Honors Self- Designed Proposal

Complete this proposal **prior** to your experience’s start date and upload it in the UHP Database (<https://webapps.uc.edu/uchonorsstudent>). Create an experience (“Add a new record”) in the “Tracking Project” tab and upload your proposal document as an attachment. The deadline for [submitting proposals](http://www.uc.edu/honors/experiences/experiencesubmission.html) is the 5th of each month (excluding July).

Proposals are intended to be well developed plans for your experience. However, experiences are exploratory in nature, and we are flexible with changes throughout the experience. If your experience changes after receiving approval on your proposal, contact your honors advisor to verify the changes still satisfy the requirements of an honors experience.

**Basic Information**  
Full Name: Ananya Nijhawan

Title of Project: Spanish Immersion in Madrid

Thematic Area(s): Global Studies, Community Engagement, Creativity

Expected Start Date: 9 May 2016

Expected End Date: 17 June 2016

**Guidelines**

1. Proposal submission timeline: Proposals should be submitted at least one month prior to the expected start date of the experience. International experiences require at least two months’ notice. Contact your honors advisor immediately for any exceptions.
2. Proposal length: While the quality of the proposal is most important, strong proposals are typically 3-4 pages single-spaced.
3. Proposal format: Please maintain the proposal format (e.g. headers, layout)
4. Time commitment: Experiences should consist of at least 75-90 hours of preparation, execution, and reflection. This is approximately equivalent to the commitment of honors seminars and pre-approved experiences.

**Requirements for International Travel**

All self-designed international travel experiences require two months’ notice and must be at least one week in length. You will need to provide a detailed itinerary (dates, locations and activities). If participating in independent travel (not with UC faculty, staff or student group), you must also fill out a [Worldwide: Honors Experience application](http://studyabroad.uc.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10217) via UC International.

Additionally, the [Student Travel Policy](http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/about/docs/university_policies/student_travel_policy.pdf) restricts UC-sponsored travel to countries under a [U.S. Department of State Travel Warning](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html). Those who wish to visit a country with a travel warning must seek an [exemption](http://www.uc.edu/international/study-abroad/applying-to-study-abroad/travel-restrictions---exemptions.html) through UC International. Students traveling without a faculty or staff leader must individually request an exemption. ***We cannot allow you to count this travel as an honors experience nor can we give you a grant without an approved exemption.***

1. **Abstract**

*Briefly describe the experience. What makes this experience personally meaningful? What goals do you have for this experience? What is your timeline for this experience?*

*\*If you are proposing an international experience, provide an itinerary.*

*\*\*If you are developing this experience from an existing opportunity (class with a study tour, campus organization, co-op, etc.) that is not already an honors seminar or pre-approved experience, how will you differentiate your experience from what is already required of other students?*

During the summer break at the end of my freshman year, I would like to study Spanish for six weeks in Madrid, Spain. This is a faculty led study-abroad organized in tandem with the don Quijote School of Spanish Language Learning. The program begins on May 9, 2016 and ends on June 17, 2016, and will give me 12 credit hours towards a minor in Spanish. Since I am majoring in Computer Science and minoring in both Psychology and Spanish, despite coming in to UC with AP credits, it will be impossible for me to complete my degree in five years without taking more than 18 credits per semester, and this is the perfect way to circumvent this.

Besides, I can continue working towards my degree in a different country altogether! It will allow me to immerse myself in the culture, history, food and art of Spain, and learn Spanish from native speakers. Being an international student from India, my perspective will be different from others on the study abroad – and hopefully a fresh viewpoint will augment to everyone’s experience.

Although I have learnt Spanish in a classroom setting in India and have also lived in Mexico for two years, I cannot speak Spanish with the level of fluency that I wish to attain. My memories of Mexico are dull and grey, and classrooms can’t teach much more than mere conjugation of verbs. The idioms, the deep conversations, the humorous exchanges I crave to experience cannot be found sitting on a desk under pale lightbulbs – they must be discovered on the sunny streets of Madrid.

*Spanish Immersion in Madrid* has a large segment comprised of field trips to cultural sites and monuments which include Gothic cathedrals, castles, royal palaces, Roman aqueducts, Egyptian Temples, and medieval Synagogues. Besides this comprehensive tour of Madrid and the surrounding areas, I intend to travel to all the famous art museums in Spain. I have always wanted to see paintings by Pablo Picasso in real life, and in Spain, not only would this dream come true, but I would also be able to see the artwork created by his inspirations: Velazquez, Goya, Zurbaran and El Greco.

