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**Make the Most of Your College Experience**

*Studying Abroad*

By Wendy Lopez, Program Coordinator, UC SANTA CRUZ '03, HARVARD GSE '04

Barcelona, Milan, Paris, Rome, Hamburg, Telum, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Barbados...these are some of the places I have been fortunate enough to visit so far in my life. My only regret? Not having explored any of these amazing cities when I was in college. I had four years of French under my belt from high school. Do I wish I would have improved my language skills to study abroad in France during college? Absolutely. Study abroad is an incredible opportunity to continue working on one's major and college graduation requirements, in a different country, while being exposed to a diverse culture, learning environment and way of living.

I attended UC Santa Cruz for my undergraduate career and studied Psychology. The UC system has a study abroad program called the Education Abroad Program (EAP) that allows a student to study abroad for nearly the same amount it costs to pay for standard tuition. Financial aid and scholarships are available to assist with extra costs, such as travel and living expenses. If you were not eligible for financial aid to cover the costs of tuition, you may still be eligible to qualify for financial aid for EAP. All students are encouraged to apply for financial aid to pay for studying abroad using the [FAFSA](#). There is also an Extended Payment Plan that allows students to pay any expenses for EAP over an extended period of time without incurring any interest.

Each study abroad program is different, depending on the university – public and private (large and small liberal arts) colleges all have different programs and requirements for study abroad opportunities. I recommend taking the first step and scheduling an appointment to speak to a financial aid counselor to obtain information. Similarly, each institution offers different programs based on different criteria, such as the following:

- \* By Country
- \* By Major/Discipline
- \* By Time Abroad
- \* By Language
- \* Summer Programs

My suggestion is to start your search process by field of study. You can see which countries offer programs that will give you credit towards your major. You will find that if you start your search by the country(ies) you are interested in visiting, sometimes the country may not offer an area of study in your discipline. Certain countries offer study abroad programs in English and/or their native language as well – this is another important factor to consider.

The friends I had who studied abroad came back emotionally more independent and felt a heightened sense of awareness for their experiences. Picture yourself sitting on the side of a canal eating pizza in Venice, Italy while studying for a midterm. Or walking the piazzas in Madrid, on your way to a study group session. Do I think living in a foreign country would have been a positive and enriching experience that would have exposed me to a different culture and given me a unique understanding of my studies? Yes, without a doubt. I cannot go back and redo my college experience. But I can recommend that you explore the possibility of studying abroad and hopefully pursue a unique educational experience that may expand your aspirations and potential.

For more information on EAP for the UC system, click [here](http://www.eap.ucop.edu/financial_information/).  
For more information on studying abroad, click [here](http://www.gseabroad.com/pb_ss_studyabroad.aspx).

**And if you haven't had a chance to yet....**

**South Central Scholars is having a Holiday Event! Please come and celebrate the holidays with the South Central Scholars Team, including Staff, SCS Alumni, Board Members/Professionals and friends!**

[Click here to register for the 2011 SCS Holiday Get-Together!](#)

(<http://spreadsheets.google.com/a/southcentralscholars.org/viewform?formkey=dHV2N0M0OS1haKxPakdTdW11aHBFYVF6MA#oid=0>)

"Forget mistakes. Forget failure. Forget everything except what you are going to do now and do it. Today is your lucky day."

*Will Durant*

## Tips for Succeeding in College

### *A Freshman's Perspective*

By Asha Grayson, University of California, Berkeley '14

It's hard to expect what your college experience will be like. Though all high school students nearing graduation have heard the stories about parties, homework, classes, professors, and freshman fifteen, how do you really prepare yourself for four of the most seminal years of your life? In attempts to equip entering freshman with more than just dorm gear and school supplies, here are five tips on surviving your first year:



