

◆ Education Abroad Program ◆

Prior to 2004, less than one percent of the engineering undergraduates at UCSB studied abroad. The UC system has an incredible Education Abroad program and I was saddened that engineering students were not participating in such a wonderful learning opportunity.

After consulting with the new Associate Dean, I began promoting EAP to potential and current engineering students and assumed the tasks of advising potential traveling scholars, facilitating articulations between institutions, reassuring faculty that EAP coursework fulfilled UCSB curricular requirements and assisting the students to plan ahead to make EAP a dream come true.

Education abroad provides students with opportunities for new global understanding, intercultural exchange, exposure to foreign innovation and technology and incredible personal growth. Engineering student participation in EAP has more than quadrupled in the last three years. With careful planning, engineering students have studied abroad and still completed their degrees in four years. All of the students who have studied abroad agree that it was a fantastic experience. Here is a student quote....

“I can’t express how memorable and worthwhile my EAP experience was. The international exposure, a large leap outside my comfort zone, will forever be an irreplaceable and extremely rewarding year that I will never forget. Thank you for helping to make this happen”.

◆◆ John *down under* at The University of New South Wales

