate education. I wouldn't have traded it for the world.
I grew personally more during that summer than any summer during college
I grew up a great deal in France. I did not know the language and I had no friends or family, I was alone. While I made great American friends immediately, and eventually very dear French friends, it was a lonely time but also a time for introspection. I learned a lot about myself. And I had the opportunity to be the person I wanted to be, which sometimes it takes eliminating your environment to really see that. I find even today that I relate best to those who also spent a year abroad. It changes you, for the better. Professionally, the language skills and confidence it instilled were certainly a great advantage. However, it harmed my GPA pretty dramatically (which UCSD promised it would not) - -thus I chose graduate school overseas (where they understood the French grading system). The tutors I was promised were gone thanks to budget cuts and few students in my major thus I did not have the "easy A" year that some abroad students have. The lack of
I grew up in a small town. Before I studied abroad, I had never lived outside of California, and I had no idea what the outside world thought of California and the U.S. Studying abroad gave me an outside perspective that was invaluable in later personal and professional relationships. I don't use my Spanish as often as I thought I would, but it has been very useful, especially for meeting new people!
I had an interesting time because I ended up having a really bad food allergy that caused me to drop out of the year-long program (I just finished a semester), which was disappointing; however, I had an amazing time while I was there, and if I had known that I would have to drop out, I wouldn't have changed my decision to study abroad in that location (Hong Kong) because it was so wonderfully out of my comfort zone and I was able to learn about China in a way that is impossible to do without being there. Professionally, the experience reinforced my desire to study anthropology, including hopefully attending grad school next year.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

<p>I had my first opportunity to conduct original research while on my study abroad (because I was encouraged to take masters level classes while I was there). This experience led me to do an Honors research project in my department and, ultimately, to one of the best graduate departments in the world for my field, Comparative Politics and International Relations.</p>
<p>I had never travelled outside of North America before my study abroad program. By doing so, I was able to more easily travel internationally and experience more cultures more easily. By living in another country amongst classmates from that country and from around the world, I learned far more about people and culture than I could have learned by traveling around the world for 50 years. You can never acquire that type of "learning" that you experience in the study abroad program than when you travel. I feel I became much more mature as a person after my study abroad experience and that has had a profound impact on me both</p>
<p>i had the fortune to learn and indulge myself with a new culture. a new language, a new way of living. i realized how many options i had worldwide in my career path and my personal life.</p>
<p>I had the opportunity to study abroad in Puerto Rico. I met my fiance when I was there six years ago and we are getting married next summer. I have also maintained contact with many of the friends that I made there. My experience also significantly enhanced my fluency in spanish since all of my classes were in Spanish. My family is also from Puerto Rico and was able to spend time with my grandfather before he passed away while I was there studying. My study abroad experience was amazing, I wish I could do it all over again.</p>
<p>I have actually become less tolerant of those who want to come to our country, speak their own language and get a free ride. During my time abroad, as much as I loved Spain, I did not have people holding my hand and speaking to me in my native tongue. It was difficult but that was the point of the entire experience of living in another country: to assimilate to the culture and learn the language. It was very fulfilling and has definitely helped me as a physician in speaking with patients.</p>
<p>I have been able to communicate and bring in many future clients</p>
<p>I have been granted several interviews because I am fluent in Spanish, and I have used these language skills in my last 3 jobs as an immigration lawyer. I can also communicate with many new friends from around the</p>
<p>I have brought the culture of Ireland back to the way I live in the states.</p>
<p>I have created life long friends from other countries.</p>
<p>I have durable ties with medical professionals around the world that I would never have met otherwise.</p>
<p>I have found that the world around us is a dynamic and fascinating place. My experience living "like an Australian" gave me a new world view and has changed my life forever. I am, and have been, encouraged to continue my exploration of the world through travel and volunteer internships.</p>
<p>I have found the population that i want to serve life long. I made life long friends abroad. Studying abroad opened my my mind and my heart to a more wholesome world view that has helped me break down personal barriers as well as truly value other cultures' histories and current political or developmental</p>
<p>I have many life-long friends from the program and I recently completed a degree at my previous study abroad institution. An MSc in Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Bristol</p>
<p>I have studied abroad 3 times: High school: Summer in Paris, France UCSD: Quarter in Sevilla, Spain Post-UCSD: 1 year in Shenzhen, China Because of each of these experiences it helped give me a step closer to some of my other goals. After China I was able to get an internship with Survivors of Torture International. After that I got an internship in London with the Fulbright Commission. Now I am working at UCSD's IR/PS (Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies). I hope to continue in the international education field. My study abroad experience has helped me get where I am today.</p>
<p>I highly recommend going abroad. It was an amazing experience that allowed me to grow as an individual and make long lasting friendships.</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

I interned at the Hungarian Human Rights Information and Documentation Center in addition to taking International Law, which was during the Kosovo crisis. This experience led me to go to law school and become a lawyer. Although I do not work in the area of international law as I thought I might, I have an incredible job at the Department of Justice I would have never pursued without my experience abroad.
I knew I wanted a career that would allow me to travel and work internationally
I later became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa. I maintain several close friendships with people I met in Italy, both Italians and Americans.
I learned a great deal about cross-cultural sensitivity which is critical to both my work as a psychologist and also simply participating in the multicultural society in which we live.
I learned a lot about the world and myself by being away for even just a short period of time.
I learned a tremendous amount about myself and life while living abroad. Upon returning home, I had a greater appreciation for good food, art, wine and people. I found a new strength of character that gave me a strong sense of who I really was and what I can accomplish. I believe that living abroad for that semester was one of the best decisions I have ever made.
I learned about different cultural perspectives and ways of viewing the world from a non-US centric point of
I learned more about my own culture and language. My conversation skills in Mandarin improved a lot after I got back.
I learned so much about myself as well as learned to become independent and much more confident in
I learned so much about myself during and after my experience abroad. Your time abroad is truly priceless!
I learned Spanish really well, which will be extremely beneficial in the areas I want to serve professionally.
I learned to adapt to the London lifestyle and got to challenge myself in so many ways. I made so many great friends in the UK who I am still in contact with and who I plan on staying close with for many years. Studying abroad allowed me to become a lot more mature and have a better world view. I believe this helped me when doing job interviews.
I left all my friends behind and took the opportunity to learn more about myself than I wanted to know. The people I met and the experiences I had continue to shape the person I have become and the success I enjoy.
I live in the city where I did my study abroad program 15 years ago. I am married to a local, have two trilingual children, and have just started my own business here :-)
I love my year abroad experience....I wish I could have stayed longer!
I loved my experience abroad. I still keep in contact with a solid 10 people of the 50 that were in my group. It really helped me mature and gave me a great credential on my resume. The thing I was most disappointed was the way that UCSD treated the program and treated me. Because of my age(19) and my standing (barely a sophomore) they almost didn't allow me to attend. I appealed and thus got in. I feel this was a very poor judgment on the universities' part and what's even worse in their sense of prioritization. Rather than promote a person like myself (i had already studied independently in Spain, Uruguay, and Ecuador), they allowed other people who had never been in the program to go. Two people didn't handle the pressure, and ended up coming thru. So it's perplexing to me how UCSD barely let me in, yet I actually thrived in the program. I was one of the few that took upper division classes in any major *mine being Economics). UCSD should review their policy and make wiser decisions moving forward.
I loved my study abroad experience and believe that everyone should have the opportunity to study abroad.
I loved my study abroad experience. I still have contact with people from that country and plan to move back there at some point for a few years.
I LOVED my time abroad.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

I loved studying in Russia. Unfortunately, my language skills have not lasted because I have not practiced, but I survived a return trip in 2005! I am sure that, had I increased or even maintained my aptitude, it would have been a great professional asset. I am not going to work in an international field, but the experience certainly raised my awareness of issues that I want to change, even here domestically. Also, I love to travel and my experience abroad gave me both the confidence to know I can manage in any foreign country and the motivation to ensure that I always keep traveling a priority.

I made great friends and got a lasting impression of my both my visiting and home countries. I appreciated the US while appreciating Spain and the other countries I visited while studying abroad. I learned Spanish and was immersed in Spanish culture. My experience was so important to me that I always seek to travel (especially in an educational setting) to new and strikingly different places. Studying in Spain made me seek out graduate schools that also offered international opportunities, which is why I was able to study in Beijing last summer to study the student affairs system there. I always speak fondly of my study abroad experience to friends and think that I grew professionally, academically, and personally because of my experience in Spain. I look at other cultures and points of view more critically and enjoy speaking with different people of unique backgrounds. Even though I had to pay out of pocket, my experience was worth every penny.

I made lifelong friends when I studied in Spain. I am returning to Spain to work as a language and culture assistant for 10 months

I made long-lasting friendships while studying abroad. It also peaked my interest in world affairs.

I made some great friends, it probably makes me look better in the eyes of employers, it improved my foreign language skills, I got to know a foreign culture far better than if I had just visited for a week.

I made some lifelong friends. I also had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world and to get a chance to understand their cultures. Two years after my return I went back to the UK and earned a Masters degree. Having been in the Study Abroad program I felt comfortable attending a university out of the USA. I also was familiar with their style of teaching.

I made the best friends there. I grew more independent and confident. The traveling around Europe is the best thing that I have ever done!

I majored in Literatures of the World and my study abroad experience in Bordeaux, France helped me to complete my course requirements. I later supplemented my secondary teaching credential with an intermediate French licensure, made possible by my courses and experience abroad.

I majored in psychology at UCSD, and studied that at the University of Padova. I now teach Italian and ESL at a community college in San Diego.

I married a man I met in England on EAP. My experiences there fundamentally altered my future in a profound way, and I consider the EAP opportunity to be one of the most important in my life.

I married the girlfriend I met while studying abroad, and I made lifelong friends. Also, I fell in love first with the language of the country I studied in, then from there with language itself; as a result I began studying other languages and became a better writer in my own language, which is what I do for a living now. I now speak four languages fluently (including English), and I owe it to my experience abroad.

I met and married someone from abroad who now lives and works here in the U.S. We have learned from each other not only linguistically, but culturally and socially. Studying abroad was the highlight of not only my college career but turning point in my life.

I met friends who I am still in contact with today and will continue to be in the future. It broaden my horizons as far as the potential of living/working abroad. It also helped to shape my view of American politics abroad in seeing the impact we have in other places. Provided me a more holistic view of the world.

I met my European husband.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

<p>I met my husband during my time abroad, which had the biggest impact on my life. Aside from that, I toughened up on the trip, having to navigate a different culture. The academics were much more challenging than in the U.S. and improved my study habits, primarily making me more self disciplined and helping me to</p> <p>I met my husband on my study abroad experience.</p>
<p>I met my husband while abroad, whom I have been married to for 8 years now! He lives with me in San Francisco. It did not do much to enhance my friendships at UCSD. It changed my life in the sense that it gave me a broader picture of the world and influenced my desire and motivation to become a world traveller and choose a career that would allow me the freedom to do so.</p>
<p>I met my husband while studying abroad. I had an incredible life experience. My horizons expanded because of my study-abroad experience.</p>
<p>I met my husband while studying in Madrid. Upon finishing my teaching credential two years after graduation from UCSD, we were married in San Diego and I moved to Sevilla. My two boys were born there. I believe all of my interviews and subsequent jobs have been due to my language skills, multicultural sensitivity, and willingness to learn. All of these skills stem from my study abroad experience.</p>
<p>--I met my life's partner (a fellow EAP-er from Berkeley) --After I returned from EAP, I won a scholarship to go back to study, ended up getting a job, and suddenly another four years had passed --The former in-country EAP director first became my mento</p>
<p>I met my now-husband during my year studying abroad, and overall it was by far one of the best years of my</p>
<p>I met the person that I have been living with for the last 3 years when I was studying abroad. I have become much more culturally sensitive and much more aware of what American culture is.</p>
<p>I moved and lived in my study abroad country for 6 years. This occurred 2 years after i graduated.</p>
<p>I moved to the country I studied abroad in</p>
<p>I not only interacted with people I never would have met, I learned about cultures well beyond my own and grasped a whole new respect for the scope and beauty of the entire world.</p>
<p>I not only learned about my heritage and culture and first language, I gained lifelong friends and was able to experience another culture by living in it and immersing myself in it. In addition, I was able to learn about cultures other than my host country's, through friends I made from other countries who were also studying</p>
<p>I now work and live in France for an international financial company.</p>
<p>I participated in study abroad as a sophomore, which I believe is unusual, but I found it to be extraordinarily beneficial to me in a personal way, rather than professionally. At that point, my professional goals weren't clear or developed, but study abroad offered an opportunity for personal growth and maturity at age 17 that I wouldn't have been able to get otherwise on the UCSD campus.</p>
<p>I personally can't say enough about studying abroad. While time seemed to stand still back at home, it felt like I got to experience a whole new universe - a different kind of reality...and one that I very much enjoyed. Different ways of looking at the world, different values, different pace and quality of life (slower, better, and more thoughtful), different perspectives on what it means to be a "citizen of the world" and eye opening on how others see Americans (you mean we're not the center of the universe?!?!"). All in all, studying abroad is to college what college is to growing up - an invaluable experience that isn't so much about "what books you read" or "what subjects you studied", but more about learning how to think and live in the world around you with sensitivity, with eyes wide open, independently, with the ability to adapt, the willingness to venture out and try new things...and, if nothing else, how to have fun in a different language. I choose to believe you've</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

I personally did not capitalize on the opportunities of working abroad after my year abroad . I was already deep into my sociology major coursework and after studying in France, I really wanted to work in France professionally. However, it may have been more useful for me to major in economics or something that had more job opportunities abroad. Personally, this experience was incredible valuable. I grew as a person and feel honored that I was able to experience the true culture as opposed to what a tourist may see and
I really enjoyed my experience - and particularly appreciated the support I received from the Study Abroad staff at UCSD. I also appreciated the help of my SAB advisor (Kim) who encouraged me to apply to scholarships for studying abroad.
I recommend everyone to go study abroad in their undergraduate period. It is the experience that you don't want to miss, and it's totally different from just traveling other countries. Teaching English experience helped me greatly to get my first job after I graduate.
I recommend studying abroad to everyone. It was one of the best things I did in college. The experience was invaluable and rewarding.
I remain friends with a few of the people with whom I studied abroad and with many of the friends I made when I returned and lived in the International House.
I returned to Rome after graduation and have stayed there ever since!
I saw friendship and comradery in my study abroad experience that I have never seen in the US. It shows me how other people can live with each other and that it is possible to trust even a stranger.
I saw how much more realistic (and unidealistic) the real world's working conditions and ethics are; it's helped me prepare better for the idealism of college to balance out with the realities of corporate world.
I spent a semester in Nepal, which opened my eyes to a completely different way of life. my appreciation and understanding for what the developing world is like -- both the good and the bad -- comes directly from this experience. I had done extensive world travel prior, but only in 1st and 2d world countries. I had been quite independen as well -- living and travelling alone -- but my experience in Nepal taught me a whole new level of inner strength, self reliance, confidence, and achievment.
I spent my senior year abroad (instead of my junior year), so definitely had a different experience in the fact that I did not graduate back at UCSD but instead chose to go through the graduation ceremony via my exchange program. I would not give up this experience for anything, but at the same time I missed out on many career placement opportunities offered by school that are especially important for graudating seniors. As mentioned, I would not trade my study abroad experience though. It was an amazing experience and definitely broadened my horizons socially, politically and in terms of basic economics. I valued the experience and would encourage others to take such opportunities.
I spent one year in Israel in 1997/98. It is difficult to determine whether the presence of this experience on my resume influenced my initial salaries in post-UCSD jobs, but I know that the experience had important effects on my sense of self and my experience of the world.
I spent one year studying in Mexico and it was an unforgettable experience. I had originally completed a semester long program, but extended it to complete a full school year in the country because of the positive experience. I have since been back to visit and travel.
I still visit my host family and a couple of years ago met the man I married on one of those trips. Personally, without that experience, my life would be completely different for that reason alone!
I studied abroad for a year almost 8 years ago and am still friends with many of the people I met at the University of Kent. I loved it so much I studied abroad during law school and moved to London about a year ago. I still think of the year I spent at UKC as one of the best of my life. It was an experience that really opened my eyes to other culteres (I lived in a house with a French girl, two Spanish students, an Italian, and another American) and how other people view the US. It was an invaluable experience.

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### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

<p>I studied abroad for the experience-it had no effect on my profession. Personally, it was a great experience to be a part of another culture and live there continuously.</p>
<p>I studied abroad in both Morelia, Mexico and Sevilla, Spain. It was the most inspirational and wonderful time of my life. Every day I learned something new, made new friends and discovered myself.</p>
<p>I studied abroad in Israel 1993-1994. After graduating in 1995, I applied to masters programs in international relations and returned to Israel to travel. In the end I chose not to go back to school (at the time I thought "why study international relations when you are living it") and stayed in Israel for 5 years. During that time, I launched a successful career in high-tech marketing. I would not be where I am today - either personally or professionally without the valuable experiences I had during my junior year abroad.</p>
<p>I studied abroad solely for the cultural and foreign language experience. It enriched my life immensely, and I returned to work in France (where I studied) as a professional five years after having studied there. I have also taken up other languages and have lived in other foreign countries, largely because my first experience living abroad was so positive. I think that the UC system does it right by immersing the students in the national universities as opposed to in special schools for foreigners.</p>
<p>I studied abroad twice; once to see the western world history and culture; the other to find my cultural heritage. The experiences have been invaluable and have definitely painted me as a culturally mature and socially aware individual. I dont know how much that aided in my medical school application, but it definitely came up in conversation in all my interview discussions regarding student diversity. I think i am much more interesting now that i've seen the world, and I definitely evaluate the American way of doing things more often. I think the latter skill is something important for all members of higher education.</p>
<p>I studied abroad with the Mexico Field Research Program. During that semester I fell in love with mexican history, culture, Spanish, traditional food, art, and people. It broadened my perspective of the world and challenged me to adapt to a foreign environment. My Spanish improved tremendously, especially because I lived with a host family who did not speak English. When I applied to medical school, I was asked about my abroad experience and research project at almost every interview; I believe it really set me apart from other applicants because I had an understanding of a culture and language that is very much alive in California. As a future physician, I look forward to serving California's Latino population, and I feel more confident doing so because of my abroad experience in Mexico.</p>
<p>I studied for a year in Barcelona and a semester in Rio de Janeiro. My language skills have proven valuable, my friendships from those years with locals and other americans and foreigners studying abroad have proven among the most durable and enjoyable, and the perspective gained from living (as opposed to just traveling) abroad for an extensive period of time made my studies abroad the most important part of my university</p>
<p>I studied in Australia and it was the greatest experience of my life. While it did not effect my academic and professional choices it helped me grow personally and has engrained travel into my lifestyle.</p>
<p>I studied in Israel in college and ended up going back to Israel for medical school.</p>
<p>I studies in Japan. I now live in Tokyo and run my own business here. My wife is also Japanese!</p>
<p>I think about my experiences abroad in China daily--no, several times daily. I long to return to study the language, interact with the people, experience the culture, and live the life of a local. I possess a strong emotional connection to the country where I lived for one year. Ultimately, I wish to strengthen my professional skills and return to work there. Currently, I work in nonprofit health and community development. Although I am not able to use my Chinese skills professionally, I am able to use my international experiences and cultural sensitivity in my everyday work--and life. Studying abroad allowed me to grow and mature in ways that no text book could ever achieve. The year-long experience has impacted nearly every sector of my life. I hope to use it even more as I develop professionally.</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

I think everyone should study abroad if he/she can fund the opportunity. The independence and life skills that I developed were critical to the person I have become today. Traveling has given me a different perspective and probably even a more open-minded one. I have a greater sense of appreciation for what I
I think since I went to Spain, I have learned the language in ways that I would have never imagined. I still keep in contact with some of the people who went on the program with me. We often time talk about how we want to go back and live there. After I graduated UCSD with an engineering degree, I went and became an engineer for a year and then decided to change my career to become a teacher. This way, I will be able to go to Spain and either spend my vacation time there during summers or to teach. My study abroad experience has definitely affected the way I view the world, and want I want from life!
I think that my study abroad experience had an influence on how I developed as a person and how I think as an adult. I'm grateful to have this perspective.
I traveled to Japan, learned Japanese and studied engineering. Today, I hope Amercian start up companies do business with Japanese companies. Also, I am a volunteer board member for a Japanese cultural summer camp in our community, Medaka no Gakko. I speak Japanese with friends and family regularly.
I use language skills learned abroad in my daily professional life. I am always share with others stories from my years in South America.
I use spanish in the medical profession today.
I use the Spanish language skills I learned abroad in my work and personal life on almost a daily basis.
I was a participant in the UCEAP Tropical Biology Program. It was my introduciton to tropical field biology; today I am a professor of tropical ecology and conservation at the University of Florida. I still draw on my experiences as a study abroad student for my teaching and research. Emilio Bruna University of Florida
I was able to learn more regarding hispanic culture of which I am decended.
I was able to participate in the lives of those people on the other side of the Californian cultural divide. I was able to obtain a job in investment research that required fluency in Spanish and Portuguese.
I was able to work abroad for over 4 years and engage in various activities abroad. It really opened my eyes to the world and beauty beyond our borders and culture.
i was already set in my major and career path
I was better able to understand the French culture. There are many misconceptions about the French in America and now I can make informed decisions on whether I believe these stereotypes. I had interesting experiences are far as developing new relationships and terminating old ones.
I was forever changed after studying abroad. The amount that I had learned and experienced just by being in a foreign country is immeasurable. There could have been no way to have learned what I did abroad had I stayed home to my normal US routine. I was forever changed afterwards and HAVE to travel every year.
I was hired into a company initially out of college because they felt I could deal with the "culture shock" that had been the downfall of previous employees of the company. If they hadn't seen the study abroad experience on my resume, they might not have made the decision to bring me in.
I was there through UCSD for one quarter, however after I returned to the states I realized I had to go back and be there on my own as well. I took one semester Off from UCSD and went back to Spain, and summer session hit so I stayed until end of summer. This added to my expereicne I had with the UCSD group.
I was with the same group of students throughout the program, so I created longlasting friendships in the process. I also did a homestay with a family, which greatly improved my Spanish skills which are useful to me in daily interactions as well as professional interactions (I am now a teacher). I have returned to Costa Rica since studying there and visited old friends and sites.
I went abroad my senior year. It greatly influenced my post-graduate course, i.e. law school attendance, etc.