1. Manage your time! Say goodbye to those six hour school days, they no longer exist. Though of course class load may vary depending on the university, major, etc., you'll spend a lot less time in class than you did in high school. I spent very little time in class my first semester. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday I had class from only 9 am to 10 am, which left me an entire day to fill. It's very easy to spend this potentially idle time sleeping or eating. Spend it studying! Have some breakfast and go to the library, you'll find productive habits to be incredibly rewarding. Which brings me to my next point...
2. Go to the library! Although I'm able to get a lot done in the study lounges of my dorm, studying around students working just as hard makes stopping a lot more difficult. For much of my first semester I would spend about two hours minimum in the library every day. This strategy works!
3. Go to office hours! At my school professors are required to provide office hours at least once a week. This is a time for students to ask questions, get papers edited, receive advice on test questions, etc. Office hours can only help, so go! There really is no reason for which you shouldn't!
4. Take care of your health! People may dread the freshman fifteen because it's potentially unflattering, but the foods that cause it aren't at all healthy. Watch what you eat. Residential dining halls will throw all sorts of Crisscut French fries, Hawaiian and Pepperoni Pizza, chicken strips and chili cheese fries at unsuspecting students. Do not fall subject to fatty foods! Treat yourself appropriately, but be smart about what you put into your body. If you maintain a poor diet your body won't shy from reflecting this! Exercise consistently, you'll feel better about yourself and your body will thank you for it. In addition, a good night's sleep will prevent stress and increase your ability to focus and retain information.
5. Last, have fun! Of course these will be some of the most defining years of your life, but do enjoy them! A fresh and optimistic attitude will only work in your benefit.

*Asha Grayson is a freshman attending UC Berkeley. She is a Social Welfare major that is a motivated athlete, skilled in gymnastics.*

**MBA: Gives you the Inside edge***by Joan Ramsay*

Think an MBA won't win you points for an executive job or internal promotion? Think again. These days, "there's a higher expectation around credentials and accomplishments in general because the clients are really raising the bar in what they're looking for," says Paul Maroney, a search director with executive search firm Madison MacArthur in Toronto. "... MBAs can speak to that."

To read more of this The Globe and Mail article, click here.

(<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/managing/business-education/survey-says-an-mba-gives-you-the-inside-edge/article1780897/>)

**Cash for College Convention***Wednesday & Thursday, December 8 & 9, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM*

Los Angeles middle and high school students who have dreams of attending college are invited to come to Family Night at the L.A. Convention Center and learn how to make the dream of college a reality.

Students and families will get information about A-G requirements, Community College admissions, standardized college admissions tests, AB-540 opportunities, and more! Spread the word!

**Global Student Experience**

Looking to study abroad? The Global Student Experience (GSE) offers summer, quarter, semester, and year-long study abroad programs in Europe, Australia, and South America.

Expand your college education by studying in Barcelona, Granada, Madrid, Paris, Florence, Rome, London, Sydney, Guadalajara, and Buenos Aires.

URL: <http://www.GSEAbroad.com>

**Register for the next Career Planning & Job Placement Panel***Wednesday, January 12, 2010 6:00PM - 7:00PM*

South Central Scholars invites you to attend a Career Planning and Job Placement Panel. These webinars/conference calls are provided virtually so that students, regardless of where you are located, can participate. They are offered every two months and the next one is scheduled for **January 12th from 6:00PM-7:00PM PST.**

The panel will focus on **Career Planning: Next Steps Before Graduation.** Guest panelists are:

- ❖ Dave Long, President and CEO of DBL Associates
- ❖ Linda Baldwin, Assistant Dean of Diversity Initiatives at the UCLA Anderson School of Business

To register, go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/191658738>.



