



UCI Students enjoying the view from a bridge in Seoul, S. Korea

UCI surpasses milestone of 1,000 Students Studying Abroad!

During the academic year 2007-2008, a great thing happened. UC Irvine experienced a study abroad boom - 1,013 students participated in all! That's a whopping 38% increase from the previous year. The number of UCI study abroad participants has more than doubled over the past six years. Currently, 15% of UCI graduates have studied abroad.



In 2005, a commission appointed by the U.S. congress and the President proclaimed a national goal of 1 million U.S. college

students studying abroad by 2015-16. This means 50% of American undergrads studying abroad at some point in their college career. Why this aspiration? Senator Richard Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee explains: "Today, America's national security, and our competitive ability, is increasingly dependent on our relations and understanding with the rest of the world. Educational exchanges with foreign countries and the study of foreign languages are essential to our cultural diplomacy and an excellent way for young people to gain valuable experience that will aid them throughout their lives."

Read on to learn about the many ways in which international education is expanding at www.cie.uci.edu UCI.



"In France I read about famous historical figures in class, and afterwards walked along streets named after them ... I practiced my French every day with the women at my local boulangerie, absorbing the different kinds of bread she baked and the way she came from!"
- Jordan Patel, France



Wow!....even more beautiful than I imagined....

Exploring Study Abroad Hall



"I have four months to dive deep into the cultural experience of New Zealand, and to fully embrace the adventurer's spirit that makes this possible. I know what I need to do: put fears aside, risk, act, and drink in each moment for all that it is worth."

- Hana Visaya, New Zealand.

In fall, 2006, the Center for International Education joined with UCI's undergraduate housing department to open the Exploring Study Abroad (ESA) freshmen residence hall. It houses 50 freshmen interested in studying abroad. The first year it opened, more than 800 freshmen expressed interest in living in ESA hall, and by 2007, the number of interested students had nearly doubled to 1400 students! The idea of studying abroad is really taking hold among UCI students.

ESA residents venture outside their comfort zones right from the beginning. Residents have the opportunity to meet foreign exchange students here at UCI and establish international friendships through joint programming with the International Village (see next story). They also learn how to integrate study abroad into their four-year plan so that they can study abroad, and graduate, on time.

One current resident says, "This hall is one of a kind in that it is the ONLY hall that enables you to learn so much more about studying abroad not only through pamphlet information, but through personal experiences, which makes the education abroad program (EAP) that much more exciting."

YOU can help our students have the life-changing experience of studying abroad by making a donation to our Scholarship Fund!

To give online, please visit:

<https://ua-web.uadv.uci.edu/egiving/creditcard.asp>

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....this is how we do it back home....

International Village

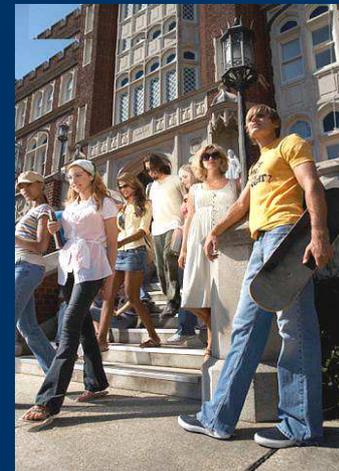
In Fall, 2006, the International Village (IV) opened in Arroyo Vista. IV is home to 100 residents, of which half are American and half are international students. The Center for International Education and the International Center co-sponsor the Village, which also benefits from a Faculty-in-Residence who lives in the community.

The International Village is a living-learning community focused on understanding different cultures, sharing international perspectives, and helping international students learn about California, the U.S. and Orange County.

The International Village hosts Culture Nights exploring the culture, food, geography, and music of a specific country selected by the residents. Country-focused cooking lessons are a very popular regular occurrence in the Village. IV residents ventured beyond the OC borders to introduce the international residents to Los Angeles. They rode the Metro line to downtown and visited Olvera Street and other local points of interest.

A current resident who is a 4th year Japanese Language and Literature major says, "IV is great because you get to live with people from all over the world. There are events, such as Japanese or Chilean culture nights, where you get to learn about the cultures of people you live with. It's a fun place to live!"

As a result of both living abroad and living among international students, UCI graduates become better-prepared to enter today's workforce, and become more-informed private citizens.



A fellow Ant eater who studied abroad said: "This is one of those rare milestones that separates the first half of your life...from everything that follows."

International Education Week 2007

International Education Week (IEW) is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Dept. of Education to recognize the global exchange environment between the United States and other countries. UCI's International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate international education and exchange opportunities, academic programs, and activities at UCI. The week is dedicated to enhancing international awareness across the campus as well as to reinforcing the importance of the exchange of students and scholars across borders.



In 2006 the Center for International Education initiated UCI's first celebration of IEW. A few highlights of UCI's IEW 2007 include the following: On the first day, an international fair took place on Ring Road. Included among the tables were UCI's own study abroad programs, international student clubs, and departments offering international experiences here on campus. Many booths offered fun interactive games and activities. The live noontime entertainment of Jodaiko performers and a vibrant flamenco dancer were among the fair's highlights.

One of the highlights of IEW 2007 was the inaugural Global Leadership and Study Abroad Roundtable, at which more than 130 attendees participated in a discussion about global leadership in today's international community. We were honored to have among our guests consul-generals from more than 15 different countries, and a distinguished panel of experts. For more information about the 2007 International Education Week event, please visit: <http://www.cie.uci.edu/iew/iewrecap.html>. Be sure to mark your calendar for International Education Week 2008, which is November 17-20, 2008.