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### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

I went back home to my home country and got to learn about my roots. Learning about myself and my family has helped me personally and professionally.
I went back to live in Germany for 4 more years after graduating from UCSD! Also, the job I have now, teaching ESL to adults, is by nature an international affair. I love it.
I went on to obtain a Master's degree in International Relations. My year abroad made me interested and excited about learning, history and culture. It gave me the passion and motivation to continue my education and develop a career.
I went over not knowing a soul. I came back with many new friends. It was a leap of faith that turned out to be one of the best things I had ever experienced. Seeing most of Europe and learning Italian was a blessing. It opened my mind and will always be an experience I will cherish and value.
I went to Australia - a place I'd never been and I didn't know anyone there. It forced me to travel on my own, meet new people and it wasn't always easy. It allowed me to learn a lot about myself and about other people.
I went to Bocconi school of Economics in Milan. It is regarded as the "Harvard" of Italy, and second best economics school in Europe, behind LSE. I still speak Italian today and although I did not pursue a career in Economics I do still use my skills learned in Italy for my current profession.
I went to Israel on EAP and it was the most impactful year of my life. For the past six years, however, it has been impossible for students to go on EAP to Israel, and I know for a fact that it discourages many students from studying abroad. I hope this error-ridden policy is reversed soon.
I went to Japan in high school and that had a much bigger impact on my world view. Going to England for my junior year was valuable in other ways but a little boring in some. It highlighted how poorly structured the Bio classes are at UCSD, how ill equipped we Americans are with math and science. It's also hard to break into the tight knit group of native students.
I went to Russia in 1996 and interned through the Uof Arizona program. I consider this experience to be the reason I got my first job and my current job. It influenced the way I viewed the world and left me with lasting connections abroad. It also shaped my decision to study abroad for graduate school. I would argue it completely altered my career path and opportunities for the best. I am competitive in my field because I went abroad and where I went. I have since returned and utilized my language skills in numerous settings. I consider this experience te sole reason I got into a prestigious graduate school.
I will never forget my experience abroad. It touched my life in so many positive ways.
I will never forget the experiences I had during my year abroad. I had a hard time deciding between two countries and was not disappointed in the least by choosing to go to Scotland. The Scottish people both in the university setting and throughout the country brought the unique culture to a new light. I bonded with Scotland as a country and would give anything to be able to live there again. My career in education was not impacted by my study abroad experience in my decision to be a teacher, but it did open my eyes to the possibilities of where my educational career could go.
I wish I had a better financial opportunity so I could of stayed longer. Six weeks was not long enough to to make me fully biligual.
I work at a performing arts nonprofit that presents international artists and world music. I love it! Being fluent in Spanish has been a huge asset at my job by helping with duties including translating documents and being the Spanish speaking representative.
I work in Shanghai and have been here for 5 years
I would do it all over again! This time, I would persuade my friends to join me. It was not only fun, it was very educational. It allowed me to view the whole world and people in a different way.

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### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

I'd love to write a novel on the impact my study abroad experience has had on me--because it absolutely could fill a novel--but I will only say, without reservation, that it was the best experience of my undergraduate career. It was also one of the best experiences of my life. I never went abroad to make myself more employable. In my career, however, I am currently practicing as a tax attorney, and my experience abroad has helped me to understand foreign clients better; relate to their fears; and remain sensitive to their I'd say it shaped me a lot personally (studying abroad is something I'd wanted to do since junior high, so I got a lot of satisfaction out of actually doing it), but my experience did not support my professional endeavors once I graduated in the strong way I hoped it would.
If you have the opportunity to study abroad - you must go. This changed my life in every positive way possible. New friendships, learning of a new culture, better communication and appreciation of culture.
I'm still friends with a group of students that studied in the same program as I. I enjoyed my experience so much that I eventually studied abroad again while in law school.
In a foreign country, the "system" and every day life operate differently; this means that adaptability and creativity are essential to getting by and enjoying your experience. Over the years, these two skills have proved invaluable in a professional environment and I believe they give me an advantage over my other colleagues. Also, the ability to understand other cultures (and see my own from an outsider's perspective) has helped me personally in my international friendships and my marriage to a foreign national.
In one word, immensely. Studying abroad opened up a world of culture, travel, friendships, careers, you name it! After returning from studying abroad, I became more involved in the international scene. My experience with study abroad resulted in my living abroad for 2.5 years after graduating, completing a Fulbright and master's degree abroad, to return to the United States bilingual and with great experiences. I even met my husband while studying abroad (he was on a study abroad program from another country)! I can't say enough about how studying abroad has impacted my life, without it I definitely would not be
Invaluable educational and professional experience
It was the best decision I made during undergrad.
It allowed me to develop language abilities and communication skills that have helped me become a more well-rounded individual. Also, it helped me to interpret ideas, situations and beliefs from a different
It allowed me to open my eyes to the world and have meaningful discussions regarding international issues.
It can interrupt your normal activities and friendships with people at your university since you will be spending a year away.
It changed my life and the way I both see the world and participate in it. I chose a full immersion 1 year program and I came back a person changed for the better. After surviving a completely different culture and language you can do absolutely anything. I am not afraid of anything which has helped me both personally
It changed my life by giving me a new perspective on the world. Coming from a small town and then living in somewhat of a bubble on campus- I learned more from this experience than any other event in my life.
It comes up as a source of conversation in interviews and explains my level of language skills on my resume
It completely changed and expanded my world view, and I use the Spanish I learned every day in my job as a high school teacher. I love to travel now and am eager to see more of the world and experience other cultures.
It completely changed my life personally and professionally. I live and work in France now.
It definitely was life changing. I now view life, culture, internationalism very differently. My mind has been broadened and I have become more aware and accepting and appreciative of our differences between us and people on the other side of the world. I urge all to study abroad if they can!
It exposed me to people and cultures that are drastically different from ours. I am more empathetic towards people from different countries in the States, and take things a little less seriously when I'm stressed at work (for example) - there are people who have bigger problems than mine.

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### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

It fostered my independence, developed my confidence, and instilled a desire to travel & work abroad. Also, 12 years later I am still using my language skills professionally!
It gave me a new perspective on how society works and how I choose to participate in it. Living in America we are taught that we are the best, we work the hardest, we deserve the most. Living abroad showed me that those teachings aren't necessarily true. Different is not bad or wrong.
It gave me insight into different cultures and expanded my horizons. It broadened my outlook on life and helped make me more independent.
it gave me me independence experience that I would have never gotten otherwise. It really made me find out who I am.
It gave me perspective on my life at a worldly level...something that you cannot obtain within the US
it has impacted my professionally and personally. I have pursued my current profession, post-undergraduate, because of my desire to use my profession as a media to help others in need.
It has influenced virtually every part of my life - professionally and personally. I travel extensively abroad and feel that my experiences for the seven months I was overseas were the most enriching experiences of my
It has made me more confident in taking risks and making bold decisions.
It hasn't impacted me professionally too much, although employers always like to see that I've had international experience; that I've left the U.S. bubble. But personally, the experience changed my perspective in many ways -- from relationships, to how I relate to people, to what I want for my future. I feel like my life
It helped me see how other people in the world live and how they view events that happen in the United States. As well as how these events change the way that they live.
it helps widen your opinions & viewpoints of the world around you.
It is so important to get out of the US and see the bigger world. The US is too ego-centric, and the world is a great big, fascinating place. Extended stay outside of the US for work or study (not just a holiday) offers a lot more knowledge, learning and personal growth than you can possibly attain staying in country.
It is so much valuable just to have experience to live in foreign country with people who has different culture. It is one thing that everyone should experience in their college life.
It is the best experience I have had in my life. The things you learn about life, other people and yourself help you grow as a person.
It made me aware of how other countries view America, and how those viewpoints are often well founded and may not be positive. This presents me with a more worldly view of the country in which I live, and I am able to discern aspects of the American culture that I wasn't able to before my study abroad experience.
It made me aware of the experiences other people face in completely different cultures are very similar to my
it made me feel confident traveling not only by myself, but navigating urban areas. i feel my sense of independence grew from knowing that i was able to live in paris for 6 months. and, i most likely will never have that opportunity again, so i do not feel as though a missed out on a highly collegiate experience.
It made me more curious about the world. I now try to travel as much as possible to learn more about the world around me.
It made me realize the connectedness of all people around the world, our similarities and differences. I got to see first hand how many people live with a lot less than those in the US, but are still living fulfilling happy
It made me want to return to Europe, where I have now been living for the past 3 years.
It motivated me to go abroad after graduation to teach English in another country. Four years later, I haven't left. I'm a professional ex-pat now.
It opened my eyes to a different field of academic focus which has led me to a new career path.

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<p>It opened my eyes to the rest of the world. I now have lifelong friends from various parts of the world. This opportunity allowed me to travel for the first time out of the US, since it was not financially feasible before. Ever since, most my vacations are outside the States.</p>
<p>It provided me with an understanding of West African culture that deeply informs the way I understand our racial construct in the US, which impacts me in one way or another every day. It also helped build my confidence and maturity to know that I could take care of myself despite challenges in a cultural context different than that with which I was familiar.</p>
<p>It really has affected every area of my life, especially because I spent a year there. I still keep in touch with friends there, and my language skills have opened numerous doors as far as friendships and job opportunities. I also grew and matured so much as a person (and in my case, grew spiritually as a follower of Jesus). The whole experience left a scar on me, in the best way!!!</p>
<p>It rocked my world. There is so much out there.</p>
<p>It strengthened my curiosity regarding the exploration of different cultures, societies, places. And, it was a confidence builder - I learned that I have the skills to navigate living in a foreign place.</p>
<p>It took a number of years but sure enough I was able to start doing business with Japanese business partners.</p>
<p>It was a fantastic experience. In retrospect, I would have studied abroad again before graduating.</p>
<p>It was a great experience that changed my life. It opened my mind to new cultures, people, and ideas. It led me to many other travels all over the world.</p>
<p>It was a great experience that helped me grow as a person. One that I will never forget.</p>
<p>It was a great experience. I studied in England and I was put into an educational situation unlike my own. I plan on going into the Peace Corps and my ability to adapt to the culture around me undoubtedly helped me in my decision to join. It also was a great experience to meet new people and gain a greater perspective on American culture. It opened my eyes to the faults and strengths of the system in the United States.</p>
<p>It was a growing experience for me personally. The whole experience made me a much stronger, more independent and confident person. After that year, I knew I could handle most things on my own.</p>
<p>It was a major maturing event for me, taught me to rely on myself, was helpful in broadening my vision of the world and people.</p>
<p>It was a once in a lifetime experience. I feel extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to live in another country and I think everyone should have to live outside the USA for a period of time.</p>
<p>It was a way for me to experience things on my own without any influence from my parents. I was too far for them to influence me like while I was at UCSD. Also, I learned how to interact with people and really listen to what they say and why things are important to them.</p>
<p>It was actually my interest in medicine as a career that led me to study abroad in Spain and learn Spanish. It is very helpful to me in the hospitals in Los Angeles now and will probably be a great advantage when applying for jobs in California later.</p>
<p>It was amazing, and continued to foster my interest in marine science which now I have extended into pursuing a PhD.</p>
<p>It was an amazing experience, that taught me about myself and the world. Overall it helped me gain a new perspective on the world.</p>
<p>It was an amazing experience. I can't really list tangible ways that it's benefited me, though it's not an experience I would have missed for anything and I couldn't recommend it more strongly!</p>
<p>It was an amazing year. I have wonderful memories from my experiences living and traveling in southern Africa. I recommend for anyone considering to go.</p>
<p>It was an extremely challenging year -academically, personally, emotionally. I was forced to grow. My mind expanded. It was very good for me.</p>

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### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

<p>It was completely life changing -- the first time I had left the country on my own. It helped me to really examine myself and I returned a new, more fully realized person.</p>
<p>It was invaluable to see how the US and Americans are viewed abroad. I landed in South Africa right as the war began, and it was very interesting.</p>
<p>It was one of my favorite parts of college. The Spanish skills I developed abroad have been very helpful in my career, and have allowed me to develop friendships with people I would otherwise not be able to interact with. Personally speaking, my time abroad taught me to be more independent and to enjoy adventure in my</p>
<p>It was one of the best experiences in college.</p>
<p>It was one of the best things I have ever done and I only can wish that I did it for longer and/or took more of a chance going to another country where there was more of a language difference. It made me more aware of how others see the world and the US and also was great professionally since academically it was strong in the field that I am in (Marine Bio). It laid the foundations for my understanding of Ecology and Marine Biology greatly helped my performance at UCSD.</p>
<p>It was one of the best years of my life!</p>
<p>It was one of the best years of my life. It's difficult to put into words how valuable this experience was. I lived in Europe 15 years ago. The memories from that year feel like they happened yesterday.</p>
<p>It was one of the best years of my life. I came back with a broader perspective on the world, more confidence and a sense of true independence and maturity. I think it helped to make me a better person! I came away not only with a series of experiences and stories that I treasure, but also several lifelong friends. In fact, I was just a bridesmaid in a the wedding of a friend who I first met in my study abroad program.</p>
<p>It was one of the best years of my life. I still keep in touch with the friends I made there and is continually opening up new windows for adventure in other countries. I have done my best to convince anyone who will listen to study abroad and to do the full year. It's an amazing privilege.</p>
<p>it was really eye opening, and an experience i think was fundamental. I decided to my graduate studies in canada as a result.</p>
<p>It was such a powerful experience for me that I have spent the lat 10 years dedicated to facilitating experiential education programs for teens and young adults and am currently the Director of Global Routes: a non-profit organization focused on creating compelling cross-cultural immersion experiences for high school, gap year and college students.</p>
<p>It was the best decision I made in college. I encourage all students to study for one year.</p>
<p>it was the best experience i had in college personally and educationally.</p>
<p>It was the best experience of my life. I regret not staying for a full year. I am about to start a position with a Global company and I will be able to do exchanges with their other foreign offices - I can't wait to work abroad. I owe it all to the study abroad program.</p>
<p>It was the best experience of my life. Spain/Europe is amazing and there is so much to do that it opened my eyes to the variety of possibility out in the world that I never would have seen if I wouldn't of studied abroad. I would like to work abroad if it were easier to obtain a work visa. Studying abroad had a positive impact on me professionally because my first job was directly related to studying abroad. I think it probably also helps me stand out from other candidates.</p>
<p>It was the best experience, and would definitely recommend all students to participate, even if it's for a short period of time. It's a totally different experience, and it's nice to get out of sunny So. Cal once in a while.</p>
<p>It was the best time of my life!</p>
<p>It was the best year of college for me. It was the first time I travelled outside of the U.S. and I have not stopped since. It was a great opportunity to explore different parts of the world and meet a lot of new friends</p>
<p>It was the best year of my life!</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

It was the best, most challenging year of my life.
It was the only year that I really learned anything in college - my year abroad in Spain.
It was the point in my life when I realized that I really could do just about anything on my own. It gave me an amazing amount of self awareness. I think that the moment I realized I made the right decision was when I was on a train by myself in a country where I didn't speak the language and I just knew I would be okay. Even if I was on the wrong train. That kind of independence and confidence is something I would never have gained without studying abroad. And that perspective has translated into a confidence in both my
It was the single greatest thing I have ever done in my life. I think back on it often and it helped make me the person that I am today. It has directly helped me as a teacher, because I understand what English Language Learners go through. I also try to encourage everyone of my students to spend at least a semester in a non-english speaking country. I believe that every student that gets a degree from a university should spend at least six months somewhere to better understand their place in the world.
It was wonderful and helped me see the US from an outside perspective. Being so far from home was originally outside of my comfort zone, but I would never second guess my choice to go abroad. It was an amazing growing experience. I also particularly liked going as a senior; the school I attended abroad considered me almost a masters student and I got to take some of their graduate courses.
It would be quicker to describe the ways in which the program did not affect me. I've since traveled the world and currently work in London in Financial Services. Having a worldly approach and understanding of various cultures is hugely beneficial in today's world, both personally and professionally.
It would be very difficult to even try describe the positive impact that studying abroad had on me personally. On a professional level, I am much more equipped to work abroad now.
it, along with a 9-month program in Taiwan, helped me get my foot in the door for a respected company such that i can now do international operations. i might not use it all the time, but the comfort level is there with the people i interact with
It's a great feeling to be fluent in a foreign language. This program helped me achieve that. Also, living in another culture makes you so much more aware that the way we live is not the way everyone on Earth is
It's had a major impact personally: I met my Dutch wife my first week being abroad! Professionally, it's given me much more knowledge and interest in international affairs which has had a direct impact on my ultimate career path.
Just by learning a foreign language, I learned to think more logically, which helped me on grad school admissions test. I got a great deal of self-confidence from having to learn to live in a different society, that has translated into a general ability to adopt to changes and think creatively. It was a great resume booster, a great talking point during interviews, and it has personally enriched me in many ways, from getting the opportunity of a lifetime to live abroad to being able to enjoy foreign language literature.
Language skills. Awareness of my identity and my broader impact on the world. Helped to humanize people in the so-called "Third World", when our government and our media make them seem inhuman so they are easy to kill, drop food aid on, or sell meaningless and culturally imperialist products to.
Learned to see the USA from a different perspective.
learned valuable language and social skills. Developed long lasting friendships and met my wife on the program. I feel that I am much more well rounded and understanding person from having studied abroad.
Learning a new language is opening a window to another culture - an invaluable experience.
likely had some influence on my decision in medical school to work on global health issues and make working and volunteering globally part of my career
Living abroad gives a whole new perspective to life in the US. It opens your eyes and your mind to what other peoples of the world deal with, and gives insight into other-than-American psyches and beliefs.

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Living far away in a non-English speaking country for one year was extremely challenging and extremely rewarding. I've never stopped drawing on the experience --on the job, in my personal life, in graduate school.
Living in another country really broadens your perspective. Books, videos, etc. cannot substitute for the
Living in France gave me enough fluency in French to be able to continue to use it for my PhD research. It also helped me choose my ultimate area of interest.
Living in Granada, Spain for one year was the best decision I ever made. It shaped the way I look at others and the way I treat other people. The experience has allowed me to be more open, honest, adventurous and passionate about other cultures and people. I am a public high school teacher in San Francisco and the ability to speak Spanish has come in handy so often. I loved my time abroad and would recommend it to anyone.
lots of networking and increased rate of maturation
Made me more adventerous
Made me more open-minded to what's going on with people and places outside the US.
Many of the professional relationships I made abroad have led to education and career opportunities. Further, the comfort level I reached with spanish from studying abroad helped lead me to jobs in theater production translation. I am currently pursuing my PhD in theater, with an emphasis on globalization that
Molly Ann McCarren was very unhelpful. I am Mexican-American and studied abroad in Mexico to become closer to my family in addition to studying at the national university. I do not feel that students who visit a country where they have roots are treated the same as students who venture into the unknown. I withdrew from the program for personal/academic reasons and I received no support from her. In contrast, my academic advisors in my two majors and at Muir College were incredibly helpful and understanding. I feel that the study abroad program is a very important component of the UC, but needs staff who are more receptive to student needs, academic as well as personal, psychological, and cultural.
Mostly helped me become more aware of my place in the world, as an internationally-minded individual.
My ability to speak Spanish and have a broad understanding of Latino culture (rather, one of its iterations) has helped me immensely professionally. Personally, I consider my time in Costa Rica to be a pivotal growth experience that has strongly shaped who I have become and my views, specifically with regard to foreign
My abroad experience was awesome! It was the first time I had left north america, and to view the U.S. from the perspective of another land was facinating, as I didn't realize how isolated Americans are at times. I have continued to travel- living overseas and studying abroad in graduate school. Studying abroad is an amazing opportunity to see the world. UCSD's programs (EAP an OAP) made almost any country accessible.
My experience abroad has been one of the most important educational experiences in my life, both inside and outside of the classroom.
My experience abroad was life-changing and the greatest experience of my life thus far. I am so grateful for the opportunity to study in another country.
My experience abroad was very practical and insightful into my field, and the new environment I was studying in greatly enhanced my understanding of the world outside of the USA. I now live in the country I studied abroad in, and am currently applying to become a dual citizen of USA and this country (Australia).
My experience abroad was very valuable to me. I made a lot of lasting friendships, learned about French culture and learned to appreciate things back home. It made me more independent and confident.
My experience gave me a better appreciation for other countries, historical places, different cultures and myself. Personally, it was a time of self-reflection and discovery. Professionally, it made me a well-rounded
My experience gave me a broader understanding of others and other cultures and sparked an interest in me to travel more and work in an international field.
My experience inspired me to attend graduate school and pursue a PhD in climate sciences.