The timeline of the six weeks I will spend in Madrid will be determined by the duration of the courses I will be taking at don Quijote and on the itinerary of the excursions to local cultural sites, which will be decided by the coordinator of the trip. However, I plan to visit:

* Museo Nacional del Prado (Madrid)
* The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum (Madrid)
* Catalan National Art Museum (Barcelona)
* The National Museum “Centro de Arte Reina Sofia” (Madrid)
* Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando (Madrid)
* Picasso Museum (Malaga)
* The Guggenheim Museum (Bilbao)

Each of these museums exhibits artwork from an artist I admire, such as Raphael, Velazquez, Goya, Picasso, El Greco, Rembrandt, Dali, Murillo, and Zubaran. Some of these museums are so huge I will not be able to see them in a day, which is why it is so convenient that most of them are located in Madrid itself. Also, the selection of museums include everything from Catalan to contemporary art, so that I can truly appreciate Spanish artwork. I intend to reflect on, review, and document artwork from each museum I visit. This will differentiate and deepen my experience in Madrid, and make it more personally meaningful.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Brief description of the experience  Personal connection to the experience  Identified goals for the experience  Timeline from start to finish  \*Itinerary (international experiences only)  \*\*Explanation of differentiated experience from what is required of other students | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Experience Advisor**

*Identify an experience advisor and provide their contact information. Explain why you chose this person and how you plan to utilize your advisor for this experience.*

Note: Advisor(s) should have knowledge or expertise in an area related to the experience. Honors advisors, undergraduate students, and family members cannot be experience advisors.

Advisor Name: **Dr. Carlos M. Gutiérrez**

Professor of Spanish & Director, Madrid Summer Program, Romance Languages & Literatures

McMicken College of Arts and Sciences

Contact Details: [carlos.gutierrez@uc.edu](mailto:)

Dr. Carlos M. Gutierrez, Professor of Spanish has kindly agreed to be my experience advisor for the duration of the honors experience. He has over 25 years of teaching experience in Spanish and I believe the wealth of knowledge he has acquired over this period is something I can benefit from greatly. Dr. Gutierrez is also the Director of the Madrid Summer Program and will be leading the study abroad. He is a native Spanish speaker, and I have much to learn from him, from enunciating Spanish correctly to navigating the city of Madrid.

I can use his assistance both before the study abroad as well as during, as he will be taking care of all the details of the experience and will also accompany the students to Madrid to serve as a resource during our stay. He is in charge of organizing the field trips to cultural sites while in Madrid, and I will communicate with him beforehand to incorporate the faculty-led excursions into my own cultural exploration. During the study abroad, I will try to converse with Professor Gutierrez as often as I can in order to effectively reflect on my experience. I intend to stay in touch with Professor Gutierrez via email after the study abroad.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Experience advisor name and contact information  Description of why advisor was selected  Specific plans to engage with advisor | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Connection to Learning Outcomes**

*List 3* [*learning outcomes*](#ThematicAreas) *from any thematic area(s). Provide specific activities you plan to engage in to help you make progress towards the chosen learning outcomes. Describe how you expect each activity to help your progress. Include an estimated time commitment for those activities.*

* Develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration.

Madrid is a social hub, and people are said to be more open-minded and friendly there as compared to people from more suburban parts of Spain. While the idea of communicating with Spaniards in Spanish sounds intimidating, I hope that I will eventually become comfortable enough to speak to people in their native tongues.

I went through this process before when I shifted to Mexico for two years. I had no knowledge of Spanish whatsoever, yet I managed to navigate my way around the country, armed with Google Translate and universal hand gestures. This time around, I should be better prepared. I will attempt to talk to as many new people as possible in Spain, and find out what I can about their personal and professional lives in order to patch together a comprehensive ‘understanding’ of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, and history of the community of Madrid. People from different classes of society have different perspectives, and I will try to capture as many of these as I can, and will document these experiences in my pocket diary, which I carry around everywhere I go.

As I am a very shy and timid person, this learning outcome will force me to reach out of my comfort zone and talk to new people. I have always wished to be more outgoing and social, and this is a great opportunity to develop the skills I need to become a more extroverted individual.

On returning home, I will pull out the most significant and interesting discussions, and create a ‘Humans of Madrid’ Weebly website to showcase my experiences. The time commitment would be 10 - 20 minutes a day while studying abroad in Madrid, and approximately 6 – 8 hours to create the Weebly website.

* Summarize the interconnectedness of geography, history, cultural traits and world issues.

Studying in another country will help me become a more global citizen. Globalization necessitates the change of mindset of people as a whole, from thinking of oneself as a citizen of a particular country to thinking of oneself as a citizen of the world. I believe that by living in a different country, Spain in this case, I will be able to grow in this respect and become more aware of issues and differences at a global, rather than local or regional, level.

As an international student at UC, I am already somewhat aware of the emergence of a global society in recent times. I feel that a true global citizen is one who can understand and comprehend the gravity of global issues and different cultural points of view, while at the same time, sharing their own opinion in a respectful and collaborative manner. I aspire to become such a citizen.