The  
RIORDAN  
FELLOWS  
PROGRAM

## The Riordan Fellows Program

University of California, Los Angeles

[www.anderson.ucla.edu/x1326.xml](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x1326.xml)

Riordan Fellows Program targets recent college graduates who are considering graduate education in business management. Its core purpose is to educate, prepare, and motivate these individuals to competitively apply and succeed in a top MBA program and a career in management. Fellows attend eight (8) monthly Saturday sessions that provide various activities and services, including:

- Graduate-level discussions and case studies led by top UCLA Anderson faculty
- Personalized one-on-one MBA Action Plan counseling session
- Guidance on MBA Admissions, financial aid, and GMAT preparation
- Networking opportunities with industry professionals and the UCLA Anderson community

Eligible applicants meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Must be at up to four years post graduate from an undergraduate college/university (note: graduation cutoff year is 2005)
- ✓ Cumulative GPA must have at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- ✓ Parents should not have post-collegiate education (i.e. graduate or doctoral degrees)
- ✓ Should have substantial work experience (this can include summer internships, volunteer experience)
- ✓ Must have demonstrated leadership skills and community service involvement.

*The annual Riordan Fellows Open House event is on February 6, 2010 & March 13, 2010. The event allows prospective applicants to sit in on part of a regular session.*

For more info about the program [click here to visit their website](#).



## The Toigo Fellowship Program

The Robert Toigo Foundation

[www.toigofoundation.org/fellowship](http://www.toigofoundation.org/fellowship)

**TOIGO.**

ROBERT TOIGO FOUNDATION

The Toigo Fellowship is the only MBA graduate-level fellowship for minority professionals committed to careers in finance. Provides: small merit award, career coaching, mentor, and access to alumni network.

*Looking for:*

- ✓ US Residents & Ethnic minority
- ✓ Applying to accredited MBA program (accepts MBA/JD, or Masters in Real Estate or Finance)
- ✓ Interested in Finance career, going into finance industry (private equity, hedge funds, investment banks, pension funds, investment management)
- ✓ 3-5 years work experience outside of college (does not have to be finance)
- ✓ Undergrad GPA 3.0+ on average

*Application:*

- Live now, early admittance deadline of January 31, 2011, general deadline April 11, 2011
- Apply online, request access to the application by clicking [here](#).
- Recommendation letters

*March 4th in New York "Banking Is Back." Focuses more on investment banking industry. Educational program for candidates to have a better idea of industry, and a touch point with Toigo staff.*

For more information, [click here for their website](#).

## JOBS

*LA Organizer of Parent and Community Engagement – Families That Can*

Families That Can (FTC) is the parent-organizing arm of the California Charter Schools Association, focused on educating, organizing and mobilizing charter school parents to utilize their voice and power to increase the number of high quality educational options. FTC's mission is to empower parents to champion the charter school movement to ensure that every child and neighborhood has access to a high quality school. FTC seeks a high energy and passionate Community Organizer who believes deeply in the power of parents to advocate for high-quality public schools. The Organizer will work directly with charter school parents and principals to educate direct a highly visible community engagement campaign focused in Latino communities of Los Angeles. Qualifications include: 2-5 years of community organizing, political organizing, campaigning, lobbying or relevant leadership experience; experience planning, organizing, and implementing community events and conducting trainings; willingness to work flexible hours including 1-2 evenings per week and occasional weekends; college degree preferred, but not required; bilingual in English/Spanish – required. To apply, send cover letter and resume to: Antwaune Goode, Executive Director, Families That Can, [agoode@calcharters.org](mailto:agoode@calcharters.org). For more information about this position, [email Wendy Lopez](mailto:Wendy.Lopez).

*CAMP Recruiter - CSU Long Beach*

Under the direction of the Immediate Supervisor, the Recruiter will be responsible for coordinating the outreach activities on behalf of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). Masters degree required in counseling, guidance, student personnel services or equivalent required; two (2) years of job related professional experience might be substituted for the Masters degree; bilingual/biliterate (English/Spanish) skills required. Salary is \$23.67 exempt and the position is open until filled. For more information about the position and how to apply, go to <http://www.foundation.csulb.edu/departments/hr/job%20listings/2179.pdf>.

*Account Manager - The Pollack PR Marketing Group*

The Pollack PR Marketing Group is an integrated PR marketing agency that builds and drives consumer branded engagement and influence. For the position, must be comfortable with client interaction, developing PR programs and strategies, experience with events/trade show and producing status reports, strong creative writing and presentation skills, and social media skills and presence. Requirements: min. of two years PR agency experience and BA/BS (journalism, PR, communications, preferred). For more information about the position and how to apply, go to [www.foundation.csulb.edu/departments/hr/job%20listings/2179.pdf](http://www.foundation.csulb.edu/departments/hr/job%20listings/2179.pdf).