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<p>My experience taught me many life skills and social skills, such as money handling, budgeting, and working with people of different cultures and backgrounds.</p>
<p>My experience was so life changing that I have created a non-profit organization to place university science students in international internships with field biologists. This is a complete immersion program catered to the students' goals and abilities. I would appreciate it if you could advertise my program on your website I would greatly appreciate it. <a href="http://www.thescienceexchange.org">www.thescienceexchange.org</a>. Thanks, Katherine Comer Santos 619-519-9876</p>
<p>My experience was unusual in that I was a returning student and had 2 children that came with me to Australia. In addition, my childhood included many moves and travels throughout the US, North America, and Europe, therefore I had the travel bug before I went abroad. My experience was also shared with my children. I left wanting to hear my children say..."when I go to college..." . When we returned I heard my children say.... "when I go to college, the country I want to go to is...". Their dreams came through. My daughter attended UC Riverside and went through the EA program in Spain. My son attended UC Santa Barbara and the EA program in New Zealand. They both have their Master's and are employed in their careers. I'm not sure if I got more out of the experience for myself or as a parent or my children's own</p>
<p>My favorite and most rewarding year of undergraduate study. It helped develop an appreciation for the world outside of the U.S.</p>
<p>My first job after college was with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, a job I probably wouldn't have gotten--or even been interested in--if I hadn't spent four months in Yokohama as an undergrad. When I returned to Japan to teach, my old friends from Meiji Gakuin University were still around, of course, which eased the transition back to Japanese life. Several of them have subsequently studied abroad at UCSD, and I got the chance to help them adjust to La Jolla as they helped me in Yokohama. Even now, as I start law school at UC Davis, my experiences in Japan help me start conversations and make friends. I occasionally whip out my Japanese skills, or talk about the time I waited outside Nintendo headquarters for five hours to</p>
<p>My first real job after I graduated was as a journalist in Russia, where I spent a semester 18 months earlier. I spent two years there before returning to California. My career has not continued to exploit that experience, but it definitely shaped who I am as a person in subtle ways. I have a better understanding of the experience of being in a culture so foreign to my own, both the joys and frustrations, and while I don't pretend to understand all other cultures, I can better empathize with people who don't understand mine. That's extremely important in a place like California, where so many of those who live here in Silicon Valley, including my husband, are not native-born citizens. It's also important for me in my job as vice mayor of Sunnyvale to be able to deal with people from all kinds of backgrounds, since I represent all 137,000 residents</p>
<p>My first real job was as a bilingual teacher back when California had those. Now I work at the Center for Latin American Studies at UC Berkeley. I would have had neither of those jobs without studying abroad. On a personal level I think I see the world differently because of the experience of adapting to another culture. I see that the way that we do things here is one way of doing things, not the only way and not necessarily the best way, just one among many.</p>
<p>My first trip outside the United States, Mexico or Canada was a trip to London in 1994 as a Muir House Advisor. My parents had never traveled abroad and that one-week staff trip to London really got me excited to travel abroad again. I studied introductory Italian for one quarter at UCSD and then studied Italian language and culture in Siena, Italy in 1996 with UC EAP. The small scholarship I received made my trip possible. Then in 1998 I returned to work in Italy as an intern at the American Embassy in Rome. That experience influenced my decision to return to graduate school to pursue a PhD in Sociology. Over the past ten years, I have traveled abroad several times and now all of my family members (mom, dad, sister and brother) have as well. I studied the Scandinavian welfare state and the Danish-Swedish Medicon Valley (a biotech region) for six weeks in the summer of 2001. I've attended conferences in France and Italy as a</p>

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<p>My junior year abroad fundamentally changed how I look at myself and the world around me. I learned how to explore in a place that was not my home, I learned more about how to make friends and engage with those who were not of my same circle, I learned what it means to be part of the minority, I began to learn how the rest of the world perceives the USA, and how I too want to look at the USA -and the world - from a more global perspective. I strongly believe that all Americans should have to study abroad for at least a small</p>
<p>My language background is invaluable in making me more marketable in my career and in opening up opportunities.</p>
<p>My life hasn't been the same since EAP.</p>
<p>My study abroad changed every aspect of my life. I married my "study abroad" boyfriend from Spain and ended up returning to live for several years in my study abroad country. There isn't any aspect of my life that would have been the same had I not studied abroad.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience allowed me to apply what I learned in the classroom to a foreign country and culture. It caused me to become more culturally sensitive and independent. I've realized that I need to take initiative in order to get things done and also to embrace differences. It's really unfortunate that the UCEAP year (and even summer) program to the Philippines was suspended. It was such a valuable experience to me, and I wish others can take on this opportunity in the future. Please consider reinstating it :) (Please contact me if you would like me to provide more reasons why. I'm a strong advocate for this program!</p>
<p>My study abroad experience at University of Durham was amazing. It opened me up to a different view of the world and allowed me to make lasting friendships across the world. The experience helped me become more comfortable and assertive in new situations and helped me define who I am and what I believe!</p>
<p>My Study Abroad experience changed how I thought about myself, my life, and my career. I changed my major from Bioengineering to a double major in Ethnic Studies &amp; Biology after studying abroad, and led me to a career of Public Health. I am now in Graduate School, and have found that I want to help people internationally on a health level. My experience of studying abroad definitely shaped my career choice and has opened so many doors, including that of graduate school and jobs!</p>
<p>My study abroad experience expanded my mindset and opened me up to viewing the world from an international perspective. Many of my closest friends were made during my study abroad experience or the year after I returned (when I was heavily involved in I-Club and I-House). I also recently relocated to the UK for work, since I enjoy the standard of living in Europe.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience greatly enhanced and widened my perspective both on the world and on myself. It was, without a doubt, one of the most spectacular and fulfilling experiences of my young life. Because of the friendships and travels I made and the cultural, architectural, and natural wonders I saw, I came back to the United States with a completely different perspective on life.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience has completely paved not only my educational path, but my career path in life. Since that experience I have continuously sought to always live and work in an international community. I studied International Studies-Economics/ Minor in Italian Studies and have found myself finally in an ideal position at the Italian Trade Commission as an Assistant Trade Analyst. I am thankful for the experience I had and all that I learned that year abroad and without it I know that I would not be the same person that I am</p>
<p>My study abroad experience has had a positive impact on my career and social life. It made me a much more curious person.</p>

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<p>My study abroad experience has impacted me personally in several ways. First of all, I learned a great deal within my major--English Literature--by seeing how a different (though similar) culture taught and understood literature, especially American Literature. Secondly, I met my husband abroad and so am permanently linked now to my abroad country. Thirdly, it has opened my eyes to a new culture that has often been misconstrued as being exactly like our own. I learned to see myself through another country's perspective. I have also made the kind of life long friendships with people \ that I cannot even fathom how I</p> <p>My study abroad experience has led me to continue loving traveling. I've now been to Africa twice, Europe a number of times, and South America. Without the study abroad in Australia, I doubt I would have had the confidence or eagerness to travel to these destinations.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience helped me grow personally and ultimately led me to becoming a civil rights attorney, although my current practice does not specifically incorporate my studies abroad.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience helped me narrow my career path.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience helped me return to the country of study in a paid profession. The language skills developed abroad have had an invaluable impact on my earning ability and life experiences. I look upon my study abroad experience as both one of my most treasured memories and pivotal decisions in my</p>
<p>My study abroad experience impacted me personally by expanding my interest and involvement in international affairs. It has influenced me professionally by encouraging a desire to go to graduate school to learn more about people from other parts of the world.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience impacted my choice to study abroad in my graduate studies as well. It was a very important for my development.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience impacted my personal growth. I gained a better understanding of the perspectives of other peoples.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience in Israel allowed me to grow into an independent adult, and to learn more about my culture and other cultures in the country. It was a transformative experience. While my time at UC San Diego was also excellent, studying abroad in Israel gave me a more global perspective on the world and allowed me to meet others. Professionally, I now serve as a Jewish educator and draw on the courses and out-of-classroom experiences I went through daily.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience introduced me to another way of seeing the world, gave me valuable language skills, and allowed me time to reflect upon my career goals.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience is something I will always treasure and would highly recommend to everyone.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience left me with lasting friendships, great memories, and a better understanding of international perspectives. One of the greatest values was the ability to travel to so many countries due to the low cost of transportation, flexibility, and the fact there were UCSD students living in almost every European</p>
<p>My study abroad experience made me seek professional training programs abroad. From a personal perspective, studying abroad helped me appreciate other cultures more. I was more aware of cultural events and took initiative to learn other languages. In addition, having an educational experience abroad helped me realize the vastness and diversity of this world.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience opened up new ways of teaching and learning in the classroom as well opening my eyes to new and exciting cultural experiences. I know it's cliché, but you cannot truly appreciate your own culture until you've had a cultural experience outside of your own. The newfound perspective on topics ranging from global politics to pop culture was eye opening. The friends I made and the experiences I had will stay with me forever. I still talk about them to this day. Studying abroad was the best decision I made while at UCSD and I would strongly recommend it to anyone thinking about it.</p>

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<p>My study abroad experience proved to be a fantastic learning experience. I was able to comprehend and speak French within a short amount of time. Personally, I feel being opened up to new aspects of a culture which I greatly enjoy. Professionally, the language skill is a plus on resume.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience was invaluable to me in a personal, academic and professional sense. I made amazing friendships that have continued on 10yrs later and I experienced a tremendous amount of personal growth. Studying abroad also spurred me on to teach abroad after college then pursue a master's degree in Intercultural Relations. Now I work at an International House on a UC campus and additionally help high school students study abroad as well. I have traveled and lived abroad numerous times since my first experience at UCSD and I plan to do more!</p>
<p>My study abroad experience was likely the most valuable experience I pursued during my college years. It gave me the greatest cultural exposure and most rewarding form of education, and made me a more intentioned and passionate student when I returned. I'd also add that UCSD made getting credit for my OAP program very easy, and I was able to apply all my courses to my minors - the flexibility afforded by the International Center enabled me to study abroad in disciplines different from my major, and still graduate in</p>
<p>My study abroad experience was one of my best experiences in college. I learned so many new skills and truly developed as a strong, independent person from the experience.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience was one of the best times of my life! I still think about the people I met, the things I saw, and how being in Italy for such a short time influenced my life. I urge others to study abroad!</p>
<p>My study abroad experience was positive, despite only finishing one year of UCSD mandated language preparation beforehand and having no prior language study before UCSD . During the EAP year itself, I struggled with my expectations and will, but I made friends and had people I could rely on. Also had to bend and reshape myself to be more self-reliant, and I found that I could do so in some areas, and in other areas, well I worked around it. ;- ) After the EAP year, I continued my language studies at UCSD. Some of the failures I experienced during the EAP did not deter my will to continue my minor. Also the EAP gave me a fresh perspective for my remaining courses, in areas I never expected. As a home-commuting UCSD student, after the EAP year I found the necessity of increasing my on-campus activities. Consequently, during my job search I was able to include many foreign companies. I was able to land a job working on foreign soil, which is where I am today. I do not believe I would have been able to get a foot in the door without the EAP year..</p>
<p>My study abroad experience was the best thing I could have done. I moved back to Ireland after college for a couple of more years. I got a great job and eventually got married in Ireland.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience was the first time I left the U.S. I have now been living abroad for nearly 13 years, worked in 5 countries for extended periods of time, and am learning my fourth language. I am currently working for a large multi-national in a highly international career, and regularly conduct business in international environments and sometimes in foreign languages.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience was wonderful - I made new friends, explored new places and greatly strengthened my Spanish skills. While I had already decided my major prior to studying abroad, experiencing different cities and types of development has been very helpful in my career as an urban</p>
<p>My study abroad opened my eyes to the world. It brought me together with people who had the same curiosity about travelling as i did, and with whom i now consider long-life friends. It has led me to pursue an international career and to grow my curiosity for other parts of the world. It has allowed me to brand myself as a global asset to the multinational companies i am now targeting as a MBA.</p>

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<p>My study abroad program changed my life in so many ways! I became much more self sufficient and confident in my self, and I also developed friendships that have lasted since then. It also spurred me to try new things on a regular basis, and since my study abroad program, I have traveled abroad at least 7 other times and I have lived abroad 1 other time. I opened myself up to new experiences and new types of people, and I will never be able to go back to the way I looked at the world before (in the best way possible). I actually was studying abroad when 9-11 happened, and that truly changed my experience as well. I was treated with the most warmth and respect I ever have been. I cannot explain in words how much my study abroad experience meant to me! It truly added to every possible aspect of my life, and I will forever be grateful!</p>
<p>My study abroad program was the most important decision I made in my life. Getting outside of the United States to see things actually how they are, rather than through the eyes of the U.S. media was an eye opening experience. Studying abroad should be something that everyone in this country especially a UCSD student should experience. Failing to do so would greatly undermine the UC's motto of "Let there be light."</p>
<p>My study abroad trip to Egypt was the first time I traveled outside of the US independently. I've now traveled to 19 different countries, including obscure locations like Iraq and Haiti. I would say that's a glowing</p>
<p>My study abroad was an open-opening experience to international affairs.</p>
<p>My study abroad experience has infinitely enriched my personal life and my career goals. It has broaden my perspectives to be involved and understand world events, made me more socially aware, given me career goals in international education and study abroad, gave me everlasting friendships, and allowed me to grow and learn about life while abroad.</p>
<p>My three study abroad experiences have undoubtedly changed my life both personally and professionally. They have had the following impact: gave me the opportunity to become fluently bilingual, made me change my major, influenced my graduate studies, affected who I married, introduced me to lifelong friends, and helped me obtain my current job as well as subsequent promotions. In more abstract terms, my study abroad experiences have affected my entire being (personality, opinions, beliefs, desires). In other words,</p>
<p>My time studying abroad in Rome positively impacted almost all aspects of my life. I am more interested in international news and issues, and I pay more attention to international as well as US politics as a result. My language skills have improved because of my time abroad and my exposure to other cultures helped to broaden my horizons and increase my interest in travel. Before I studied abroad I never thought I would achieve my dreams of world travel, but now I know that it can be affordable and is completely worth while. I am currently planning a trip to eastern and central Europe with my boyfriend for this summer. I have also learned better time management because of the challenge of balancing travel, sightseeing, making friends, learning language and academics. Professionally, the study abroad program helped me to land an internship during my senior year at an international program that functioned as an exchange program for international professionals. Even my relationships with family and friends here in the US benefitted because I realized just</p>
<p>My time studying in biology Costa Rica was easily the most influential experience of my life. Experiencing a way of life different from your own should be a mandatory part of any education.</p>
<p>My travel experience to Spain for 6 weeks has helped me with my Spanish speaking abilities, which has helped me in my history and physical exam of Latin descent patients in the healthcare setting.</p>
<p>My year abroad greatly impacted who I am as a person, but had no bearing on my professional career.</p>
<p>My year abroad in Australia was AMAZING. I met so many great people, got to do crazy things, and was exposed to a side of science that I never really knew about it (zoology). Largely because of my year abroad, I am now back in Australia in vet school and am hopefully on the road to pursuing an incredible career as a wildlife/zoo vet. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.</p>

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<p>My year abroad in Sweden was one of the best years of my life. I had so much fun, met all kinds of new people, and learned many, many new things. After I graduated UCSD, I actually moved back to Sweden, and went to grad school. That year had a huge impact on my life, and I'm so thankful I had the opportunity.</p>
<p>My year abroad was a fantastic personal experience; I made great new friends and learned how to survive and thrive in a foreign environment. Professionally, I work in international trade, and being able to say "I lived there" adds value to the perspective and analysis of issues that I bring to the table.</p>
<p>My year abroad was one of the best years of my college experience. I made life long friends and went all over Europe. It was culturally eyeopening and educationally valuable. I am able to look back on my experience and draw on it as I travel for my job. I was also able to learn a different language in my time abroad as well.</p>
<p>My year abroad was probably one of the best years/experiences of my life. It was absolutely amazing, and I always encourage everyone I know who has this opportunity to pursue it to the fullest.</p>
<p>My year abroad was the best year of my life (so far). It was truly an adventure that helped define the person I have become. I have since encouraged several of my student employees to go abroad.</p>
<p>My year in Aberystwyth, Wales was the best year of my life. Culturally, academically and globally it transformed my life. It encouraged me to obtain my Master's Degree from the London School of Economics and to travel the globe. It changed my perspective of the world and living in general. The friendships I made</p>
<p>My year in South Africa completely changed the way I see the world and myself in it. I learned an immense amount about another culture, and spending a year there made me feel like not just a tourist, but a local. I made wonderful South African friends, with whom I still keep in touch 7 years later. It was by far the best experience I had in college.</p>
<p>My year studying abroad enhanced my self-confidence and gave me the opportunity to grow personally more than a stay-at-home experience ever could. I learned to appreciate my culture and what I value about the U.S., yet, also started to incorporate pieces of my host culture into my values and traditions. Through the challenges of studying abroad, especially learning a new language and navigating a new educational system and locale, I learned flexibility, patience, and an increased belief in my own inner strength to persist and succeed. I also gained the travel bug, and now make opportunities to see more of the world whenever possible. Professionally, Studying abroad highly influenced my career choice as I work in international education with international students, mainly due to the positive study abroad experience I had.</p>
<p>My year-long study abroad program in Barcelona, Spain in 1990-1991 was one of the best things I have ever done. It helped me grow in ways that couldn't have been any other way. I will encourage my children when they're older to do the same. The language skills and sense of independence and responsibility I gained are</p>
<p>Nearly all of the impact was of a personal nature. While I have used the language skills in some of my jobs, those jobs have not been important to my career.</p>
<p>One of my professors from the school I attended became a referee for future graduate study.</p>
<p>One of the best decisions I've made in my life is to participate in the study abroad program. It is one of the best experiences of my life. I learned so much about the Turkish culture. Experience helped me to view the world from a broader perspective. I was able to see how similar problems and issues were approached and solved differently. I also witnessed many positive characteristics from the people that I've met and have tried to practice them. Due to the experience, I'm more interested and involved in international issues. I'm also drawn toward people of different backgrounds and longing to re-experience the excitement of encountering</p>
<p>One of the best experiences of my life! Made wonderful friends and learned a lot about life and the world.</p>
<p>One of the best experiences of my life. I earned alot of respect for the fact that I studied abroad.</p>
<p>One of the courses I took on immigration in Costa Rica has been very inspiring and has been a big factor on choosing to go to graduate school</p>

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One of the most amazing experiences of my life, especially in terms of personal growth. I would recommend it to everyone.
Opened my eyes internationally and culturally in terms of how the world views Americans. It makes you realize even more that the world does not revolve around us and that we don't get all the correct news that we'd like. I LOVED my study abroad experience.
Opened my eyes to another way of life, another culture. . .a different perspective altogether.
opened my eyes to other things.
Open-Ended Response
Opens your eyes to another way of life - helps you understand differnet cultures in your personal and professional life.
PARIS is the BEST. Don't study abroad anywehre else, Paris is IT. Paris was the best thing that ever happened to me. I had the best time of my life there and I think about it all the time. Sometimes when I think about it, it makes me sad, because I am no longer in Paris. I studied at the American University of Paris.
Participating in EAP Spain was fundamental to my career choices--exporting and int'l market research. Because of studying abroad, I chose to pursue a master's in int'l relations.
Perhaps the most valuable asset that I gained in spending an entire year abroad is the knowledge that I am able to successfully move into and adapt to another culture. Knowing that I not only survived the year, but thrived and learned a great deal and am still using lessons learned 10 years later gives me confidence and ambition to take on other challenges.
Personally and professionally I was impacted, yet not so highly quite frankly.
Personally I made very good friends while studying abroad. Professionally, I had the opportunity to interact with researchers in my current field of study, which was valuable.
Personally it just enlightened me a lot and exposed me to new experiences. It built my confidence in meeting new people and being in unfamiliar (but fun) situations
Personally, I have gained friends that I have kept in close contact with. I have been part of their weddings, traveled all over to visit them, etc. post study abroad. Professionally it has made me a well-rounded and global human being who had a terrific understanding of the world outside of the US at the age of 21.
Personally, I think it was a wonderful experience to have an opportunity to live abroad in a foreign country for an extended period of time. I also was fortunate enough to meet a group of friends with whom I still keep in close contact with. Professionally, it has allowed me to seriously consider the possibility of pursuing job opportunities overseas as I had such a wonderful time studying and exploring during my time abroad. That said, I do not believe that any of my employers since graduation have made their hiring/promotion decisions on the basis of my study abroad experience.
Personally, it has allowed me to be more open and intrigued by other cultures and inspire to learn and travel more. Professionally, it has helped me to communicate in another language with colleagues.
Personally, it was the best experience of my life. I have the travel bug now and I am eager to explore all over the world.
Personally, my study abroad experience gave me insight into cultural diversity and views. I was more in tune to the impact the USA and it's decisions have on people in other countries. Professionally, the study abroad program helped me gain valuable experience practicing a foreign language. I was able to use these language skills in a job where English was not the only language spoken.
Personally, my study abroad experience to Israel was one of the best things I have ever done and was one of the greatest years of my life.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

<p>Personally, my study abroad experience changed my life. Being in Spain it helped to increase my fluency in Spanish, which is valuable to me personally, family wise and professionally, in my ability to assist a larger community. I had never left the country prior to studying abroad. My experience convinced me that traveling the world is the only way to really experience all that life has to offer.</p>
<p>Personally, my year abroad was the most influential of time at UCSD. It was challenging and offered a wealth of unique, new experiences. Professionally, I now work as a linguist. I was able to pass the Defense Language Proficiency Test for government jobs due to my fluency in French. I obtained fluency by living during that year abroad.</p>
<p>Personally, study abroad helped me to define who I am. I was Chinese-Vietnamese who grew up predominantly influenced by Vietnamese culture. I spent 6 months study abroad in China and I learned about my Chinese heritage. It was a great experience and it helped me to become a better citizen. Professionally, I learned how to speak Chinese and I used that with my patients all the time. I am now a physician and I think study-abroad somehow helped me to become a better doctor.</p>
<p>Please comment on how your study abroad experience impacted you personally and/or professionally.</p>
<p>Possibly the most personally fulfilling experience of my life. I've gone back to visit several times, and still correspond with friends from the trip. I've had the confidence to travel more often and farther afield. I did all sorts of things I wouldn't have done otherwise and I'll always be grateful for that opportunity.</p>
<p>Professionally I can claim a lot more international experience and have proven language skills. Personally, I am able to continue with passions I had at school that perhaps did not translate into a career. Personally I feel that the skills I learned and the experiences of studying abroad have taught me a lot that I continue to benefit from.</p>
<p>Professionally, I am currently a teacher of the deaf. Studying abroad truly showed me what it is like to be in a linguistic minority or to struggle with a language that was foreign to me. No matter how in depth the study of the language is, living it daily is what teaches us. The difference in culture and language has made me more understanding and sympathetic to the struggles that deaf children have....trying to learn a language they do not have auditory access to. Personally, my study abroad experiences is held close to my heart every day and affects me every day. It is an experience I can never fully share with others no matter how much I recount....it becomes a priceless personal treasure that changes you forever for the BETTER.</p>
<p>Professionally, I went to England and did not learn another language (much to my dismay), but I'm an engineer so I was worried about taking classes in a foreign language. For others, I would say pick a non-English speaking country. Overall, I've learned how other people's culture and environment affect the way they think and it has made me better at communicating and finding common ground between people back home and the international people I work with (Swedish, Indian, Malaysian, etc.) Just be prepared to want to learn.</p>
<p>Professionally, not so much. But personally, it added a whole new dimension to my worldview.</p>
<p>Really inspired me to take more risks and do what I wanted to do rather than what I thought I should do. Also directly influenced my major and career choice. In my semester abroad I studied international development and social change in southern Mexico, and when I returned to UCSD I changed my major to Anthropology and conducted a thesis project on immigrant health. I am currently getting an MD/PhD, the PhD in Medical Anthropology, and have worked on projects in Nicaragua, Brazil, and Mozambique, using the Spanish I learned abroad to also learn Portuguese. It was also a real education on global politics and economics and made me more aware of things going on in the world and the US role in world affairs. Personally I have also travelled a lot and just lived a very internationally-oriented life, starting with being an RA in International House after I returned to my studies and work. Of course, I'm already bicultural, but I think studying abroad had a tremendously positive influence in my life and was one of the most valuable experiences I've had. Share a once in a life time experience with new international friends who have similar goals in life.</p>