Blogging is one medium I use to reflect on my experiences. It is a way to record my day objectively, and I can later reread my blog posts to draw conclusions. I will utilize my blog to figure out the interconnectedness of geography, history, cultural traits and world issues while in Spain, and will summarize this either in the form of a chart, scrapbook, or video once I return to the United States.

Blogging will take approximately 20 - 30 minutes every day during the study abroad, while summarizing its content in a creative manner will take 6 – 8 hours depending on the medium.

* Discover new techniques to gain knowledge, consider options, make new connections, and ask questions.

Spain is a country dominated by Spanish language speakers. In order to communicate with them, I will not only need to brush up on my Spanish skills, but I will also need to familiarize myself with the most commonly used idioms and cultural nuances in Madrid. I will do this by studying the academic resources, and also by watching popular Spanish movies, music and TV shows in order to immerse myself in the culture of Spain. Before I leave for Spain, I will try to communicate with my fellow teammates only in Spanish, and will try to avoid using English as much as I can while in Madrid.

This, combined with the first learning outcome of meeting and talking to as many new people as I possibly can, will encompass the learning outcome of discovering new techniques to gain knowledge and make new connections. I will make sure I ask plenty of questions while talking to people I meet in Spain! As I will document my experiences relevant to this learning outcome on the ‘Humans of Madrid’ Weebly website, most of the time commitment and details will remain the same as the one for the first learning outcome.

However, I will spend an extra 15 – 20 hours reading my old Spanish notes/books and watching Spanish movies, TV shows to prepare myself for the study abroad in Spain.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  3 learning outcomes explicitly identified from any thematic area(s)  Examples of activities and explanation of how each will assist the progress towards the chosen learning outcome  Estimated time commitment for each activity | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Academic Resources Connected to the Learning Outcomes**

*List 1-2 academic resources you plan to use to enhance your understanding of the learning outcomes. Explain how each resource connects to your learning outcome(s) and helps you execute your experience. Please include the title and author/creator for each resource.*

Note: Academic resources are professional works that can be used to assist your understanding of the topic. Some examples are books, documentaries, videos, or research journals.

* Lonely Planet: Discover Spain

I am very eager to explore the culture, geography and traditions of Spain. It’s a country I’ve always wanted to visit and know more about. Getting the opportunity to actually spend six weeks studying there and learning about a variety of academic and cultural aspects is absolutely amazing. This goal is more of a personal one, and will enable me to accomplish both my first and second learning outcomes.

I will be going through websites like Lonely Planet and http://www.spain.info (which is the official tourism site for the country) in order to find out more about attractions and events to go to and attend. I’d like to explore more of Spain as a whole, and so I believe these websites will help me find out more about the country. I also enjoy trying new cuisines and wish to do so during the duration of my trip.

The book “*Spain*” by Lonely Planet therefore will prove useful in fulfilling these diverse goals.

* Asi lo veo: Gente, Perspectivas, Comunicación by [Michael Leese](http://www.alibris.com/search/books/author/Michael-Leese), [Leeser Michael](http://www.alibris.com/search/books/author/Leeser-Michael), [VanPatten Bill](http://www.alibris.com/search/books/author/VanPatten-Bill)

Asi lo veo is a college-level Spanish textbook trusted and used by a lot of universities in the United States, including the University of Cincinnati. I will use this before the trip to brush up my Spanish skills and teach myself more Spanish so that I am prepared for the course at don Quijote. I would like to be placed in a high level class at don Quijote so that I can maximize my experience in Madrid, and this seems to be an effective step towards that. Also, this will help me communicate better with the community in Madrid, and will therefore assist in progressing towards all three learning outcomes.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  1-2 academic resources connected to the learning outcomes  Title and author of each resource  Description of how resources will help make progress towards learning outcomes and execution of experience | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **On-going Reflection**

*The on-going reflection should help you process the experience and progress toward your chosen learning outcomes. Describe your method for reflecting throughout the experience. Indicate specific reflection questions/topics you plan to use to guide your reflective process.*

Note: A variety of methods can be used for on-going reflection. Some examples are videos, drawings, blogs, songs, and journals. Reflection topics to consider include your ideas/insights about the experience, connection to other areas of involvement, and your progress towards the learning outcomes.

I plan to start a blog in order to share the cultural components of the trip. This blog will allow me to express my reactions and thoughts about different people and things I come across and in doing so, reflect about them. It will include photographs that I take and will detail the information about my experiences studying in and travelling through Spain. Blogging these experiences will allow me to think about them more in depth than I normally would have.