## FELLOWSHIPS &amp; INTERNSHIPS

*MURAP Summer Research Fellowship for Undergraduate Minority Students*

The Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP) is a paid summer fellowship designed to foster the entrance of talented students from diverse backgrounds within the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts into graduate school and faculty positions in U.S. colleges and universities. More broadly, the program seeks to increase the presence in graduate school and eventually in academic ranks of minorities and others who demonstrate a commitment to eradicating racial disparities. Each summer, the program brings a cohort of 20 undergraduates (rising juniors and seniors) from colleges and universities in the U.S. to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus for an intensive, ten-week research experience. Students are expected to develop a 20-page research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor with whom they are paired according to areas of study and research interests. For their participation in the program, student fellows will receive a stipend of \$3500 (in the case of students holding Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships, they receive their summer stipend from their home institutions), an allowance for meals of \$1450 and a travel allowance up to \$500 to cover the cost of transportation to and from Chapel Hill.

Additionally, students will be provided on-campus housing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. **The application is DUE February 4, 2011!** For more information and to learn how to apply visit <http://www.unc.edu/depts/murap/index.html>.

*Education Pioneers Analyst Fellowship and Graduate School Fellowship*

To learn more about their fellowship programs, go to [www.educationpioneers.org](http://www.educationpioneers.org). Note that both fellowships are designed for individuals with a strong interest in joining the education sector as part of their long-term career goals!

More internship opportunities come in to the SCS office every month, so make sure to visit our Scholar Center ([http://www.southcentralscholars.org/scholar\\_center](http://www.southcentralscholars.org/scholar_center)) and fill out the Internship Application Form to get more detailed information on how to apply to these opportunities!

**For more Employment Opportunities, please visit our Career Center at:**

[http://southcentralscholars.org/scholar\\_center-career\\_center](http://southcentralscholars.org/scholar_center-career_center)

## CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 2010

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY / SUNDAY
		1	2 UC Berkeley Campus Visit	3 Stanford Campus Visit	4/5
6	7	8	9	10	11/12
13	14	15 Alumni Networking Mixer	16	17	18/19
20 Loyola Mmt. Campus Visit	21	22	23	24	25/26 Merry Christmas!!!!
27	28	29	30	31	*Sunday January 2 <sup>nd</sup> Holiday Party

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2010

**UC Berkeley Campus Visit 2010**

Thursday, December 2, 2010

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fenwick Weavers Village

2415 Dwight Way, Berkeley

*Email [wendy@southcentralscholars.org](mailto:wendy@southcentralscholars.org)!***Stanford Campus Visit 2010**

Friday, December 3, 2010

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Home of Mary Fitzgerald

771 Stanford Ave., Palo Alto

*Email [wendy@southcentralscholars.org](mailto:wendy@southcentralscholars.org)!***Alumni Association Networking Mixer**

Available for all graduate and college senior scholars

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Restaurant TBD

El Segundo/Manhattan Beach CA

*[Click here to register](#)***Loyola Marymount Dinner 2010**

Monday, December 20, 2010

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Restaurant TBD

Playa Vista, CA

*Email [meredith@southcentralscholars.org](mailto:meredith@southcentralscholars.org)!*

2011

**Holiday Party**

Sunday, January 2, 2011

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

9300 Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood

*[Click here to register](#)***2011 SCS Financial Aid Workshop**

Saturday, January 8, 2011

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

9300 Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood

*[Click here to register](#)***USC Health Fair**

Saturday, January 15, 2011

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

9300 Crenshaw Blvd., Inglewood

***Just show up! Come one, come all!*****To be Scheduled!***USC Campus Visit**UCLA Campus Visit**Claremont Colleges Campus Visits*