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Shifted my area of interest, and exposed me to an educational system that suited me very well, impacting my current academic career.
Since my first exchange in high school I have been hooked with the travel bug. Traveling abroad has opened my eyes to so many different views and has made the world smaller and the US less influential in my decision making. I have friends from so many countries and have volunteered with exchange organizations since my UCSD experiences. In addition, my daughter who is 3 has traveled more miles than most adults visiting Japan, Australia, Canada, Mexico, most of Europe, Eastern Europe, etc. She is very flexible and loves languages, foods, and cultures-- so the interest and worldliness have already been funneled to another
Since spending a year abroad in Amsterdam during my junior year I always feel the need to travel and hope to work abroad in my current job.
Since studying abroad, I have traveled to 20 countries, and returned to work in the UK and study in Spain. The skills, friendships and overall global awareness were invaluable. The experience taught me that there is a bigger world out there, and gave me a strong sense of global awareness.
So many great experiences... some of it was hard, some really fun, but all have really helped me understand myself and others more panoramically.
Some of the best times of my life were spent during my study abroad trip. those memories are forever with me. i had an extremely positive and great educational experience abroad. i highly suggest it to ALL students. It should be mandatory. really. :)
Spanish is my most valuable asset.
speaking another language can widen opportunities at work, as I work for an international consulting
Study abroad affected me personally (maturity, expanding my belief in myself, understanding the world, linguistic confidence, ...), professionally (I joined the Peace Corps and chose an international career), and academically (French Literature would not have been my choice before I decided to study abroad). This even affected the woman I chose to marry, who also wanted to join the Peace Corps, which we did together. I was transformed by the experiences inherent in study abroad.
Study abroad allowed me to discover and develop as an individual. I gained new perspectives on life, politics, and my future. Study abroad enabled me to be independent and gain confidence that I could do anything and live (almost) anywhere.
Study abroad built self-confidence and a sense of independence. This greater sense of self has helped me face very personal challenges in my life post-study abroad (e.g. coming out to family and friends, reassessing personal priorities and values, etc.). Professionally, I have been able to pursue international opportunities, in part because I studied abroad. The experience suggests to employers a natural curiosity, an independence, a willingness to take risks, and a cultural competency that are all valuable skills/assets in the marketplace.
Study Abroad helped me become more independent, confident and capable.
Study abroad helped me grow up! I don't want to think about the type of person I would have been if I hadn't gone. I was not satisfied with what UCSD offered me as a bio major. I highly recommend everyone study abroad. It was one of the best times of my life and encouraged me to also do UCDC, which was
Study abroad helped to shape who I am. Period.
Study Abroad is a good program. It helped to broaden my global perspective, especially as it relates to Africa.
Study abroad led to an internship that shaped my entire career path.
Study abroad opened a door to a new world and to a new part of myself. I learned more about who I was and what was, and wasn't, important to me. I still continue to travel. It's like a drug- I can't stop
Study Abroad Program have opened my eyes to see bigger world... i hope that everyone who participate in this program will gain great life lesson through it~ God bless +

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

Study abroad teaches what you can't learn in text books. Engaging in cultures outside of your own is an extraordinarily valuable experience.
Study abroad through EAP remains my fondest memory from college and continues to shape my life in meaningful and impactful ways.
Study abroad was one of the best things i've ever done. It exposed me to so much- culture, language, lifestyle, art, etc. It has definately given me a travel bug and influenced the career I'd like to move into.
Studying abroad awoke in me a desire to travel the world and learn about different cultures and people. It has helped me develop and open mind and be accepting of differences between people, while realizing we are all essentially the same. After I graduated, I decided to continue my experiences abroad by teaching English in Japan and Taiwan and traveling through several continents. All my experiences abroad have been such a valuable part of who I am.
Studying abroad changed my life! It was an amazing experience!
Studying abroad changed the way I view the world and who I am; I feel like it's influenced all my decisions since in some way. While my current job is not international at all, I'm sure that I will live abroad in the
Studying abroad changed the way I view the world. It helped shaped me into a confident, independent
Studying abroad disrupted the normal course of college life to such a positive degree that I mapped out a (short term) future that involved working abroad another 2 years and then studying abroad in law school. On a personal level, it made me more conscious of the global issues and how I can interact with others as a global citizen. On a professional level, it gave me ever-relevant skills and an interesting life experience for
Studying abroad gave me a chance to experience a slightly different culture, travel, and made me more
Studying abroad gave me direction in life. People underestimate the importance and positive benefits of leaving your comfort zone and jumping into something completely new. After dividing my junior year between a semester in Spain and a semester in Chile, I returned focused and much more mature. As my host mother in Spain commented, I "arrived a boy and left a man". Since my life-changing year abroad, I have enrolled in a Master's program at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in order to better understand the world that I was, in many ways, introduced to during my time studying abroad. As an economics student, I was able to see how economic problems and theory in practice is not as clear cut as theory suggests. After studying the augmented role of the state as practiced by economic policy-makers in the EU and the Chile's economic uniqueness in the region, I have learned that studying interest rate movements of the Federal Reserve is only one small fraction of the story.
Studying abroad gave me the opportunity to see just what I was able to do on my own, how much I could accomplish outside of the classroom walls and enjoy other cultures.
Studying abroad greatly broadened my perspective of the world and taught me a lot about how the US is perceived elsewhere and how our actions affect others. It also exposed me to new foods, customs, and history not usually found in the US. I already had an idea of my career and futher eduation plans, so my travel aborad did not alter them much. Also, while my study abroad has not necessarily directly led to increased salary, it has often given me something to talk about my employers or coworkers and/or served as a way we could relate to each other. I also believe that my research activities abroad as part of a biology-based group in Australia (Queensland) helped me get my first job - along with my majors and other activities. My travel would not have been enough on its own, but the hands-on research experience in combination with my
Studying abroad has helped me see how other countries view the United States. It has also helped me to grow an interest for different cultures and history.
Studying abroad helped give me a more global perspective on various issues. It helped open my eyes to other parts of the world. I feel that growing up in the U.S., Americans are sheltered from the issues of the world. I also made valuable friendships abroad.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

Studying abroad helped me see my country in a different way and made me more sensitive to the experiences of others. Studying abroad also made me a more confident, flexible person.
Studying abroad helped me to improve my Japanese speaking skills, and communication skills in general. I work for a Japanese company in the US now. Though I don't use my Japanese on a daily basis, I do feel that it helps me in my everyday work and was an advantage in getting hired initially.
Studying abroad impacted me personally and professionally by allowing me to intimately learn, understand, and discuss different perspectives on life, such as health, politics, sports, food, etc. It also greatly inspired me to travel to other parts of the world, which I continue to do.
Studying abroad in a country I had never traveled to, and having not previously studied the language, was really outside of my comfort zone. As a result, I think that the experience really helped me to grow as a person and become more independent. Just this last summer, I traveled back to Italy with my parents and my younger sister, and it was great to utilize my Italian language skills, as well as the cultural knowledge I gained during my study abroad to help us get around during our trip this summer!
Studying abroad in Australia really opened up my eyes to a new way of viewing the Western world. I was positively impacted in terms of the way that I interacted with people from a different culture. I learned how to be open-minded to different worldviews, interact with individuals from different walks of life and approach academics from a more dynamic angle.
Studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain changed my life. I came to UCSD as a pre-med Biology major, and after spending a year in Barcelona, I realized that I wanted to encourage others to travel abroad (for study, work, volunteer, or leisure). I became a Comparative Politics major and earned a Minor in Spanish Studies. I now work for an Adventure Travel company in the Bay Area, and encourage people to travel throughout the world, exposing themselves to different countries and cultures.
Studying abroad in Budapest, Hungary was one of the highlights of my college experience! I have so many exciting and interesting stories to share with my peers!
Studying abroad in Italy for TWO YEARS was the best time in my life thus far...my host country's culture became part of my own identity and has influenced my everyday life in just about every way. Although I did land my first job out of college because of my language skills, my current job is in health care and my study abroad did not influence that choice. However, it does help me to provide culturally competent care to my
Studying abroad in London was hands down one of the best experiences of my life. I made many valuable friendships with both Americans and Brits and found myself falling in love with everything associated with the London way of life. After visiting numerous museums, participating in my University's fashion clubs and making many friends interested in fashion, I chose to pursue a career in fashion design. Following my UCSD graduation I headed to FIDM to pursue a graduate degree in merchandise product development. I still stay in close contact with all my London friends and continue to have very fond memories of my time abroad.
Studying abroad is a phenomenal experience where a student not only has the opportunity to learn in an academic forum different from their home country, but it is a learning experience where a student really becomes a local, adopting customs and practices of another country's everyday life.
Studying abroad is the BEST decision I have ever made. It was an incredible experience that i would not exchange for ANYTHING. If I could go do it again, i would. I met awesome people, some are my close friends today. I got to see the world, other parts of it...live, learn and all of that. It changed my life!! =)
Studying abroad is the BEST WAY for a college student to learn more about his/her own culture. It took me out of my comfort zone, and it gave me the opportunity to examine my own culture and values in a way that I had never been able to before. I gained confidence, learned Spanish, realized how similar we are as humans, and got to see some of the natural beauty of Central America. Absolutely a must see-do-experience!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

Studying abroad is the best way to begin to identify your own position and purpose with relation to the world we live in. It opens your eyes, makes you so much more open minded and gives you the honor of the first hand experience of another country's culture, language and way of daily life.
Studying abroad made me acutely aware of the world beyond southern California. It made me question the values of my own upbringing and my culture. It also ignited a life-long love of travel and languages.
Studying abroad made me look at the world differently - which has benefited me both personally and professionally.
Studying abroad opened me up to being in unfamiliar cultural environments, and learning how to appreciate the experiences (good, bad, and embarrassing!). It makes you more aware of the world, and more cross-culturally understanding. My first job out of college was for the international research division of a corporate governance firm, and I know my experience in Japan gave me a leg up. I've also continued to be interested in international affairs, and have started a joint law/master's program, intending to focus on international law.
Studying abroad opened my eyes to the possibility of moving to another country after graduation. It showed me that I could manage that and that I would most likely enjoy that. It challenged me in new ways.
Studying abroad opened my mind to different cultures. It gave me the perspective of being a foreigner which I use with many of my clients in my work as a Marriage and Family Therapist. It also helped me become more self sufficient and more able to cope with unexpected situations. I also gained an appreciation for perceptions different than my own or those of the United States. This is essential in today's society.
Studying abroad opened up my scope of knowledge and allowed me to not only learn about Europe, but learn more about the US by being outside of it. I think about my time abroad more often than not and hold onto the memories strongly. Without a doubt, I look at life differently by the year there because of the people I met, the things I saw and experiences that pushed me to grow outside my comfort zone.
Studying abroad really expanded my sphere of understanding about the world and greatly increased my desire to travel whenever I can.
Studying abroad twice in Mexico impacted my life forever. I have a strong desire to learn about other cultures, and I value diversity. I also feel more confident in traveling to other places as a result of living and studying in another community. I learned Spanish more rapidly by being immersed in the culture and met extraordinary people. Overall, I am so thankful for the opportunity.
Studying abroad was a great chance to see some of the world and experience something besides California, however I went mostly for the travel experience taking classes that didnt even relate to my major so professionally there was no impact.
Studying abroad was an unbelievable experience because it allows you the opportunity to live and immerse yourself in a whole new culture and environment. I took courses that were relevant to my major, but more valuable than the education was the opportunity to travel and learn more about myself. Every month, I took a major trip to a neighboring country, which I am so grateful for. Also, I always thought that I would enjoy working abroad, but this experience actually taught me that I am not comfortable being abroad for so long. In fact, I learned to appreciate home more, and now feel 100% sure that I belong in the Bay Area, whereas before I had many questions about where I should be. All in all, it was a once in a lifetime chance to see another part of the world and I highly recommend it to everyone!
Studying abroad was by far the best experience I had while in college. I am still very close to the friends I made while abroad and have since gone back to the country twice to visit them.
Studying abroad was my favorite thing I did at UCSD.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

<p>Studying abroad was one of best decisions I ever made. I enjoyed it so much I did it twice. I learned and grew so much during my year abroad that I came back a different and better person. The second time I studied abroad on a subject specific program that allowed me to pursue more interesting, hands-on aspects of biology and encouraged me to apply to grad school and helped me figure out the subject that I wanted to pursue my</p>
<p>Studying abroad was one of the best experiences I've ever had. I learned to be more independent, learned more about my self and who I am and what I can do, and I was very fortunate to meet many people from different countries/cultures that I wouldn't have if I had not gone abroad.</p>
<p>Studying abroad was one of the best experiences of my life! It showed me I could adapt to a different environment and really immerse myself in a culture that is so different than the one I was raised up in. Meeting the natives of the country I studied in as well as people from all over the world who were also studying language there really enriched my experience and my life in so many ways.</p>
<p>Studying abroad was probably the most extraordinary thing I have done, and have not regrets with regards to this decision. I am currently finishing a Masters Program in Latin American Studies, and am confident that one day this degree will lead me to a higher one, which will allow me to teach Latin American History or Cultural Studies at the university level.</p>
<p>Studying abroad was probably the most significant thing I have done in my life. The experience has impacted my life in countless ways and I have since traveled to many other places, due to that experience.</p>
<p>Studying abroad was the best part of my 4 years at UCSD in terms of how I grew as a person of this world.</p>
<p>Studying abroad was the best thing I did during my undergraduate career. I learned more about life, the world, and my field in that one quarter than I did the rest of my time at UCSD. I would not have been able to attend college without financial aid, therefore, studying abroad was a serious financial stress. If I had the chance to do it again in that situation, even if it was twice the cost, I wouldn't even hesitate. I feel very fortunate that I was able to have that experience.</p>
<p>Studying abroad was the single most valuable things I did in college and certainly impacted the course of my life and the relationships I made subsequently. After college, I spent several years living and working in the country in which I studied abroad and know that the initial study abroad experience shaped the person that I</p>
<p>Studying abroad was, hands-down, the BEST decision I made in my undergraduate career. The language skills, travel experiences, and cultural awareness I soaked up while abroad have positively impacted my career, my decision to pursue a higher degree, as well as brought me a higher level of personal development.</p>
<p>Studying and living in Israel was the best year of my life--personally, professionally, in every possible way it impacted me positively and I miss every minute of it.</p>
<p>Studying and living in Mexico City when I was 19 has forever impacted my life. I am now a community college English teacher, but use my Spanish often with non-native English students. It also kindled my passion for travel, and besides having studied abroad in graduate school (Cambridge, England) I have travelled for pleasure a great deal and visited over 32 countries in the last 15 years. In so many ways it changed my life and it was such an important part of my education. I know it is difficult to find time and money to travel after college, so I encourage everyone to study abroad while in college!</p>
<p>Studying in Barcelona, Spain for a year really changed my life. Aside from learning about the culture and language, it opened my eyes to the differences between my "world" in the United States and the world that other's live outside of the United States. I made friends with people from all over the world, as well as people from around the country. This experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I will cherish it forever. I will also encourage my children to study abroad.</p>
<p>Studying Spanish and history in Mexico was the best way to learn Spanish and build my confidence in using it. Because of my study abroad experience, I was able to get my first job as a bilingual English/Spanish taught abroad after graduation.</p>

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### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

<p>Thanks to the study abroad program and the research I performed abroad, I got several Job offers during my last year at UCSD. I will get married in couple of months, about 8 friends I met abroad (from sweden, Japan, Chile, Colombia) will be coming to my wedding; great feeling.</p>
<p>The Bayreuth study abroad program in 1998 was a bit of a fiasco insofar as we were supposed to be housed with German roommates on campus, but we were instead housed in singles in an International House two bus-rides from campus with non-German neighbors. It was very isolating and not conducive to immersion in a German-speaking community. This was in the age before cell phones were affordable and before everything was wired for internet, so those of us who were going on a shoestring had no means of communicating with the outside world from our solitary rooms. I realize this was a fluke and hope that the mistake wasn't repeated. It impacted my study abroad very negatively. I have since studied abroad under much better conditions (not through the EAP) and have had much better experiences.</p>
<p>The best experience of my life. I always knew I would work in the Asian - U.S. business environment upon graduating from UCSD. Study abroad was the key to launching this goal. It put me on the front line of what it's like socially to be living in Asia.</p>
<p>The best year of my university experience.</p>
<p>The biggest impact was probably personally. It improved my social skills as well as my self confidence, making me both more independent and personable.</p>
<p>The everyday challenges were both exhausting and invigorating. I came away with much more confidence in uncomfortable situations and with my ability to deal with anything thrown my way. I'm so glad I went! It was a great experience.</p>
<p>The experience challenged me to become more independent. Being away from friends and family and living in an unfamiliar environment forced me to become more proactive in life.</p>
<p>The experience gave me courage to take advantage of other international opportunities. I lived in South Korea, and now live in Singapore.</p>
<p>The experience helped bring me "out of my shell" and sparked my 'world awareness' and drive to become a 'world citizen'. Professionally it forced me to expand my perspectives and goals. It was probably the single best thing I did at UCSD (along with playing on the University soccer team). Thanks to Molly Ann for</p>
<p>The experience made me a more competent, savvy, aware person. It opened my eyes to aspects of my home culture that I took for granted, and made me appreciate how a person comes to feel "at home" in a new environment. It made me work harder than I've ever worked at anything, but it paid off enormously in fluency, a great foreign education, and a real sense of achievement. I'm so happy I spent that year studying</p>
<p>The experience of living and studying in another country was a tremendous opportunity to grow personally, open my mind to new places, people, food, culture that would not have known otherwise. I will always value that experience. The professional impacts have also been evident. In this global economy, an attractive quality in a job applicant is someone who can demonstrate the ability to excel in a diverse, multicultural environment. I always share stories of my year abroad in interviews and I always include it on my resume. It is a great conversation starter.</p>
<p>The experience really opened my eyes to the world and enabled a love of travel, other cultures and experiences. You also learn about yourself and how you relate with the world.</p>
<p>The friendships I made while abroad in Russia are some of my most highly valued friendships today. It has been the single most life-changing experience outside of motherhood for me. The cultural, linguistic, and social benefits have stayed with me for the past 15 years since I lived in Russia.</p>
<p>The friendships I made while studying aboard are invaluable and I still maintain those friendships many years after my study about experience.</p>

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<p>the learning experiences i had abroad, both inside and outside the classroom, gave me a stronger sense of self and helped me to have a clearer understanding of myself in the world, my values, my needs, my likes and dislikes, etc. to put it simply, being outside my comfort zone allowed me to grow up and know myself a lot</p>
<p>The opportunity to study abroad at the Rothberg International School for Overseas Students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, was absolutely incredible. I am deeply saddened that UCSD has yet to reinstate the EAP program at this location. It was the best year of my life and influenced me to pursue a career in Jewish education and become ever more informed about the world in which I live by seeing it first-hand, opposed to watching the media. I strongly urge the reinstating of this incredible program in Israel. The entire experience could not have been more positive in my life!!!</p>
<p>The personal growth I underwent during my year abroad was greater than the other three years of my college experience combined. I learned so much about Spain, the world, and myself. I have greater perspective, confidence, and knowledge with which to approach the rest of my life, both professionally and personally.</p>
<p>The research skills that I learned at the University of Queensland were a great addition to the skills that I learned at UCSD.</p>
<p>The single best experience I had as an undergrad (among many great experiences!).</p>
<p>The single most valuable year of my life - a chance to learn more about oneself than at any other time in life.</p>
<p>The study abroad experience helped me to understand the perspective of other cultures and reinforced my desire to visit and learn about cultures throughout the world.</p>
<p>The study abroad experience made me question what being an American was about and how I want to represent America. Immersion into French culture forced me to challenge myself, to see other perspectives politically, socially, etc...all of which helped me be a stronger &amp; well rounded person.</p>
<p>The study abroad for a year provided a tremendous growth opportunity that is otherwise unavailable. It obliges, in a positive fashion, a person to be highly independent, and to create new ties.</p>
<p>The survey misses everything important and only focuses on salary, career, and jobs. I personally really enjoyed studying abroad and had a great time and was able to live in a beautiful country for an entire year and meet many international students whom I would not have met at UCSD. To be honest, I think that one year abroad was probably the best year of my life.</p>
<p>The year I spent studying abroad in England was the best year of my life. I travelled around Europe, visiting friends and family and even to Egypt. Flights across Europe were so cheap. I flew round-trip from England to</p>
<p>The year study abroad program (which I spent in Lyon, France) has permanently changed my life for the best - it subsequently led me to graduate school (at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies), followed by six years in the foreign / diplomatic service, and then back to Europe to work in government affairs and public policy for both Microsoft and Google. I am now fluent in five language, have lived abroad for most of my adult life, and work as Google's International Policy Manager. There is no single experience which has more positively affected my life, or helped me to become the amazing person which I feel that I am,</p>
<p>There are few things in life more valuable to me than my experience studying abroad. It profoundly, profoundly impacted my growth, personality, desires, and ambitions. I've been pursuing numerous international activities since that time, learning languages, traveling, and currently live in Switzerland. All things I was unaware were possible before studying abroad. It is absolutely life-changing.</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

<p>There are so many ways it impacted me... I learned a lot about myself, my view of the US, my relationship with the world, what it's like to be a foreigner. Professionally, it has helped me have more empathy with immigrants since I know what it's like to not "get it" when you arrive. I am more interested in international events. I have taken a lot of international trips. I married someone from another country/culture and I'm sure my study abroad experience helps me relate to his feelings living in a foreign country. I can speak the language of my mother's family much better than before I studied abroad. Learning that language has helped me learn two more languages since then. After college I got a job teaching German. Although I did not pursue this as my ultimate career, I learned a lot from that experience and it helped me decide what I did want to do with my career. I did one more study abroad program while in graduate school at another</p>
<p>There is no single comment that can sum up the way a study abroad experience can impact, change, influence, mend and alter your life both personally and professionally for the better. We are living in an increasingly inter-connected world that is making it easier and necessary to interact with people, cultures and ways different from our own. The study abroad program not only better prepares you for this phenomenon, it puts you ahead of those whom are not prepared for it, and on the same level with those whom are.</p>
<p>This impacted the course of my life. 13 years later I still keep those friendships, pursue career opportunities and benefit financially and personally from the experiences. I would love to come speak at the college any time, &lt;erin_mason@sbcss.k12.ca.us&gt;.</p>
<p>This is an important program that must not be overlooked.</p>
<p>This was the most important experience of my undergraduate education and has made me more motivated, more self-sufficient and more culturally sensitive, both personally and professionally.</p>
<p>This was the most valuable thing I did at UCSD; arguably, more valuable than the major that I chose.</p>
<p>Those who do not study abroad will always have a question unanswered they didn't even know existed.</p>
<p>Though my experience studying abroad had no impact regarding my career or really my academic life at all (academics were more of a backdrop), the experience going to another country completely alone and ready for adventure was amazing. I met life-long friends from all over the world.</p>
<p>Though my major (Computer Science) was not related to my studies abroad, I feel that I was personally affected in a positive way by my experience in Italy. At the very least it widened my perspective of the world, and forced me to recognize that there are other people, with different cultures, attitudes, and beliefs, sharing</p>
<p>Through my study abroad experience, I gained personal confidence as well as a greater, more visceral sense of how differently people are living their lives around the world - with different resources and different cultural interpretations of appropriateness. These various experiences encouraged me to pursue my academic and personal interests in graduate school and I recently finished a PhD in Sociology.</p>
<p>Two of my closest friends 14 years after the YAB are Americans I met that year. I studied abroad in Egypt, and unfortunately 9/11 and the aftermath have affected the ability to keep my Egyptian friendships up. That experience though is a life lesson and something that still effects me.</p>
<p>UCSD can sometimes be lacking in some social aspects and my study abroad year was hands down the best social year of school for me and also a great academic year for me.</p>
<p>Understanding how others live gives great insight into how I live.</p>
<p>Was fun and helped with my language skills (spanish). Also was very educational in a hands on way that I could not have gotten in the University.</p>
<p>Well it led to my decision to join Peace Corps, which led to my decision to pursue a Ph.D. which led to my current academic career.</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.