I will have to analyze my thoughts in order to express them in words, and reflecting regularly will be an enriching experience in itself. I will think about questions such as: What is most surprising about the culture in Madrid and what stands out most to me, an international student from India studying in the United States? How does the rich heritage of art and food shape the culture? What are the impressions I get from the artwork that I observe in the various museums I will visit? How are the people there different from the individuals I have met in the United States, in India and in Mexico?

There will be a section on the blog to reflect on the artwork I see in the various museums of Spain.

Besides reflecting on my blog, I will also take notes in my personal diary whenever I meet someone new, in order to prepare for the ‘Humans of Madrid’ Weebly website I will create as a part of my dissemination. I will take pictures of these people as well to supplement the website.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Method for ongoing reflection  Reflection questions/topics clearly specified | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Sharing Your Learning**

*Describe how you plan to actively share what you’ve taken away from this experience with a targeted audience. Explain why you chose this specific audience.*

Note: While social media can be an effective platform for sharing, only posting on your personal learning portfolio or social media account(s) does not reach a targeted audience.

I will post my on-going reflection on my personal blog. This would form part of the ‘Sharing Your Learning’ experience. A blog will be the best way to share my experiences, as it is both personal and sharing-friendly at the same time. My blog will cover all of my on-going reflection, as well as summaries of my final conclusions and thoughts from the study abroad.

I will create a ‘Humans of Madrid’ Weebly website to showcase my experiences while communicating with individuals from the community of Spain.

Finally, I will present my experiences to honors students and other students interested in studying abroad. Engaging with these students will surely help them formulate a decision as to whether studying abroad is for them and to make them more excited about it. I will also be present at the UC International Study Abroad Fair to share my experiences with students who wish to hear about them.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  At least one method to actively share take-aways/learning from the experience  A specific audience and why the audience was selected | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Budget (if applicable)**

*Provide an itemized budget and indicate your source for cost information.*

*\*If you are engaged in an unpaid internship or research, please indicate the number of weeks and hours per week you plan to participate.*

The cost estimated by UC International for the entire study abroad is $5,300. This covers the cost of airfare and tuition at don Quijote. The students on this trip will live with a host family for the duration of their stay, which minimizes expenses incurred during the trip.

The approximate price per museum ticket is $15. Since there are 7 museums I have decided to visit, the total cost comes up to $105. The cost of travel to all these places can be estimated as $100, as the exact location of the host family is unknown, and travel to Barcelona and Malaga will not be less than $60 for a round trip.

The two academic resources I have discussed, Lonely Planet: Discover Spain and Asi Lo Veo: People, Perspectives, and Communication cost $42 and $34 respectively, on Amazon.

Adding up the expenses, the total budget is $5580.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Notes:  Detailed budget of expenditures with sources to justify budget estimates  \*Indicates the number of hours per week and number of weeks of participation | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

**Thematic Area Learning Outcomes**

**Learning Outcomes for the Community Engagement Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals.
* Develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration.
* Articulate the purpose of service on a social issue or public policy and how service mutually enhances individual growth and the common good.
* Explain how education, advocacy, mobilization, or public policy can influence social issues and transform communities.

**Learning Outcomes for the Creativity Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Discover new techniques to gain knowledge, consider options, make new connections, and ask questions.
* Explore a new creative competency/medium or seek new ways to engage an existing competency/medium.
* Understand and optimize the use of people, technology, physical resources or community in a creative process.
* Articulate the broader significance of a creative project and the value of its contributions.

**Learning Outcomes for the Global Studies Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Develop practical travel skills that promote safe, stimulating, and productive travel throughout your life.
* Summarize the interconnectedness of geography, history, cultural traits and world issues.
* Articulate the interdependence of professional fields to address current and impending global issues such as technology, the environment, human rights, or politics.
* Demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity by acknowledging the impact of their own identity and the experience of social norms, customs, or beliefs that are different from their own.
* Demonstrate a sense of empathy, respect, and appreciation for others to build meaningful cross-cultural collaborations toward mutual growth and prosperity.

**Learning Outcomes for the Leadership Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Formulate and manage a shared vision and develop goals towards its achievement.
* Motivate and collaborate effectively with others towards completion of shared projects or goals.
* Develop strategies to identify and respond to challenges and obstacles.
* Identify personal strengths and areas of growth and evaluate opportunities to maximize skills and abilities.
* Synthesize the current trends related to a specific issue or field and evaluate how thought-leaders are currently addressing them.

**Learning Outcomes for the Research Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Demonstrate the ability to locate, interpret, and critically evaluate primary sources appropriate to field.
* Identify and apply appropriate methods to collect and organize data for analysis.
* Analyze and interpret the meaning of results.
* Produce dissemination appropriate to the field in order to share the results or impact of the research.
* Articulate the broader significance of the research project and its relationship to other fields, research and ideas.