UCI's Center for International Education (CIE) houses two programs designed to meet the educational needs of UCI students through international experiences. Through the Education Abroad Program (EAP) and the International Opportunities Program (IOP), students can study, work, volunteer, intern, or conduct research in a wide variety of countries and cultures. Many transfer students think this type of opportunity is not available to them, but it is! Whatever your class level, whatever your age or marital status, whatever your GPA, there is an international experience that you can participate in. Check us out and find out how!

UC’s Education Abroad Program (EAP)
Through EAP, UC student can study for a summer, quarter, semester or a year at universities in more than 30 countries (see the EAP General Brochure for countries and deadlines). As a UCI EAP student you will earn UCI credit and maintain your eligibility for UCI financial aid. You can take classes in your major, minor, for breadth requirements, to fulfill language requirements, or for your personal interest. EAP Study Centers abroad are administered by a UC faculty member or a UC-appointed host institution official who assists UC students while abroad. You can apply to EAP before you transfer and study abroad your first quarter as a UCI student!

To be eligible for EAP, UCI students must (1) meet the designated GPA requirement at the time of application, maintained through departure, (2) meet any designated class level requirements, (3) meet any designated language requirements and (4) receive the support of UCI EAP. See individual program brochures or the EAP web site for specific eligibility requirements.

UCI’s International Opportunities Program (IOP)
IOP is any international experience that is not EAP. IOP is the link between UCI students and hundreds of programs available in almost every country in the world. Time periods range from two weeks to two years. IOP options include academic study (with or without transferable credit), paid work, paid or unpaid internships, unpaid or compensated volunteer service, field research and paid teaching opportunities. IOP participants in academic study programs can apply for transfer credit by completing the International Study Advance Contract (available at CIE). Those studying during the academic year may be eligible for Federal financial aid and Cal Grants. As a transfer student to UCI you can participate in IOP at any point in your UCI career as long as residency requirements are met.

Requirements vary for each program. Any UCI student (undergraduate, graduate or graduating senior) in good academic standing, regardless of major, class level or foreign language ability, can find programs for which they are eligible.

See reverse for common myths about going abroad!
Common Myths

I can’t go my first quarter as a UCI student: If you transfer into UCI, you can go on EAP your first term as a UCI student. However, you must comply with normal deadlines (see EAP General Brochure for dates). You can participate in IOP during any term as a UCI student, as well as after you graduate.

I have to go as a junior: You can participate on EAP as a sophomore, junior, senior, or 5th year senior. You can participate on IOP programs as a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate. Check with your Academic Counselor for UCI residency requirements.

It’s too expensive: On EAP you pay the same UCI fees and are eligible to receive the same financial aid (except work-study) as you would if you remained at UCI. IOP offers students opportunities to work abroad for pay or participate in inexpensive or compensated volunteer programs. Federal financial aid and Cal Grants are available for many credit-bearing IOP study programs. Many outside scholarships are also available. And it is one of the best investments you can make in yourself!

I won’t graduate on time: You will receive UCI credit for all the classes you take while on EAP. Transfer credit is available for many IOP study programs. Through required meetings with an Academic Counselor prior to going abroad you will determine how courses taken abroad on either EAP or IOP will count toward specific major or school degree requirements. With careful planning you should be able to graduate on schedule. IOP programs are available at almost any time of year including summer, which will not disrupt your normal study schedule. There are also IOP opportunities available after you graduate from UCI.

I don’t speak a language other than English: EAP offers programs in 26 countries where no previous language study other than English is required. Through IOP you can participate in programs in nearly every country in the world. You can begin learning a new language, improve a language you have already studied, or go to a country where English is an official language.

I don’t want to go for a whole year: In addition to year-long programs, EAP offers programs for one semester, one quarter and in the summer! Through IOP you can participate in programs for a few weeks, summer, quarter, semester, year, or several years! Opportunities abound!

I can’t go because I have a family: We have had students of all ages as well as students with spouses and/or children participate in both EAP and IOP programs. Anything is possible, if you are determined to do it. Ask us how!

Visit UCI’s Center for International Education to find out about experiences abroad that will fit your major and career interests!!!