<p>Well, I learned Italian better than I could ever learn it by being in class in the United States. I praise myself for being able to learn and have a good grasp in a foreign language. I hated the Siena and Madrid Semester programs, once the programs ended and I lived in apartments on my own with native peers I learned so much more about the culture, language, political views, and pop culture, etc.</p>
<p>Well, I've been an expat ever since, so I guess it was life changing.</p>
<p>went to grad school in the UK. another friend of mine who was also studying in the UK went to grad school there too, so I guess we were quite taken with our experience...</p>
<p>What better way to get a sense of the world and your place in it that getting out of your safe-zone and experiencing another culture?</p>
<p>When I graduated from school, I then got a work visa and went back to Glasgow, Scotland, the town where i studied abroad. I still maintain friendships with people I met there and have traveled all over the world to visit them.</p>
<p>When you are in college, especially in the US, you live in a bubble. You are learning new things and meeting new people, but your world does not extend beyond campus. Studying abroad expands your view of the world and teaches you life lessons you would never have learned in a college course.</p>
<p>Wherever you study, whatever you study, however long you study abroad, the mere experience of discovering and exploring a new culture, interacting with local citizens, and gaining a new perspective on the world will inevitably make you a more thoughtful, engaging, insightful and multi-dimensional person.</p>
<p>While i don't get to use my language skills as much as i like, the need arises at the most surprising times. It is impressive to employers both practically and because of the experience itself. learning another language in the immersion context allows you to observe yourself in the most fundamental learning process, which in turn is a valuable lesson for future challenges. living abroad strengthens character, enriches experiences, and provides so many unforeseen opportunities.</p>
<p>While I have a very multicultural background myself, living abroad broadened my understanding of how much diversity there is within cultures.</p>
<p>While it was the most difficult experience I had faced in my life, it was also the most important personal journey of opening up to the world I have had so far in my life. As an academic, I think I can relate to and interact with foreign colleagues much more easily because of my experience abroad. I came away from the year with the thought that it should be required for all college students. It's a treasured experience that can't</p>
<p>While my study abroad really did more to influence me personally than professionally. I was able to use it to both advantages.</p>
<p>While my study abroad experience in Budapest, Hungary has yet to benefit me professionally, it had a huge impact personally. For the first time I was the outsider looking in on a different culture in a country where I did not speak the language at all. The most important thing I brought back was a sense of independence and confidence. After having to do day to day activities in a foreign country and foreign language for five months, everything seemed so simple and easy when I got back!</p>
<p>While studying abroad during the 2004 presidential election, my colleagues and I wanted to become involved in the presidential election. We became organized within an organization while in Spain and found just as many Spaniards concerned with the election of the next President of the United States as those of us who were able to vote. The United States is a superpower with a profound impact on the world, and we must be aware of and concerned about the impact of our power beyond our domestic boundaries. When the local Spanish paper has an entire page dedicated solely to U.S. news and local U.S. papers report only one story on a specific country, that calls for greater awareness of our country's influence in the world.</p>
<p>While studying abroad I discovered my love of musuems. Before studying abroad I hadn't considered museums as an option for a history major, but know I work for the Smithsonian Institution.</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE STATEMENT: PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY AND/OR PROFESSIONALLY.**

While studying in Madrid, I met someone in the program with me who became my boyfriend of almost 5 years. Even though we went to different universities on different ends of the US during the rest of college, we stayed together long distance until we graduated. Then we moved in together, saved up money for a year so that we could have a post-college international experience like we did in Madrid, and moved down to Costa Rica for half a year. While we were down there we traveled through all of Central America, taught English for work, learned more Spanish, and made more friends.

wonderful experience. loved it. Recommend it to everyone. Opens your mind even more culturally which impacts your life in all aspects.

Wow, did a UCSD kid write these questions? All geared towards career and grad school? Studying abroad was far and away the best decision I made during college and turned out to be probably the best experience of my entire life. I grew as a human being and have friends all over the world now because of it. But, you know, if you're worried about how it's going to affect your grad school or career options, by all means, don't go. THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN YOUR CAREER...

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

- Have an open mind - Get out of your comfort zone - Don't speak your primary language - Try/experience everything - Enjoy it!
(repeated from above) For anyone who dreams of an exceptional life, a life of adventure, of color, of breaking out and doing something even a little different, I cannot recommend studying abroad highly enough.
1) JUST DO IT. There isn't a better time. 2) If possible, opt for homestays over student housing. Be courageous - the rewards are so much greater!
1.- Do not leave a girlfriend in your home country, break up. Even if you are not interested in a relationship abroad, it will "distract" you from your experience abroad, may even become a financial burden, time constraint, highly emotional burden like it was in my case; we broke up as soon as I got back. 2.- Go for a whole year, even if you delay your graduation for one year (as in my case), it is worth it.
5 weeks was too little - definitely go for AT LEAST a quarter!
A must do.
Absolutely do it! It will change your life.
Absolutely do it! The experience you'll receive is invaluable and life-changing!
Absolutely do it. It was a financial hardship for me to take out additional loans but worth every penny.
Absolutely do it. Make friends with people from the host country and stay for the whole year, if you can. It is definitely worth it.
Absolutely go for it. You will reap many rewards/rewards that are difficult to describe or quantify,
Absolutely study abroad. Stay as long as you can. The experience is valuable to anybody with any major.
Absolutely, highly recommended. If you're considering it at all, do whatever is necessary to go.
Accept all invitations and take advantage of every opportunity. Dive in and hang out with the locals.
ALL students should be REQUIRED to study abroad for as long as they can. It is the ONLY opportunity they will likely have to live abroad for an extended period of time. Every one of my friends who did NOT study abroad as an undergraduate deeply regretted their decision to not study abroad.
Although it can be scary to make the decision to go - especially if you're planning on being gone for a while. But if you never do it you will always regret it. It's much harder to take off for weeks at a time once you're out of school and most likely you will never have that opportunity to immerse yourself in a culture like that.
always study abroad. always.
Anyone interested in studying abroad should absolutely do it. It is the single most important experience of my college tenure. My advice would be to explore several geographic options before deciding. While I cherish my experience in Europe, I should have considered non-Western options such as Africa or Asia. Stay open-minded and challenge yourself -- you won't regret it.
Apply widely for scholarship, and don't live with English Speakers
As a school counselor, I strongly advise my students to take the opportunity to study abroad. Just Do It! If you stay a couple of months or a year, you will not regret it! Be open-minded, patient, respectful and curious! Try and research the culture (and faux pas), study the language and the laws.
As an American studying abroad, it's important to welcome different cultural experiences and it's vital to recognize how Americans are perceived and not to perpetuate those stereotypes.
As difficult it may be at times, choose a program that offers total immersion in your country's school rather than one that provides classes with other study abroad students. I felt this was the best way to learn the language and to more accurately understand what living as a French college student was like.
avoid spending time with people from your country and try to get out of the university environment in your host country as much as possible. Think hard about the impact of your every action, even walking down the street or buying a beer. Try not to think of studying abroad as a fun game or vacation

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?**

Be adventurous! Get out, meet new people, try new foods. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity.
Be aware that it may be difficult to make friends, and that being away from home and away from a support network can be difficult at times.
Be aware. Be open. Share your experiences with others upon your return. People need to know how important it is to get out of the US for a while.
Be careful!!!
be extremely respectful of the culture, try to hang out with local people and try to immerse as much as possible into the language, the lifestyle and the culture.
Be flexible and open to try new things.
Be flexible, open-minded and patient. In the end everything is going to be fine. There will be times when you will be frustrated, tired and hate being overseas, and then in the next minute you are going to love it. It happens to all of us. Just go with the flow and all will be good.
Be flexible. Travel to as many areas of the country you are in as you can afford. Keep in touch with the people you meet.
Be open minded and appreciate all the new things you learn and experience every single day.
Be open minded, get over your fears, it is the chance of a lifetime, one you may never ever get again!
Be open minded, remember that you are away from the states so things will be different and don't expect to get the same food, entertainment, etc that you would at home.
Be open minded. Expect the unexpected, know that there will be a solution to any problem, know that even though you might miss home a month or two after you arrive, when it's time to go home you won't want to leave. Be serious about classes but don't take too many classes, leave time for travelling and other experiences. Also, pack light and bring an extra empty suitcase. Have a blast.
Be open to experience as much as possible. Learn about the culture. Have fun and don't worry about the credits too much.
Be open to grow as a person. Learn from other people's cultures.
Be open to learning and experiencing something new and different. Don't be afraid to go somewhere new just because you may be out of your comfort zone. It can be a scary thing to dive into, but having gone may be a great decision in the end.
Be open to new things, and try to live in the moment - the semester/year won't last forever, and if you spend the whole time wishing you were back in the U.S., you WILL miss out!
be open to what the experience has to teach you
Be open, flexible, and bring humour with you. Appreciate each day while abroad because it will change your life someday and somehow so don't get bogged down with being homesick.
Be open. Know that it won't always be easy. Know what your interests are and pursue them in any country as that will keep you happy and make it a more fulfilling experience.
Be open-minded about trying lots of things while you have the energy and opportunity. As you get older and if you become more settled, you don't want to have any regrets.
Be open-minded and accept that you will feel like a fish out of water - that's part of what makes you grow and learn. Also, I wouldn't recommend going to Bordeaux - not a very cheerful city of people.
Be open-minded and don't study too much so you can enjoy and take in the best experience of your life.
Be open-minded and respectful. Try everything! Don't hold back! If you do this, you will fall in love with the place you are visiting. It will be the best time that you have ever had.
Be open-minded to everything about the experience and it will be much more enjoyable.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Be open-minded, be vigilant, and really put yourself out there when it comes to meeting new people and venturing to new places. There's so much to do, so much to learn, that you want to do as much as you can and don't let anything stop you.
Be open-minded.
Be outside...dont' waste a single minute being bored. This is a once in a lifetime possiblity and I guarantee you when you get home all you will want to do is more than what you did. So go do it now!
Be patient as you live abroad. There will be difficult days that may make you want to go home. Sticking it out will help you to learn a lot and the experience will help you in your future.
Be prepared to manage the personal ups and downs you will experience while abroad.
Be safe, go the full year, take advantage of study abroad in college as opposed to waiting to travel on your own (the university takes care of you).
Be well prepared by discussing coursework with your major department far in advance.
Before you leave the U.S., please make sure that you talk with your department head on how much work you need to do in order to have your classes transfer into your major. Even though you may get credit for your classes, you might not be so lucky transferring them into your major. This is what happened to me.
best thing you can do over your college carrer!
Build strong relationships with all people. Force yourself to get out and talk.
Challenge yourself
College is one of the only times in which such an experience is almost guaranteed to be feasible. Take advantage of the oppportunity to expand your understanding of other cultures.
Come into the experience with an open mind and a willingness to make friends, travel, and to try new things.
Consider carefully your impetus for studying abroad. It can be a great experience if done with the right motivation, but disappointing if purused for the wrong reasons.
Consider going outside of EAP if necessary. The university I was placed at was a very weak institution and negatively impacted my studies. I was in Ireland, and because Ireland was lumped in with the UK, and the EAP program was based in UK, the faculty running the program there were not very knowledgeable about
Consider study abroad as important and valuable a part of your college experience as any other; maybe even the most important part.
Create a plan about what you want to accomplish or experience abroad before going so that you are sure not to miss out on something you want to do. I didn't do this, and before I knew it, I was back in America without having visited a lot of places that I should have.
Create opportunities for yourself to meet, talk, and share ideas with people you might not have the chance of meeting at home.
Cultural shock and the fact that you are going to be home sick is a given. But what needs to keep you strong are the people around you (who are feeling the same emotions) and the fact that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I have gotten the luxury of traveling to well over 30 countries thus far. But Chile was superb because of the intellectual challenge and the relationships I created. I would encourage more people to go to Chile, it's the first step in creating an international persona. The traveling bug will hit you, and it's awesome.
Definately take the time to fill out the paper work and apply! You won't regret it. Best experience you'll ever have. Living in a foreign country for a long period of time will open up your perspective to a lot of different
Definetly, embark on the adventure! It is an invaluable experience, that you will never have another opportunity in your life to experience as you can as a student. It is an opportunity that one should not pass
Definitely do it! Stay for the entire academic year if you can.
Definitely do it! It will enrich your life experience and make you a more competitive applicant for graduate programs.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Definitely do it, and go out of you way to learn the language and get as involved as possible.
Definitely do it. Truly an opportunity you may never have again. In all honesty, among one of the best decisions I've made in my life.
Definitely go abroad if you can! It will positively change your life. And, try a country where you can brush up on your foreign language skills if possible and/or applicable. Also, try going to a country that you would probably not visit if you were just going on your own.
Definitely go! Even if it means that you will have to take an extra quarter or two at UCSD, it's a chance you will rarely ever have again in your life. Once you have a "real"
Definitely go. Do not let finances hold you back, you can pay it off after you return.
Definitely go. I can't stress it enough. I don't know who I would be now if I hadn't gone abroad.
Definitely take the time and look into doing it. Even if it extends the time it takes to get your degree. You will never have a better opportunity to live in another country, study, experience the culture like you will with studying abroad. Also, it is the easiest and cheapest way to go abroad you will ever have in your entire life.
Defintely study abroad...be open to where you go and really focus on the culture there when you are there...you will love it.
Dive in!!
Do a homestay if you go to Latin America. I had a crazy evangelical host mom who was constantly trying to convert me, but I still think it's the best thing you can do and I'm glad I did it.
Do it
Do it - It's a great experience!
Do it - it's a once in a lifetime opportunity for most people. When else can you go to another country for 6-12 months to LEARN? I still have great memories and friends from that year abroad!
Do it , and go for 1 year, instead of just a semester. hehe
Do it and do it for a full year.
Do it before you or someone else talks you out of it.
Do it early and often.
Do it for a year. I wanted to extend after 6 months but I was not allowed and it isn't long enough to really get the most out of your experience. It is hard to come across opportunities like that again! Also, make an effort to get to know local people rather than people just in EAP. There was kind of a bad reputation at first where Americans would come in and only hang out with each other and that really limits what you get out of the experience and you can miss out on getting to know some great people!
DO IT FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN. HAVE FUN BUT ALSO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!!!
Do it for the whole year because the first semester is for getting to know the students and the 2nd is for really forging the friendships.
Do it no matter what, but remember to go in with an open mind about other people's cultures.
Do it no matter what. Drop double majors, graduate late, borrow money, whatever. Just go.
Do it now before it's too late.
Do it or you will regret it!
Do it while you can as a student. It's the best time in your life to do it, and most affordable.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Do it while you're in college! It really is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to study abroad as a college student. I've been back to the country that I studied abroad in two more times after, but it cannot compare to my EAP trip in the Philippines. (I'm actually currently doing this survey while in the Philippines). It's great to go as a student because everywhere you go you can learn and everyone sees you as a curious learner and not so much as a tourist. I felt at ease to ask any question I could to the locals here and in return I learned so much about the country's culture that I would have been harder for me to learn as a tourist. Also, it's a good idea to do it now because SCHOLARSHIPS are available as a student! Take advantage of the money that's out there! Don't think that scholarships are hard to obtain. There are so many, that the chances are probably a lot
DO IT!
Do it! And choose a destination off the beaten path.
Do it! And while abroad, travel and see new sights and immerse yourself in the culture. A turkish classmate invited me to her hometown and her uncle's village for the weekend and I'm so glad I went. Take advantage of every opportunity to try something new. Be receptive and have an open mind, polite and respectful.
Do it! Best experience of your life (so far), hands down.
Do it! Do not be too concerned whether or not you will enjoy the experience, if it will be too difficult, etc. The only way you will know is if you go. And at the end of the day, if you do not like it, you can always come
Do it! Educate yourself about where you'd like to go by talking to others and reading. Then, challenge yourself by taking the step to do it, if that is what you're being called to do. Studying and living abroad is a great opportunity to grow personally and career-wise...not to mention, it's a lot of fun!
Do it! Find a way to make it work and do it! Neither expenses nor credits should stand in your way. There are plenty of scholarships, some places even being cheaper. As for classes, if your country of choice doesn't offer classes in your major, there are always GEs you can get out of the way
Do it! Go for a whole year, it was fantastic.
Do it! If you've never been outside of the U.S. it will change your outlook on almost everything.
DO IT! It is a unique opportunity to be immersed in a culture, so I'd encourage people to go somewhere they could learn a new language and just go somewhere they find fascinating. It is well worth whatever sacrifices need to be made and gives you the kind of education I don't think you can get at home.
Do it! It was one of my best experiences at UCSD, and has positively impacted my life in many ways. It wasn't all easy, and I had to face some challenges in living abroad, but I did it and am very glad that I did.
Do it! It will change your life!
Do it! It will help you to see the world in a new way.
Do it! It's scary, it will challenge you, and you'll be better for it.
Do it! Make it happen even if it takes more money or more time or more effort.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Do it! No matter where you go completely immersing yourself in another culture will change your life forever. No matter how well read or informed you are nothing beats a prolonged experience abroad to truly educate you and open your eyes to different cultures. While the photographs will remind of an incredible personal experience, the bullet on your resume that you got on in a foreign culture and stretched yourself to try something new will benefit you in any field you choose to pursue.
DO it! no questions. Just do it! You won't regret it and it will resonate in every part of your life.
Do it! Pick the areas less travelled, too.
Do it! Study abroad!
Do it! This is a great opportunity and this is the time in your life when it is relatively easy to just pick up and
Do it! This is an amazing opportunity to learn a language, become fully immersed in another culture, travel, and meet new people. Go for an entire year if you are studying a language.
Do it! This is the best experience that you could have in college.
Do it! This is the only time in your life you will have to do this while you are young. Once you graduate, you will not be able to take the time off work to pursue an opportunity like this.
Do it! You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!
Do it! You won't ever have another opportunity like it to experience a culture while young and going to school without having to worry about a job or the real world. You won't miss out on anything at home while gone - everything stays the same, go for a full year to get the full experience.
Do it! You won't regret it! It will change how you view yourself and world around you in wonderful ways and ways nothing else can.
do it! You won't regret it.
DO IT! You'll never regret expanding your sense of belonging in this world and seeing your home with fresh
DO IT! 6 weeks, 1 semester, 1 year are all short time periods in the grand scheme of a lifetime. So even if graduation is delayed slightly, when you look back on it when you're 60 or 70 what you will have are the clear memories from that time abroad... not an additional blurry year of work.
Do it! And go with an attitude of being open to new, different experiences and people.
Do it! Don't let money or your perceived career schedule stop you! (I went entirely on loans and grants and I graduated in four years with a double major. It can be done!)
Do it! Enjoy it! Don't come up with reasons not to!
DO IT! I often tell people, the best year I ever spent at UCSD was my year abroad :-). When you go, be sure to submerge yourself in the culture. Those who lived with other Americans got much less out of it than those who lived with natives.
Do it! It is important to put yourself outside of your comfort zone in order to grow as an individual. Some of my best memories from my entire life are from when I lived abroad, I wouldn't trade those for anything.
do it! It was the best experience of my life and ultimately a unique once in a life time experience.
DO IT! It was the best year of my life from start to finish. I loved every minute of it and wish I could have this experience again and again.
Do it! It will be the greatest accomplishment of your years at UCSD.
Do it! It'll be one of the most important experiences of your college career.
Do it! Make it happen for yourself, you won't regret it.
Do it! Plan ahead so that you have the right classes done at UCSD vs. abroad and enjoy your time abroad.
Do it! Studying abroad is such a fun chance that you probably won't ever have again. Take advantage of this opportunity!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Do it! Towards the end you might end up missing your family, friends, and hometown. However, it is this longing that allows you to respect those different from you and to appreciate everything you have at home.
Do it! You will not regret it.
Do it! You will not regret it. I swear!
Do it!!
Do it!!
Do it!! Best experience you will have in college!
DO IT!! It's an amazing experience that should not be passed up. You will learn so much about not only the culture that you're visiting, but yourself as well. And the experience will stay with you forever. I did it again as an MBA student and loved it just as much.
Do it!!!
DO IT!!!
Do it!!!
Do it!!! Even if you don't exactly know what your future career path will be (or even your major), studying abroad is an invaluable learning experience regardless of what you eventually end up studying or doing. My one piece of advice to anyone entering college would be to spend at least some time studying abroad.
Do it!!!!
do it!!!! It will be one of the best decisions you will ever make. While there, do a lot of traveling, but also try to stick around your town to get a feel of what it is really like to live there.
DO IT!!!! Don't worry about graduating on time or being behind your friends in school credits, JUST GO! It pays you back in so many ways!
Do it!!!! It'll be one of the only times you're both a student getting college credit AND a tourist!!! Cuz when you graduate you won't usually have time or money to travel!!
DO IT!!!! You won't regret it!
DO IT!!!!!!
DO IT!!!!!! and once you're there, relax and enjoy the differences.
DO IT!!!!!!
Do it, and don't feel the need to handcuff yourself to friends. Take this opportunity to go wherever you want and experience everything. If you let it, studying abroad will be the time of your life.
Do it, and stay for a full year if possible. The more time, the better to learn the language and culture.
Do it, enjoy every moment for what it is and have no regrets- oh and don't forget to travel travel travel....
Do it, it is an amazing experience!
Do it, no matter how difficult it is financially.
Do it, or regret it
DO IT, preferably for a full academic year. The perspective one gains and the confidence one develops are well worth the investment of time and money. I would do it again!
Do it, you won't regret the experience a bit.
Do it, you'll love it
Do it.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Do it.
Do it.
DO IT. And through the tough times, do not ever give up; instead, use the time abroad to reflect on yourself again, again, and again. It is the only time and the best time to do so. Find yourself; you only can when you are outside your elements.
DO IT. Do it with an open mind. Take this chance to learn about how other people live, understanding that neither our way nor their way is perfect, but that each is a valid expression of human variation. And don't spend the whole time talking to your American friends--you'll be cheating yourself if you do.
Do it. Don't worry about the how, just make it happen. And when you get there, don't just hang out with the other American kids.
Do it. Don't worry about your boyfriend/girlfriend, sports commitments, or your major. Everything can be worked out and those concerns will prove minor 5 years from now. Even if you are a star basketball player studying electrical engineering and your boyfriend doesn't want you to go - take a step back and you'll realize you can make it work and it will be worth it.
DO IT. Find a way to make it happen. If you speak with people who did not study abroad during college, I find that this is their number one regret - not studying abroad. Even if you are nervous about going, leaving your friends/family, uprooting yourself for a bit, college is the best time to do this. Your experience will challenge you and change you, in the best possible way, for your life to come. Our nation desperately needs young people with a global perspective and a sense of global responsibility. Studying abroad will give you
Do it. It is a great way to learn about the world and yourself
Do it. It is easy to get wrapped up in the minutia of daily college life and not look at the bigger picture. My study abroad experience was more valuable than my other three years of college combined.
Do it. It is well worth it. I believe it makes you more open-minded and a more well-rounded person.
Do it. Take the risk. Go for a whole year if you can to have the full study abroad experience.
Do it. The cost of studying abroad is the same as doing studies here in US.
Do it. Traveling is an incredible experience and allows you to learn a lot, about many different subjects. I'd also go for at least 6 months.
Do it. Whatever reservations you may have now will soon be long forgotten when you realize the amazing experience you are having on your study abroad trip!
DO IT. You will not regret it. It will probably be one of the most defining periods of your life.
Do it. You will regret it afterwards if you don't. Also, consider countries in the developing world.
Do it. Your life will neve be the same!
Do it. Don't be afraid, don't be scared of missing your friends at school, and don't hesitate to go alone. You will meet lifelong friends. Travel and see the world, have an open mind, and focus on the culture and your surroundings and you will do great. Study and pay attention to your academics, but not so much that you miss out on the city life. Say "yes" to any opportunity that comes your way while you are abroad, and remember to smile and take lots of pictures!
Do it. Go anywhere that makes sense. It will probably be a good experience.
Do it. It is one of the best thing, if not the best thing, that could come out of your overall college experience. Every student in this country should be required to live abroad for some time and see the world outside of the
Do it. It will enhance your life, your understanding of your own country's place in the world. You'll meeting lots of interesting people.
Do it. It'll change your life
do it. just go!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Do it. Now. It is paramount. Even if it means starving and getting lost and hating academic red tape even more than you already do -- the benefits make the above into mere trivia. Staying home is complacency is cowardice. Don't be that person. Don't be what the Icelanders would call "heimskur." In going out with some resolve and with an open mind, it is possible to hear the most uplifting things; for example, I'll never forget: "Thank you so much for being a nice American. I didn't know they existed." (Heard in Iceland.)
Do it. There is no substitute. Do it.
Do it. Whatever grief there is, and there is some, is far outweighed by the benefits, both present and future.
Do it. You will be more cultured than most people you will ever meet. And if you do, go Big or go Home. While it was fun to chat with the other Americans in the program, ditch them in the end. I made friends with another UC gal and we decided we would only speak to each other in anything other than English and that we would find friends in our host country and it worked. Our language skills were far better than many others and the new friends we made took us everywhere. We had so many adventures that other Americans missed out on or did alone because we made those friends. It was way more fun and crazy than hanging with other Americans! ,Áú50 years from now, when you look back at your life,Ä¶ aren,Äôt you going to wish you got in the car?,Äù - Transformers (The movie)... God that is so true, and I'm so glad that I did.
Do it. You will return to the states a very changed person, in a good way.
Do it--absolutely do it and go more than once if you can.
Do not be afraid! I was so scared before I left, and there is no reason to be. Embrace the whole experience; allow yourself to be open to a different world.
Do not hesitate about the money or the extra time that it takes to study abroad, it's worth it for your entire
Do not hesitate to take the opportunity!
Do not hesitate. You will learn more about yourself and it will shape who you will become in the future.
Do not hesitate; studying abroad will be one of the best experiences of your life!
Do not hold back. Experience as much as you can. You can only learn from your mistakes, and even then you'll laugh about them in the end. Oh yeah, one more thing, always keep an open mind.
Do not live with another US student even though it is more challenging and stressful.
Do not live with English speakers, and go where ever you can imagine.
Do not only live with Americans. Try to get into the dorms where you will be interacting with locals on a day-to-day basis. If you don't push yourself or challenge yourself to do uncomfortable things, you may as well stay at UCSD. Study abroad is for those who are adventurous and truly want to embrace a new culture and
Do not participate in a program that primarily consists of American students. The program I participated in did not allow much for meeting local students and getting thoroughly immersed in the local culture.
Do not pass up the opportunity to study abroad! I relied entirely on financial aid to make the experience possible, so I know that anyone can make it happen. Even if it is only for one semester of even just six or eight weeks, you will look back and see the experience as equally important as the rest your time at college.
Do NOT spend your time hanging out with other Americans, a friend or two who is American is fine, but you'll miss out on the best part of your time abroad. Also try to do a program that takes you on trips you may not have found time/resources to discover on your own while studying.
do not waste your time there... enjoy every moment... go out and visit many places... make many "international" friends...
Do not worry whether the particular program fits within your career goals. Just find a program you like in a country in which you would want to live and just do it.
Do the longer study abroad program if possible. It is difficult to commit to a year but it really makes the experience better.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Do whatever you can to study abroad. It will be the best experience of you college career
Do your research: make sure that you will get credit while abroad for the courses you need to graduate. I managed to do my double major and honors thesis in 4 years through careful selection of courses while
Don't base your study abroad location on comfort level - base it on where you'd think you would have the most unique experience.
Don't come home!! But seriously, enjoy every minute and live it completely.
Don't do it if you can not 'time-maange'. Do it, if you feel the urge to explore the world. Don't forget to actually study while abroad... the grading systems are harder and you may be surprised at the negative impact on your overall gpa the experience may have. Go open minded. Home sickness comes and it is different for everyone... I didn't realize at the time that it was happening, but looking back... I see the signs. You are never alone. There is always someone via UCSD or your host university that can help you with
Don't even think twice about it. Whatever you have to do to make it happen, make it happen.
Don't expect the whole experience to be happy, hard times are really hard when you're far from home. However, you can get through them and the good times are amazing.
Don't get your head filled with too many expectations; go with an open-mind; and respect the culture despite how strange and foreign things may be to the American eye and sentiment.
Don't go home! Have friends/family come to visit you. Don't speak English with anyone, or you won't learn the local language.
don't go with friends. this should be your personal experience.
Don't hang out with americans so much.
Don't hang out with your fellow Americans--branch out and make local friends as much as possible.
Dont hesitate because you will learn more than you ever would just being in a local classroom
Don't hesitate.
Don't just consider it; do it!!! It was one of the best parts of my college expereience. I'm still in touch with Swedes I lived with 15 years ago.
Don't just hang out with fellow Americans. I had Americans friends but my richest experiences resulted from the friendships made with the "international crowd."
Don't just look at England and Australia because of the English language...they speak English in South Africa
Dont just study, travel alot and explore the culture!
Don't let any obstacles keep you from studying abroad. You will come back a different--and better--person. Knowing a foreign language will enrich your life, but most of all: The experience of living in someone else's country will enable you to look at the world from a different perspective. You will also be more flexible and comfortable on an international stage. Don't hesitate to study abroad!
Don't let fear get in the way of a life changing experience. Be prepared for things to feel foreign, scary and challenging. But, you will become a stronger person, make lasting friendships and gain international perspective that is only possible by fully immersing yourself in another culture.
Don't let money hold you back, chose a program that is cheaper in a country where you can still accomplish what you want. Any experience is better than none.
Don't limit yourself to UC abroad programs. If you don't see something you like or don't meet the requirements, look for your own program/international school independently.
Don't live with Americans!
Don't live with host families. Go out and rent an apartment with other natives, like they do, you will be fully immersed and learn so much more about the culture.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Don't loose your passport! Hang on to it when you are traveling...keep it in your money pouch, close to your body. It is a very scary feeling to be in a foreign country without the necessary identification. But at the same time, if it does happen, the American Embassy was amazing and fixed the problem for me. I am forever grateful for their help! And of course, take advantage of the many unique opportunities you have while abroad. It was the most amazing year of my life!
Don't lose track of the money you spend because of the exchange rate. Keep in mind what you're spending in dollars so you don't run out of funds too early.
Don't pass up the oppotunity.
Don't question it--just go!!! What you get back is far more than you will put in. The experience adds a new dimension to your life.
Don't second guess. Just do it because you'll regret not having gone.
Don't think twice - take the time to study abroad as an undergraduate (there are few other opportunities when you have the relative freedom and flexibility to do something like this)
Don't think twice because whatever you are doubting or questioning about studying abroad will be resolved. And everything that you think you would be leaving behind will still be there when you get back (boy/girlfriends, jobs, sororities, finishing your major, etc).
don't think, just do it. you can't find anything close to this experience at home
Don't travel outside of your country of study. You will have your whole life to be a tourist; this may be your only chance to live and study in a different world.
Don't try to be something you're not while you're studying abroad. Just have a good time and although it gets frustating just remind yourself that it's going to be hard - you're a foriegnr and that's the way it is. Once you accept that- the pressure's off and you'll have a wonderful time!
Don't waste your opportunity-- jump on it. The more you see, the better you understand people, politics and the world around you.
Don't waste your time, go study abroad in PARIS. Also, don't forget to brush your teeth--that's a big one. Finally, go study abroad and free up some parking spaces at UCSD. You'll love it, almost as much as
Don't worry so much about how it will impact your UCSD studies, major, etc., just GO ABROAD!
don't worry too much about the costs/price, because no matter how expensive it is and no matter how many loans you have to take out, it will be worth it in the end!
EAP is a wonderful program! Without EAP, I would not have been able to afford to study abroad at a top European university. I would recommend that students study abroad and try to live with local students instead of spending time primarily with American students.
Embrace it. Savor it. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn from others instead of books. It will be the time of your life if you go into it with open arms. It's hard to find another opportunity in life that will allow you to live in another country for so long without working.
Embrace the experience and absorb everything you can from the different culture. The experience will stay with you forever and you will continue to draw from your experiences for the rest of your life. It's an amazing experience and I encourage everyone to try to study abroad.
Embrace the new culture and try to really understand it. Have fun!
Embrace the opportunity of a lifetime. Step out of your comfort zone and experience a different culture.
Emerse yourself, don't live with Americans.
Enjoy it and don't worry about spending all your money! Step out of your comfort zone.
Enjoy it.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Enjoy the short amount of time you are there and take everything in including the cultural differences, architectural differences, and language. Definitely travel as much as you can while studying abroad because it will be the most convenient time for you to see many places. Once you graduate and start working, it will be a lot more difficult to travel.
Enjoy the unique aspects of the place you are staying.
Enjoy yourself and don't worry about the finances. Pay it off later. But really, truly take advantage of the unique experiences and make the most of your youth.
establish strong friendships you will keep ten years down the line-- being abroad is a unique opportunity and it's nice afterward to be able to share memories with those with whom you shared that experience; keep a journal. learn as much about the place as you can. get to know the locals.
Even if it is a difficult situation, stick it out, you will become a better individual tolerant of others while also definining your identity
Even if you think you can't take the time to do it or don't have the \$, do it anyway. You'll definitely never have time to do it later on. The longer program you pick, the more immersed in your host country you'll be. Spend as much time as you can with non- Americans/English speakers if you want to learn the language and culture. Live with students from the host country if possible. Remember, just when you are feeling comfortable in your new environment, is usually at the end of your stay and you have to go home! That is the worst part of studying abroad!
EVERYONE should and needs to go abroad, especially in such a abroad friendly UC campus. there really is no excuse not to. You realize very quickly that the world you grow up in is vastly homogeneous and to a certain extent, egocentric. Cultural enrichment is an understatement: it will profoundly change the way you see the world. Traveling becomes really addicting hereon after.
Everyone should study abroad at least once.
Everyone should study abroad. Not only is it the best way to learn to speak a foreign language with near fluency, but it is a great opportunity to learn about other cultures, travel and meet all different types of
Examine your stereotypes and assumptions about other cultures before you go in order to help you maintain an open attitude towards cultural differences.
experience of a lifetime. you can tell how by those who come back are always raving about their experience for the next 3 months, and then the other hand most will say the one thing they regret not doing while in college was studying abroad
Explore as much of the country and region as you possibly can.
fall in love
Find, meet and become friends with the locals! You have the rest of your life to befriend Americans - step outside the box and you'll be amazed at how much more you get out of your experience!
Follow your instincts - if you want to do something, do it.
For me there was minimal educational or professional benefit from study abroad because I practically lost an entire year of academic credit and my language skills are irrelevant to my career path. Students considering study abroad must realize that this is largely a personal rite of passage, one who's tangible benefits cannot be known before studying, but will be forever cherished afterward.
Forget your fears and step outside your comfort zone. You will not regret this experience that you can really only have once in your life when you are relatively free of life's responsibilities.
Get as much language experience as possible.
Get to know as many locals as possible. Switch off your email and get a bit lost travelling and hanging out. Live with locals not other study abroad students. Whoops, that is more than one... Keep a journal!
Go abroad for as long as you can to as many different places as you can! IT IS GREAT!!!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?**

Go alone on EAP because it give you the chance to discover something new about yourself instead of having to be whoever you think you already in your current social circle.
Go and enjoy, and even on the worst most miserable day, you are doing something that will make you a better person and that you will never forget.
Go for 1 year as opposed to 6 months. By the time you get over some of the initial homesickness and adjusting, it's almost time to leave! I initially thought a year was too long but after 5 months, I was so excited I was going to be there for 1 whole year.
Go for a full a year and go even if you have to extend your graduation date or make other sacrifices. I truly believe it is one of the greatest opportunities available in undergrad education
Go for a full year and don't spend all your time with fellow-Americans... go for full immersion and develop relationships with local students
go for a full year if possible - the opportunity only presents itself once.
GO FOR A FULL YEAR!!!
Go for a semester and travel for a year while you are there
Go for a whole Year!! You grow sooo much more than just being gone for 4 months. The first few months you are just really figuring it out and learning how to cope. Then for the rest of that year you are really growing into that culture and learning a lot about yourself and others.
Go for a whole year. It takes one semester just to acclimatize!
Go for a whole year; live with natives, not Americans; and remember that the language skills don't all come at
Go for a year
Go for a year! If you go for a shorter time period, just about the time you start to feel at home is when you have to leave!
Go for as long as possible - a year is much better than a semester. Wish it was as easy to work abroad as it was to study abroad.
Go for as long as possible. I only did a semester, and my biggest regret is that I didn't study abroad for at least a year or more -- even if I had to graduate a year later. It absolutely would have been worth it.
go for as long as you can
Go for as long as you can and make sure to involve yourself with as many local people/events as possible.
Go for as long as you can!
Go for at least a semester, and travel as much as possible.
Go for at least a year - you learn/gain so much in the 2nd 6 months. You language abilities significantly increase as well as building strong relationships.
Go for it and go all out! Don't live with Americans and promise yourself that after the first half, when you have enough of a hold on the language, to only speak in that language.
Go for it --you will never have a better chance to do so than in college, so don't get stuck on thinking only about what you're doing on your home campus for the following year. As to those who are going for the purpose of studying or improving their Spanish, I will be frank: go to Spain (or even Mexico), but do not even think about coming to Chile for that. I should know: I teach language in Chile, and picking up Chilean "Spanish" at such a formative language-acquisition time in your life, before you've developed a good ear and personal dialect stamp, will stunt your growth in ways that may never be reversed, and which will bring much ridicule on you from other speakers for the rest of your life. Stick to countries that speak clear, internationally standardized dialects during your formative experiences; you can always visit Chile,
Go for it!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Go for it! Don't look back and don't hesitate. Everything will be there when you get back. Make the most out of the limited time you have abroad.
Go for it! You learn so much about yourself, your country, and the world. You really will become a global citizen. And you will have so much fun!
Go for it! You must see the world, learn about others and meet new people.
Go for it! Your friends will be here when you get back.
Go for it! Go all the way! Don't let fear hold you back from where you REALLY want to go. All the details will work themselves out. It is a GREAT opportunity!
Go for it! Just keep an open mind and don't have high standards. Absorb it for what it is.
Go for it!! You will not regret it.
Go for it!!! Don't let money stop you....research scholarships, work and save during your summers....the experience is invaluable and will set you apart from all the rest. I have heard countless times...."oh wow, you studied in Spain for a year...I wish I had done something like that". The opportunity is hard to come by later
GO FOR IT!!! There are many rewarding experiences. Everyone should be able to experience living in another country. It will help you in all areas and aspects of your life. You will never forget it and the memories DO last a lifetime!!!
Go for it, and go for the whole year. Taking courses with native students enriches the experience.
Go for it. Chose non traditional places too, outside of western Europe and stay more than a semester. The language and cultural skills have increased my friendships, salary and opportunities my whole life. I went to Chile and Argentina!
Go for it. . enjoy every minute of it!
Go for it. Its a great experience.
go for longer than a quarter/semester
Go for one year!!
Go for the entire year. Meet and make friends with people from the country you are studying in.
Go for the entire year. Not a semester, not six weeks. A full year is really needed to help nurture the relationships you'll make whilst abroad. The relationships with locals transform the experience and really are the meat of what you'll learn. The home sickness gets bad after three months, but you fight through it and it is great after that. College really is the only time to do something like this and should be taken full advantage of.
Go for the full year- it is worth it and may be the only chance in your life you will have to completely immerse yourself in another culture.
Go for the full year; you spend the first semester setting up relationships and your life, then the second semester you get to reap the benefits of it.
GO GO GO! stay as long as you can. go back. go somewhere else. go somewhere not on your list of places to go. JUST GET ON THE PLANE!
Go go go, it's not to be missed!
Go somewhere where personally you would like to be, not necessarily what is best for your academic program. The academic logistics can always be worked out. I'd say it's most important to be curious and happy about where you are. You're guaranteed to go out, explore, and enjoy it that way.
Go somewhere you can learn a language
Go somewhere you don't know anything about.
Go study abroad to as many countries as possible. I regret not taking the opportunity to go early in my undergraduate years. If I had another chance, I would go after my first year in undergrad - and go to 2+
Go through the experience with an open mind- embrace the host country's culture and people.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Go to a country where a language other than one's own native language is spoken predominantly, go somewhere outside of your comfort zone, meet new people, take risks - it's worth it.
Go to a non-English speaking country--learning a language on top of experiencing another culture is a huge bonus. And do it more than once if you can. A semester here, a summer there, make it happen!
go to study abroad fairs, look in to all of the options to find the program that is right for you.
Go with an open mind and a happy heart.
Go with an open mind and try take advantage of the time you have and the environment you are in
Go with an open mind, but be aware that locals may not be as open.
Go without any pre-conceived notions. Keep an open mind about how other cultures function, and do not impose "American" ways on others. This willingness to participate in a new and likely different way of life will help a person integrate more quickly.
GO!
Go!
Go!
go!
Go! And bring a flashlight.
GO! I myself am the PI of a study abroad program for undergraduates, and I can speak from experience when encouraging students to participate.
Go! If you think you "might" want to then you will likely regret not doing it. It will change you, but you won't regret doing it. And never will you be able to have that experience again -- traveling abroad is not the same as living, studying, learning. Do it!
Go! It will be the best year of your undergraduate career!
Go! This really is a once in a lifetime opportunity. No matter what the cost (I ended up at UCSD for another year b/c I couldn't finish my major in time) it was one of the extreme highlights of my college experience and continues to shape me today. Go.
GO! Don't think twice. This is the only window of opportunity you have. Soon you'll buckle down behind a desk somewhere and you'll never be able to take off like this. And don't go for 6 months. the first 6 months are tough. Go for a year. it's the best way of getting to know the world.
GO! Even if it takes you longer to graduate.
Go! It will absolutely be the best experience that you will take away from your entire college career!
GO! whatever the cost in terms of timing, finances- trust me it is worth it. I have friends all over the world that I met during this experience and still keep in touch with to this day.
GO! You will not regret it. There may be a lengthy application process, just get through it. If there is one thing that I would recommend to every college student, it is to go abroad at least once. I can not urge you strongly
Go!! for as long as possible, and leave all your preconceived notions and emotional baggage at home. Study abroad is a unique chance to learn about the world and about your place in it.
GO!!!! No matter what the obstacle, the value of time spent abroad is priceless.
go, have fun, enjoy it.
Go. Absolutely and without question. Make the effort to go. Pick a country, even if it's not especially exotic or challenging, and go live there for at least a semester.
Go. Go somewhere crazy.
Go. It won't matter if it takes longer to graduate in the long run; the time spent abroad will be well worth it.
Go. No matter what. Go.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Go. Go for a full year. You will never look back on your decision to go abroad as a bad decision. You will only regret that you didn't go.
Go. No matter what.
Go. Take advantage of the UC programs (I strongly regret going through a private university). Stay for the year. Most of all, just GO!
Got for it! Important to see how others live, work and play.
Hang in there- it gets rough in the middle!
Hang with locals, don't get caught only hanging out with other EAP students. The best times I had and friends I made were locals. You get treated differently when you are with locals, nobody like a group of foreigners who keep to themselves... think about it with the people you know in the U.S.
Have an open mind and be willing to try new things.
Have an open mind to new things. Don't get caught up in just doing "American" events. You will only get this chance once so try everything!
Have fun, be safe, meet local friends and practice local culture, but don't waste time living the old American life style while abroad.
Have the courage to participate in a program that allows you to immerse yourself in the culture of your host country by living with and attending university with students from the host country (i.e. not the standard semester abroad at an American study center). Your experience will be far more profound and will have a more lasting impression on your life.
Have the time of your life!
Helps to arrange to have roommates who speak the native language.
Hurry up and apply.
I can't help but to say to those educated and smart students who are attending a reputable school, such as UCSD, and who are eager for more and clever enough to want to study abroad, this one piece of advice, follow your heart/instincts it will guide you, and if you really need somebody's advice please ask those who
I don't believe there are many universal "must do" items, but the opportunity to study abroad is not one that should be passed up, regardless of where or what you chose to study. Prepare in every way you can, such as acquiring language and universal safety skills.
I encourage everyone to travel while they're young and free from obligations, and this is a perfect opportunity to do that while getting credit.
I found that it really makes a huge difference when you make friends with the natives and really try to be involved in learning about the culture and life of the country through them.
I had always wanted to study abroad and it was a great experience, but it was much more challenging than I ever thought it would be thanks to 1) 9-11 occurring 3 days before I left the country and 2) the university I was attending had several labor issues so there were strikes and classes closed. It was difficult to be abroad in that kind of atmosphere and in some ways I was pretty unhappy, but still it was quite the experience and I learned a lot. I couldn't go abroad for a second chance since I needed to finish college in 4 years but hey there's always traveling now. Just less time to do it as a working professional.
I had an appendectomy while I was travelling alone in rural Australia and did not receive the best medical services. Most students in their 20's are probably not aware of how medical insurance operates, so I would suggest more information given to students about how health insurance works in other countries so that they avoid the medical complications that I had to deal with.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

I have never heard anyone who regretted going but plenty of people who regretted staying. You must just go for it to because there is nothing in your present consciousness that will allow you to comprehend the magnitude this experience will have on you. Just remember the greater challenge the greater the reward and this is the most rewarding experience that prepares you for the rest of your life.
I highly encourage it and think students are not aware that it develops the communication and interpersonal skills that employers are seeking. This is on top of our own personal development after spending time and finding a place for yourself in a new culture. I also encourage students to look at it as an opportunity of a lifetime, since there is a lot of funding available for study abroad and sometimes it's cheaper/the same as
I highly recommend going for a full year, not just a short term program Most people will need a full year to develop a significant level of language proficiency. Try to make as many friends from the host country as possible and try not to spend all your time with fellow English speakers.
I learned more about myself and the world from my study abroad experience than any other one part of my life. Do not pass up an opportunity to experience life in a different culture.
I only went for the summer, but once I was there I wish I had gone for a whole year.
I recommend getting involved in activities and clubs with the local students.
I recommend that students stay for at least two quarters and learn as much of the language as possible. I also urge them not to take it for granted. Learn everything about where you are staying, talk to the local people, and travel as much as you can!
I say definitely do it! How many opportunities will you have to live somewhere else, especially in another country in this safe and easy manner than now? Once you start a career, it will be really hard to try living somewhere else, especially outside of the country.
I tell anyone who might, to study abroad! Doesn't matter where, or which language, just get out there and meet others, test yourself, and experience the daily life of another set of humans. It's scary but wonderful and so rewarding.
I think everyone should go study abroad during undergrad. I almost feel sorry for those who did not. I wish I had stayed in Spain longer and regret that I only stayed for one semester.
I think if possible, all students should study abroad for some period of time. It is a wonderful opportunity to plug yourself in to another country and culture and to have mind expanding experiences.
I think that EVERYONE who possibly can study abroad should DO IT. I remember being terrified and unsure if I "had what it took" to live in another country for an entire year, but I am so grateful that I took the chance. It was a life-changing experience for me and everyone I know who did it!
I went for ten weeks thinking it would be long enough but wished I had gone for at least six months. Get the full experience and go for at least six months.
I would advise anyone with the opportunity to study abroad to go.
I would advise students to go ahead and study abroad while young and in school. It is an invaluable life lesson and experience to live in the world and words of OTHERS.
I would advise them to stay for a whole year and not just one semester as I did.
I would encourage any reluctant student to "definitely, just do it!" Studying abroad is so much more than credits, units, or grades.....in retrospect, none of those really matter....The value of studying abroad is in growing and learning about yourself and in developing new perspectives. How else can one be a "world"
I would encourage students to go with an open mind
I would encourage students to try to find a live in situation where you live with a family of the country visiting and to do as much travelling as one can while abroad.
I would have stayed a whole year, if I had it to do over again. It was my best college experience!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

I would highly recommend students to stay with a host family. You learn so much more about the culture as well as the language when you stay with a local family.
I would recommend going to a place you have never been by yourself. Take risks.
I would recommend studying abroad to anyone because it really does change your worldview for the better.
I would recommend that the students look into programs early on in their college careers. I did not consider study abroad until junior year, when many of my friends were leaving for different parts of the globe. I made my plans, however, and was able to arrange a semester for my senior year. Looking back I can only wish that I could have taken a full year. I have since gone back to visit and travel, but there is something very special and unique about being a resident there, no matter how temporary. Also, I did not have as much information as I might have liked on scholarships. Most of my funding was in the form of loans. I do not regret the cost, but I would hope that others could find such resources.
I would recommend trying to study abroad for a whole year if your financial, academic and personal situation allow you to.
I would say that they should absolutely do it, and if there is any hesitation or doubt they should speak with students that have done it. I am always happy to talk with students about this subject.
I would say that you really have to go for a full year to get the most out of your experience. Go with an open mind and don't only hang out with other Americans.
I would strongly advise all students to study abroad. The skills and experiences you gain through this experience are far beyond what you can learn in a classroom environment. I feel extremely fortunate for having this opportunity. Living and studying abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime experience not to be missed.
I would strongly recommend for any student to absolutely consider studying abroad - it will enhance educational, personal, and professional opportunities - and be some of the most rewarding and beneficial experiences in your life.
I would suggest living in a home-stay. I spent my year in a dorm at the campus and ended up spending most of my time with other foreigners and not soaking up the opportunity as much as I could have. I think it would actually help the homesickness to have a "home" in the country you choose to study in.
I would tell anyone who is even considering studying abroad to do it! Don't let your fear get in the way, it will be one of the single most rewarding experiences of your life! Make sure you get out there and really learn the culture while you are there, don't just hide out in your room. If you are spending the whole time longing for home, you will get nothing out of the experience. Have fun!!!
I would tell them to be flexible and open minded. To get the most out of their experience by immersing themselves as much into the activities of the host institution/country as possible. To take lots of pictures. And to not take themselves too seriously.
If anyone has the means to study abroad, they should definitely do it. It is such a phenomenal and eye-opening experience.
If living in a non English speaking country & wanting to learn the language, don't live & hang out only with Americans...& agree to speak the host country's language for most interactions. Don't take the easy route.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

If possible, begin actively thinking about where you would like to study abroad and what program would work best for you (ie., short-term vs. long-term, etc.). Though I found my study abroad experience at Cambridge University in the UK during the Summer of 2004 to be one of the most memorable times of my undergraduate education, I wish I would have considered applying to a year long program that was in a non-English speaking country for a number of reasons that I am sure are quite apparent if thought about. To me, studying at Cambridge was a big lure that didn't quite work out as I had hoped because the short-term program was more of a social program that gave me the leisure to really just make new friends and hang out. As much as counselors warned that this particular program was one of the most academic intensive programs, it really did not turn out to be that way in practice. My hopes of sitting in on lectures and being tutored by Cambridge scholars I felt did not materialize. That said, though I might not have received
If possible, I would recommend studying abroad for a full year. I was grateful that UCSD presented this as a valuable experience.
If possible, study abroad for a full year - even if it means taking an extra quarter to graduate. Most people who only stayed for a semester had just started to feel at home when it was time to leave, staying for the extra semester helped me form lasting friendships and a durable knowledge of the country and culture.
If you are a shy person who would like to study abroad, but may feel a bit uncomfortable doing so, then I highly recommend finding a friend to go with you. Even if it's not a best friend, any acquaintance or familiar face will bring you comfort when you're feeling out of place or uncomfortable.
If you are considering studying abroad but are worried about finances or graduating on time, JUST DO IT. It will be worth the money, and more than worth the wait! I studied abroad three times during my undergraduate studies and my only regret is that I couldn't have gone abroad to more countries.
If you are getting ready to graduate, make sure that the courses you are taking abroad count towards upper division courses. I recommend studyin abroad earlier in your college career to make sure you don't run into any problems.
If you are going to a country where English is not spoken, try to NOT surround yourself with your American friends so that you practice and learn the foreign language of the country you are in.
If you are seeking fluency in a foreign language, there is no better way to attain it than through study abroad.
If you are too nervous about living in a region that doesn't speak your language, don't give up on the idea of going abroad.. just pick an English speaking country - there are many great ones to choose from!
If you are unsure or considering studying abroad, I recommend you take the chance and go because it will be a great experience
If you can get away with it academically and financially (through aid), why not dare yourself to go outside the normal limits university life. It's worth every minute of preparation and stress because you come out so much more enriched and experienced.
If you can, study abroad for a full year, not just a semester. I found I was just settling into me life in Durham at the half-way point. A full 10 months allowed me to understand where I was living, feel comfortable with the English university, and really get to know my peers. Perhaps my singular "one piece of advice" would be: study abroad, it will change your life!
If you don't go to Europe, it's cheaper than spending a year at UCSD! They hook you up with financial aid so don't believe the myth that it's expensive!
If you go for more than a month, bring a favorite food item you might not be able to get (e.g.: Hershey's
If you have a chance to study abroad, do it. You will have the best time of your life.
If you really want to learn a language you should stay for a year and spend as much time with people who speak the language as possible.
If you want to go, don't let anything like classes stop you from going!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

If you're going to do it, go for the whole year so that you can really experience the culture and learn the language fluently. Live with roommates from that country as opposed to students from the US or elsewhere in Europe. Make an effort to get to know the locals. Travel within the country as often as possible.
If you're not studying abroad to get more units, learn a language or boost your resume, consider the invaluable experience of leaving your comfort zone and seeing how the rest of the world lives. They don't all live the way you do.
If you're thinking about it, just do it, because it's worth it.
Immerse yourself!
Immersing yourself in another culture is the most valuable thing you can do for yourself. You will never learn more about the world or your place in it. I would urge any student considering studying abroad to just go for it. You will never get that experience anywhere else!!
Immersing yourself in another cultures will force you to learn about yourself and provides an excellent perspective of life.
Integrate yourself with the culture and people as much as you can. Try not to just hang out with other american students.
It can be very intimidating and overwhelming at times, but you can always pick your head up. I promise, it will be worth it in the end!
It can only make you grow and understand the world and yourself in new ways
It goes by so fast. If you are hesitant to leave because of friends or significant other or that you will miss out on something while you are there, you shouldn't worry about that.
It is a culturally liberating experience. The ability to travel was wonderful for me.
It is a MUST in life - to spend time living abroad - an absolute MUST.
It is a must!
It is a once in a lifetime experience, just for the culture and for the friends, even if it has nothing to do with your field of interest
It is an experience which will help you grow personally and academically. You will meet many friends from around the world who will teach you about how others live.
It is an opportunity that should be taken advantage of by anyone with even a hint of interest in studying abroad. Go with an open mind and the with the determination to immerse yourself into your newfound
It is an unforgettable experience. My advice would be to learn as much as possible about the language and the culture. It is a rare opportunity to travel through the region. Everything you learn will likely be very useful to you in the future.
It is AWESOME!!! If I could go back in time, I would have gone on a semester study abroad trip.
it is best to take advantage while you are a student. Once "real life" begins, there are a lot responsibilities and obstacles that will make it harder to do an activity as this one.
It is completely what you make of it. The more openminded you are going into it, the more you will get out of it. It will bring out your biases and make you see assumptions that you never knew you had.
It is definitely one of the best things you will probably experience in your life, so just enjoy it and take it all in.
It is easier to make friends if you go on their first semester of the year
It is the BEST decision I made in college. My study abroad experience in college was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I'm glad I took it. Take the opportunity now, because unless you go to grad school, jobs tie you down, relationships tie you down, and the ability to experience another culture is limited. Study abroad for the full year if you can. It takes half a year to acclimate yourself to the new surroundings and you need time to actually enjoy the experience once you are acclimated.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

It is the best thing you can do during your four years at UCSD. Do it!
It is the experience of a lifetime and is so worth it even if it entails taking out extra financial aid to do so. And receiving scholarship funds for study abroad is easier than you think. Don't let financial factors get in the way of you following your dreams.
It is truly a once in a lifetime experience!
It is unlikely that you will have the flexibility to live and study abroad past your college years. It is a very valuable experience in self-reliance and fosters tremendous growth. I am fluent in Spanish only because I was immersed in the language, which has helped me very much in my career and in day to day life.
It may change you for the rest of your life, and drastically change your current path. Hopefully you find such a possibility exciting.
It might seem daunting to study abroad, but it is completely worth it. The easiest time to spend a prolonged period abroad is when you're a student and most people regret it if they don't use that great opportunity. My one piece of advice would be to go, it's the most fulfilling risk you can take.
It takes approximately 6 months to get fully acclimated to a new country and culture. If you're there for less than that time, you're pretty much just an extended tourist. Go for the year. I'm an engineer and it was possible to graduate on time (although difficult, I took an extra quarter). The life lessons are infinitely worth it and everyone I know who didn't go regrets it. You know how some people say traveling the world will "broaden your mind?" Well, most likely it will whether you want it to, or notice it, or not.
It truly is a life changing experience, something you will learn from and cherish for years after you return.
It was rather difficult to match up the classes that I needed to those that were available to me through my school. So my advice is to talk to your advisors within your department of study about your planned courses to see if they can see any problems with getting credit for it when you return. It would have been nice to have that all ironed out before I left. My second piece of advice is to take every available opportunity to travel in and around the country that you visit. See as much as you can cause you never know how long it will take to
It was the best decision I made as an undergraduate. Although difficult at times, it was a challenge that I have never regretted. I will always be grateful for the opportunity and am so glad that I didn't let small worries hinder my decision to go.
It will be one of the most memorable experiences of your life, make the most of it!
It will change your life for the better and you will have so much fun.
It would be one of the most valuable experiences that the students will gain during their time in college. I will strongly recommend it.
It's a great experience to have.
it's a once in a lifetime chance! DO IT!
It's an invaluable experience to learn about other cultures, and study abroad offers insights that can't be gained from just traveling to a country. All students should study abroad if they can.
It's an opportunity of a life time. Don't let anything get in the way of taking advantage of the study abroad program!
It's an opportunity that should not be missed. Try to become as immersed in another culture as possible during the study abroad period (not just hang out with other Americans). A year is better than a short
It's critically important to spend time abroad, but it can be disruptive to your degree course (and social network). It might make sense to make it a summer pursuit.
It's the opportunity of a lifetime.
It's worth every penny. If possible stay with a home stay family or at least spend a weekend with one. Don't always stay with the UC group. Venture off on your own.
JUST DO IT!!!!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Jump in. The water's fine.
jump into it and take on everything respectfully.
Just do it - and don't leave early. If you really want to learn the language, stay more than one quarter.
Just do it before you leave school. Studying abroad and traveling abroad are very different things. As a tourist, you will not be able to really appreciate the diverse culture and environment that you will studying and living there. It's the best experience you'll ever have, and you will always appreciate having done it even 15 years later. Many people I know regretted not taking the opportunity to study abroad as an undergrad. When you start working or having a family, it becomes impossible to do so without much sacrifice. I loved my abroad experience to Indonesia so much that in my MBA program at UCLA, I studied abroad again in
Just do it even though you may not feel like you are 100% committed; you will be well rewarded in the end. Also, try to go for more than one semester and try to become friends with as many locals as possible so that you really get a feel for the culture.
Just Do it!
Just do it! Also, make sure you travel while you study abroad.
Just do it! It is hard to set up a year abroad and move away from your home and friends, but it will be such a great experience!
Just do it! Regardless of your major, you really can study abroad if you use all of the planning resources at UCSD. Find a program that fits you and that requires you to be challenged outside of your comfort area. Studying abroad was one of the best experiences I had during college.
Just do it! The worst that can happen is you don't have a good time. The best that can happen is limitless.
Just do it! You will never regret it, in fact it will become part of what defines you as a student, as an American, and as a human.
Just do it! Although it may seem intimidating and the culture clash is very real, the learning experience is priceless, even more so than a Visa commercial can convey. As a television advertising executive, I cannot emphasize enough how beneficial my experience abroad was both for my career and my personal paradigm.
Just do it! I learned so much about myself, my passions, and learned about my community's relationship to the rest of the world.
Just do it! The experience and the memories are going to last a lifetime.
JUST DO IT! You will build confidence and flexibility to take on whatever comes your way, these two skills will allow you to learn and experience more then you dreamed.
Just do it!!!!
Just Do It!!!! There will be ups and downs, but stick it out, it's all worth it.
Just do it.
Just do it.
Just do it. It was the best experience.
Just do it. Dont worry about the money, or not graduating on time. It will work out and you will love it!
Just do it. Enjoy, travel, engulf yourself in the culture. It will be one of the most educational experience of your life. Embrace at the end it, the experience will pay off professionally and personally.
Just do it. If college is about growing, both personally and educationally, study abroad fulfills both in spades.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Just do it. If you can find the money to fund it, take advantage of the opportunity to go to another part of the world, and see how people live. And study abroad, even if what you will be studying is different than your major (actually ESPECIALLY if it is different than your major). All of your major requirements and GE requirements will get done--the experience of studying abroad is worth more than a bunch of A's on your report card. Graduate schools and interviewers for jobs recognize it and will ask you about it.
Just do it. It's not always easy: getting there, being there or coming home, but there is no substitute for the perspective that it gives you.
Just do it. It's worthwhile! I had a friend who was pre-med, majored in history, studied abroad junior year, and graduated a quarter early. You can fit it all in.
Just do it. There is no other experience like it and it will be an unforgettable and enriching experience.
Just do it. You have nothing to lose.
Just go - it's worth it.
Just go ! Get there (wherever "there" is) however you can and stay as long as possible. The opportunity to live outside your comfort zone and confront your own cultural beliefs is a life-changing and invaluable
just go ~ it worth it~~!!
Just go do it! It will open your eyes to so many possibilities.
Just go for it - even if it seems like it would be more trouble than it's worth (money-wise, major-wise, etc.), don't let that stop you. You will come back never regretting you went in the first place. Don't afraid to do different things and consider going for a year - it seems like forever but it flies by in no time!
Just go for it and go with an open mind and heart for the people that you will meet. I have made friends that I pray I will never lose contact with no matter our circumstances. Both in the States through my program and abroad. Also when at all possible financially and timewise, travel to as many places you can get to and see as many things as you can. You will never get this time back, so use it wisely.
Just go for it. Every doubt you have is unfounded. The experience is unforgettable and will mean more to you than you know now. If you want to go, then there is no reason not to.
JUST GO! You will never regret it. I know a lot of students worry about graduating in 4 years/ graduating "in time," but in the end... does it really matter? I am now 25 and I have friends who I went to college with and now regret that they didn't study abroad. They have been working for 3 years and been caught up in work that now it is hard to just go to another country to take a break and study abroad. When all of you students turn 25/ 30/ 35, whatever age, and you tell someone that it took you 4.5 years (and not the usual 4) to graduate, do you think that they will care that much? No. So if it is pride that is stopping you from going..
Just go! It will be one of the best experiences of your time at UCSD.
Just go, under any circumstance. It'll be the most enriching experience.
Just make it happen. Take out the loans, say goodbye, and jump on the plane. You won't regret it.
Keep a very open mind and please respect other cultures. we are all citizens of the world.
Keep an open mind and enjoy every minute of it.
Keep an open mind and open eyes. Be mindful of your situation and aware of your surroundings at all times, but not to the point where you become paranoid.
Keep an open mind to new experiences and have fun!
Keep an open mind! You'll try a lot more stuff, meet more people, learn a great deal more about the place you're visiting, and achieve greater self-awareness if you are open to the experiences and opportunities
Keep an open mind!!
Keep an open mind, you'll be surprised what you can learn from other cultures.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Keep an open mind. Get to know the local culture and immerse yourself. You'll get the most out of your experience by getting out of your comfort zone!
keep an open mind... and be willing to adapt greatly, quickly and with class and eagerness
Keep the grades your freshman year up so you are eligible to go. A year is really needed to gain language fluency. Speak the language not English! Don't be afraid to take out a small student loan to help travel afterward, pay for the program-it is the most life changing experience!
Know that you will find that after 6 months you will be very comfortable and know your way around like a native and begin to see and experience life as such, a big advantage over programs that only last 6 months. Get as much exploring you can afford in and around where you live! Don't just go through the program, let the program go through you. Take advantage of every opportunity and service available to you through your own resources, resources available in the country you are going to, and the 2 universities you are attending. Don't forget to have FUN!
Know that you will spend a lot of time alone, but that it is hugely important to do so even if it is hard at times. Alone time helps you process everything that you observe on the streets each day, that you hear from friends, that you read in another country's paper, that you learn in class. Enjoy this alone time, but also make sure you make enough of an effort to meet a variety of people.
Language for me was not a priority--though I did get to use my French while traveling--instead, the priority for me was to choose a country that I wanted to make a deeper cultural connection with. No matter where you go, there will always be places you wished you could live in. The great part of being abroad is living in one country and being able to fulfill seeing those other places in a similar way. Instead of being surrounded by states within a country, you will be surrounded by multiple countries.
learn about the culture beforehand and don't expect the culture abroad to adapt to you. You have to adapt to
Learn more about your host country before you go to gain a deeper appreciation of the culture and region. Also, be knowledgeable about your home country (US Current Events and Politics) because people in your host country will always ask your opinion on key issues of interest in the US.
Learn the language and meet the locals. Go out and explore, don't just stick around your apartment with other Americans!
Learn the language beforehand
Learn the language, it's your entrance into the culture, relationships with people in your host country.
Learn to pee standing up!
Live it up. It's not about the money. Don't neglect activities in order to save a few dollars. You probably won't have this opportunity again.
Live with a family. It is an invaluable way to immerse yourself in life in another country, and you will develop better language skills & friendships with locals since you'll be less likely to spend all your time with other Americans.
Live with a local family.
Look into various programs and see what is best for you.
make as many friends as possible who are from the country you are studying in...and try to live with a host family because your language skills will never be better
Make friends with everyone when you are abroad, the natives as well as the others in your program.
Make friends with the locals.
Make friends with the natives. If you're shy, get over it. If you don't try to speak the language with people, you'll never get better. I wish I had.
Make it happen. Whether a year or a summer, the benefits are numerous and undeniable. It will add a depth and a brilliance to your college career - and to your character - that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?**

Make sure the classes count towards some requirement for school. Research the area you want to visit
Make sure to get involved in school, engage with students, professors, and locals. Don't forget to get a letter of reference while you're there!
Make sure to study the full year abroad. It provides a true international experience!
Make sure you engage completely in the culture and keep an extremely open mind and you will have the best experience!
make sure you live with native speakers and spend as much time as possible speaking the language.
Make the leap. Go somewhere that seems inaccessible as a solo traveler and dedicate yourself to earnestly engaging the experience.
Make the time to study abroad!!
Many people are concerned about the money... but the experience is invaluable and worth it 100 times over.
Meet as many new people as possible - don't stick with the same group of people from your home culture.
Money should not be an issue.... there is always a way to make it work. I sold my car to go, and it was the best thing I have ever done for myself!
Most important is to maintain a good sense of humor through both the challenges and excitement of going abroad in all its phases: preparation, living abroad, and reentry.
Most importantly, have an open mind. But just as important, be bold. Without these two virtues, the experience will be fraught with loneliness, frustrations, and potential failure. With these virtues, an entirely new world is opened to you and the number of experiences of which you can partake becomes infinite.
My advice for study abroad: Do it! You will be surprised that you can. As an engineering student abroad, I found that filling my units was hard, but the program was flexible so that I could adjust my replacement unit classes during the EAP year itself. Beforehand I struggled with tuition of the EAP year, but people at the EAP office as well as the foreign counterparts on school and inter-school helped me to obtain scholarships that helped greatly. I had to put in the legwork, of course.
My piece of advice would be "just do it". Don't worry if your GPA might go down by .25- no one looks at your GPA after you graduate anyway. Studying abroad during college is a wonderful opportunity and one that you are unlikely to have after you start a full time job.
One semester is far too short; seriously consider the full school year!
Open minds + Open eyes = a fantastically enlightening experience!
open you mind completely to the experience, and welcome the badwith the good. experience and grow to understand things that are different from you, your home, your comfort zone, your likes (and keep an eye out for those universal truths and similarities that are masked and hidden behind the outer differences). let the learning flow both ways -- give of yourself and share with the people there things about your home, your likes, your comfort zone, your family, etc. speak the language, even if you suck at it. you won't for long.
Open-Ended Response
Pack less than you think you'll need and always opt to go abroad for the year if possible!
Pack light! When I went to China, I brought one big suitcase and a smaller one. They were both half filled. When I came back, my suitcases were completely filled and I had to carry some by hand.
Pack lightly.
People will treat you exactly the way you expect they will. Have an open mind and you'll have a great time.
Pick a country that seems interesting to you, and go. It doesn't matter which country you choose, if it appeals to you, it'll be worth it.
Pick a country that you are most interested in and go there.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Pick a country that you will truly enjoy visiting but will also be able to complete your studies in and not get distracted or have too much trouble adapting to.
Plan on staying a full year but go home for a visit in between semesters.
Please please please study abroad for at least one year!!!
Push yourself as far as possible out of your comfort zone and keep an open mind.
Push yourself to get out of your comfort zone and EXPLORE
REALLY research the program well and include in the research students that have gone to that program.
Remember that for good or ill, your study abroad only lasts a short time. It will influence the course of your life in ways you can't predict but it will not change your life. You're just taking a break from your life while you're away so don't throw away the things that were important to you before you left.
Repeat the mantra, "Everything will work out somehow," over and over as often as needed. It will get you through anything. I cannot stress this enough.
Research all the programs, locations and requirements. Don't let language abilities stop you from going somewhere.
research countries and living options. people seem to shy away from programs who only offer home stays, but this was one of the most wonderful aspects of my abroad experience :)
Save up money!
see #19. It changed my life. I never felt so free and alive. Career life is soooo different. Nothing compares to study abroad when you're only 20 yrs old. It influences you're entire outlook on life. Spain taught me a different way to live and appreciate life. they value life differently. It was the most beautiful experience. Thanks to financial aid/UCSD, my dream was possible. thank you!
Seek to understand yourself and others through the experience, and stretch the boundaries of what is possible. Seek the higher goals.
Semester at Sea is for rich people.
Spend an entire year abroad. I hit a brief emotional low point at the two-month mark that quickly passed; when it was time to go home after a semester, I felt like I wasn't finished. I wish I had spent an entire year in Japan, not just a semester. My friends who've studied abroad for a year also seem to have had a more fulfilling and meaningful experience than those who spent only a quarter abroad, or a "semester at sea".
Spend at least a quarter. Preferably one-year. I spent about six weeks and it was way too short. As much as I loved UCSD, not going abroad for a longer period is my biggest regret from college. I loved London, but I also wish I would've gone somewhere where I could've learned another language.
Spend more time with people from your host country than Americans. You will be able to party with your UC colleagues when you return.
spend most of your time abroad with residents, not americans. Study abroad at a school/program where you are learning in the native language, not english.
start planning as soon as possible!! there is a lot of paperwork & deadlines, so start early to keep your options open.
Stay abroad for a full year and learn a new language. The best thing I did as an undergrad was study abroad. EOP was extremely helpful in making that happen.
Stay as long as you are financially and emotionally able to. In my opinion, the longer the stay, the better the experience.
Stay as long as you can and don't hold back when you arrive in the country where you will study. The more you dive in the more you'll receive in return. Truly suck the life out of every moment you have in that country, you'll never regret it.
Stay away from other Americans. Immerse yourself in the language and the culture will follow.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?**

Stay for 1 full year of study if you can.
Stay for the entire year and travel as often as possible.
Stay for the full year with a host family. The family experience was a little tenuous at first, but by far the most valuable part of my stay.
STAY FOR THE WHOLE YEAR! It takes the first few months to become part of the culture and the second half of the year is when you really get to know the people, the place, the culture and the language
Stay open and flexible to challenges and differences.
Stay open-minded and learn as much about other people and their culture as possible.
Stick with it, even when youre homesick-the experience as a whole is worth it
Stop considering it and just do it. You don't want to be one of those people who went through university without the study abroad experience and end up regretting it. I have yet to meet a person who wishes they hadn't studied abroad, only those who wish they did.
Study abroad for as long as possible!
Study abroad is one case where cliches really apply-listen to people when they tell you that studying abroad really did change their life and really was one of the best things they ever did.
Study abroad should be a graduation requirement for all UC students.
Study abroad, go for as long as you can, spend as much time as possible with local people and have fun!
Study abroad. You will not regret it.
Study for a year abroad, to build friendships and master a language.
Studying abroad greatly increased my understanding of other cultures and made me want to travel very much, if it were not for studying abroad i would not be sending this questionnaire from Kiev, Ukraine.
Studying abroad is a great way to open doors to the international arena, it's an opportunity you should not pass up.
Studying abroad is a great way to see the world while earning credits. Do it now because opportunities to go abroad are few and far in between once you enter the real world.
Studying abroad is a way to stay intimately connected with the rest of the world, across the oceans that separate the Americas from many other important and influential continents. My advice is to just leap in as you did when you were a kid learning to swim. The details will work themselves out along the way.
Studying abroad is probably the single most valuable thing I did while at University - professionally, as well as (and more importantly) personally. I cannot recommend it more highly.
Studying abroad was the best decision I ever made. One year seemed like forever at first but it flies by and you will wish you had more time to develop yourself and your studies and your friendship. The year I was abroad was the best year of my life.
Studying abroad will teach you invaluable life lessons, allow you to meet the most interesting people, and see the world. Do it now!
Take a few language/culture/history courses beforehand and make friends with people who know what they're doing in the target country.
Take a laptop!! You won't regret it. And be adventurous. Don't just stay on campus and study (although studying is important too). Get out and see what the local environment has to offer. And don't just go see the touristy spots. Go down to the local hang out and interact with the locals. More often than not they,Ãre very curious about American culture.
Take advantage of being abroad to travel to other locations in your region and really get to know the local
Take advantage of every opportunity given to you. Studying abroad gives one the opportunity to get to know oneself, to gain confidence, and to clarify and solidify personal goals and aspirations.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Take advantage of every opportunity you have. Studying abroad is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, appreciate other cultures, discover more about yourself and explore a new environment. I would do it again in a heartbeat! I strongly recommend going abroad to any student as it opens your eyes in ways you
Take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad during college. Everyone I know who studied/ worked/ lived abroad during college never regretted it. Friends who traveled abroad after college regretted not studying abroad during college.
Take advantage of the opportunity while you have it! Once you graduate it will be much harder to find opportunities to leave your job and do any kind of long term traveling. So far for me, it was a once in a lifetime chance to see a lot of amazing places.
Take advantage of this opportunity while it's available!
Take half as much luggage and twice the money as you think you need.
Take out loans if you need to, but be responsible with your money, it gets expensive quick. Consider working abroad if money is an issue, try and learn the language, you'll be way more marketable in our economy if you are bi-lingual. Try a homestay and really get into the culture. Be independent abroad and don't rely on your friends to choose your activities. You'll regret it later.
Take risks! Nothing bad can come out of experiencing all aspects of a new culture.
Take the challenge. You will never regret it and chances are it will be the best thing you ever did.
Take the opportunity now to do something while you can - studying abroad was one of the best choices I could have made to really appreciate all that college and UCSD had to offer.
Take the plunge and go for an entire year. You will still get into medical/ professional school. You can still graduate in 4 years if you plan well, and even if you have to take an extra quarter or two it won't be the end of the world. It certainly worked for me - finished my professional education in a timely manner and I am personally and financially very successful.
Take the risk and enjoy!
Take the time to do it. It may delay graduation a bit, but it is worth every minute. Studying abroad is probably the most unique and exciting/fun thing you can do with your education. And after you graduate, who has time to travel outside of the U.S. while holding down a job and/or the serious nature of life after college. Just go abroad and have fun.
Talk as much as you can to locals, neighbors, and anyone from the country.
Talk to as many people as possible that went to the country or city that you are going to. Get their advice about what to bring and what to expect.
The city, the country, the program and the classes are not as individually important as the whole experience. Figure out a way to do it and go!
the exposure (socially, culturally, and politically) are priceless.
The first few weeks are very challenging. Try not to feel discouraged during that time because it gets so much better as time goes on!
the group is just as important as the destination. once your career starts, you'll never get the chance again
The important thing going abroad is to open yourself to accepting the new culture. Sometimes people have a difficult time understanding why certain things are done differently in another culture. I think it's more important to explore the history behind and the reasons why that is rather than criticizing or saying certain cultures are better because of it. If you are in a longer term program, it might a bit difficult adjusting to the new environment in the beginning. But what you eventually get out of the program will far outweigh the
The longer the stay, the better.
the longer you are there the better... a year might seem scary, but i think you become more immersed in the culture -- and after it's all said and done, a year flies by soo fast!

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

<p>The longer you study abroad, the more valuable the experience. Many of the people who studied for only one semester treated it as an extended vacation, but when you stay for a year you can truly say you've lived there. The dynamic is quite different, and I learned so much more just by staying that extra semester.</p>
<p>The merit of a study abroad experience is limitless, yet the valuable comparative lessons only become genuinely tangible once one has returned and given time to reflect, contemplate, and grow.</p>
<p>The subtle challenges one faces while abroad, as insignificant as they may seem at the time, act as powerful influences in the way you see the world, think, and behave in your daily life. If you choose to go abroad, you are already motivated to learn, grow, and experience more than your colleagues. If you thoroughly integrate yourself into the experience abroad, you will come back a different person-- more a leader in your chosen field than you were before-- because you let yourself see the world differently.</p>
<p>The time abroad is not a vacation but a real-world classroom. As lonely and alienating as these can seem sometimes, it made me stronger.</p>
<p>The time to do it is now. Besides studying, when else in your professional life will you have the opportunity to spend a substantial amount of time living in another country? Usually students can graduate right on time and spend an equivalent amount of money if they were to stay at UCSD; however, if it takes one extra quarter to graduate, or if the student has to work a little harder to obtain scholarships and financial aid, it is so worth it. Studying abroad is an experience of a lifetime that one simply cannot miss out on.</p>
<p>The value of the experience can be both wide-reaching and subtle; it will come in ways that one would not predict before the experience.</p>
<p>The world has something for everyone. Please be brave and open enough to find it. Honestly, my year abroad was my best year of college. To do be able to study abroad, plan your classes accordingly and save some general education electives so that you will have classes which count and that you can take abroad. Those that think studying abroad is expensive are often misled. With the cost of living in many developing countries only a fraction of the cost of what it costs to live in San Diego, I was actually able to save money while I had the time of my life in Chile. While Western Europe may have nice tourist sights, please consider study abroad locations in developing countries. I feel that in a developing context is where you best understand and learn about this crowded planet. Trust me, living in a developing country will enlighten you more than all of the classes that you take at UCSD combined.</p>
<p>The world is too big to stay in one place.</p>
<p>There is no better opportunity to experience living abroad than as a student, and no better life experience for a college-age adult than studying abroad</p>
<p>There is no better time to visit other countries than in college. You are not tied to any responsibilities that might prevent you from travelling in the future, nor are there the kinds of restrictions about the length of stay which you might face outside of collegiate life. I also recommend spending your weekends travelling to other places while abroad. I began my year getting involved in extra curricular activities at my study abroad college only to realise I didn't want to be tied down to things that wouldn't allow me to travel.</p>
<p>This is a life time opportunity that will impact your life for years and years to come. Take the opportunity to study abroad and it will change your life unlike you can ever imagine!</p>
<p>This is an opportunity that you may never have again. Once life starts, after college, it will be very difficult to accomplish. It is a way to experience other cultures and lifestyles within the relative safety of your college and with other students like you.</p>
<p>This may be the only chance in your life you have the time to do something like this. Take advantage!</p>
<p>This was a great learning experience and wonderful opportunity to live in a different country. It has expanded my knowledge of the world around me.</p>

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER Study Abroad Alumni Survey Results

### **RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?**

This will be an experience you will never forget, you will learn a great deal about yourself and you will make lifelong friends. If I could do it over again, I would have studied abroad sooner (maybe my 3rd year at UCSD) so that I would have had the option and time to do another study abroad program my senior year!
Time flies so take advantage of your time abroad - the more international friends you make the better.
To definitely do it and to be open and tolerant during the experience. Also, to try and complete some valuable courses while studying abroad.
to go and do it
To go for it! Identify your reasons for going so you can pick the best country to suit your needs. For example, if you are going to learn another language, consider picking a place that will give you the most opportunities to practice (for example pick Latin America over Spain for Spanish). However, if your goal is to travel through Europe and learn about European history, pick a place most conducive to travel.
To study the culture previously. This will allow for a further understanding of the culture to be immersed in.
Transform your world.
Truly immerse yourself in the culture of the country in which you study by spending time with locals. While it is helpful to have at least one close friend from the US who understands what you are going through (because studying abroad can be difficult at times), don't spend all your time with Americans. If you are in a non-English speaking country, a great way to do this is through a language exchange; it helps you improve your second language and also gives you an easy opportunity to make a new friend and see your adopted city and country from a local's perspective.
Try everything! It really is a once in a lifetime experience.
Try going a full year to a non-european country. If I were to do it again, I'd chose a developing country.
Try new things rather than going with the "steady" thing.
Try not to spend time with other Americans abroad - try to integrate as much as possible with the local people to truly get the full experience. Otherwise you will miss one of the most valuable parts of the experience.
Try not to stay with a family. I did this and found that Spanish mothers tend to be over-bearing and restrictive. The kind of freedoms I was used to as a 22-year old student in the U.S. were not available to me as a foreigner living with a matriarch in the house (in spite of the fact that I was paying to live there). Although I learned the language faster than my counterparts who were all living together and speaking English, it put a
Try to get as far outside of your 'comfort zone' as possible. The more you integrate yourself with the 'local' people, customs, and lifestyle, the more you will gain and enjoy your experience.
Try to get off the beaten path : meet the locals, eat the food, disappear into the culture. Don't be timid or shy or stick to other American students.
Try to go for a full year
Try to go for an entire year so that you really get a sense of a new culture, your adaptation to it, and your competencies.
Try to go on a program that doesn't insulate too much you from the local culture. The point of being abroad is experiencing the people, culture, and lifestyle.
Try to learn the language and make friends with as many non-Americans as possible. Take advantage of the "study" part of the experience as well.
Try to make friends with local and other international students rather than just hanging out with the other Americans!
Try to think about what you want out of that experience and how that experience will help you personally and professionally when you return home.

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### RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING STUDY ABROAD?

Try your hardest not to hang out with other Americans while there. Maybe keep in close contact with one or two good friends to help with home sickness and culture shock. Really try and immerse yourself in your new environment because, after all, you'll be on your way back home before you know it. Try not to blink and enjoy every minute, especially the frustrating parts. They will make for the best stories once you get back
UC education abroad programs are excellent. The quality of instruction and the organization of the programs are both outstanding. I really appreciate the fact that tuition is the same for students studying abroad or in California. Every student should study abroad. The experience is invaluable. Go for it! Also, culture shock is real. The first month can be tough. But push through it and by the end of your time abroad, you won't want to go home and will do anything you can to get back!
US actions have an international impact and so, as citizens of this world, we must leave our country and see life beyond our own backyard, to understand other cultures, other languages, and other ways of interpreting
What one piece of advice would you share with students who are considering study abroad?
Wherever you go, go for a year. At the 6 month mark you're finally feeling like you belong and can understand the culture. After that, you learn more about yourself and feel accepted by the country.
Whether your experience is smooth and wonderful or bumpy and stressful, just remember that looking back it will all be worthwhile.
While studying abroad, if you want to learn the language don't stick to the group you go with, try to socialize with the locals and become involved with community activities. Go Shoppin! It is quite a challenge to shop in a new language. =)
You always have the time and money to go. I know others who did NOT take advantage like I did, and they truly regret it today.
You are most likely more ignorant about the people, politics and cultures outside of the US than you think. They however, know everything about your government and country. Open your mind and accept that there are a million other viewpoints so be prepared to be educated. Also do things, go places, and meet people you wouldn't at home, that's how the best memories are made.
You are not in the USA, so don't expect life to be as it was. So, be flexible to living and experiencing life
You do not have to have foreign language skills to take advantage of this program. There are many English speaking countries to choose from.
You don't know anything until you have seen some of the poorest people in the world.
You HAVE to do it. When else in your life are you going to have the opportunity to live in another culture and completely submerge yourself. I wish it was a requirement for everyone to spend time living abroad. It gives you a much different perspective on how the US fits into the rest of the world. I've made friends abroad that I know I will stay in touch with the rest of my life. It will be personally challenging but the most rewarding
You have to go!!! There is no better time to travel and make a difference.
You must go for one entire year. Everyone that I know that has only gone for a summer or semester have regretted that they did not go for a longer period of time. To fully immerse yourself in a country and a culture, you must go for one entire year. And also, TRAVEL while you are there!
You must study for one year to become familiar with the language and the people.
You should do it - it is a once in a lifetime opportunity
Your experience abroad is what you make of it, so do as much as you can while you are away. Get outside your comfort zone if you have to in order to get involved and engaged in the experience.