



UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program

Ruth M. Covell, MD Study Abroad Scholarship Endowment



LYNICIA MOODY

Major: Business Economics

Cohort Year: 2021

Plans to study abroad in Barcelona 2023-2024

I was most attracted to studying abroad, specifically in Spain, because of the potential to be completely immersed within a culture that emphasizes collectivity, harmony, and cooperation among the group. In my experience, the fast-paced, productivity-focused environment in the United States can make it difficult to slow down and cultivate meaningful relationships with the people around me. Receiving an education abroad through a Spanish lens would offer a unique approach towards digesting new information and applying it to my personal and professional endeavors.

The 21st Century Barcelona Program in Spain aligns with both my academic and career goals. Participating in this program will help me to develop my Spanish speaking skills, which will allow me to become a more competitive applicant for law school and aid in the process of becoming an immigration attorney. In relation to immigration, Spain experienced one of the largest waves of migration in European history during the first decade of the 21st century, and this program would allow me to learn first-hand about their policies and attitudes towards their immigrant population. Additionally, the skills and knowledge I develop from this program will allow me to become a better analyst of political issues, specifically those relating to comparative politics and independence movements. Growing up in a low-income household has severely limited my access to travel.

Traveling to a European country has always felt like a distant or unattainable dream. Studying abroad through financial aid and scholarships, however, offers a level of support that will likely be hard to find outside of college. I have also lived in San Diego my entire life, and although I love this city, I want to broaden my worldview and experience other cultures and ways of life, specifically those that are more collectivist rather than individualistic. In addition, as a Mexican-American, I think it's important to understand the colonial history of the Americas from the perspective of Spain and Latin American countries, which I hope to learn about through my courses.

What I value most about the opportunity to study abroad is the ability to create global connections, especially among people from international backgrounds and varying cultures. As an aspiring immigration attorney, it is important to understand the laws and economics behind immigration within other countries to improve our immigration policies domestically. I will be able to obtain a portion of this knowledge through the political science and economics courses offered through the program. I hope to grow personally through a heightened sense of cultural awareness while abroad. Being immersed in a culture, specifically that of a more collectivist nature, will allow me to gain a new perspective on solving social issues by incorporating their practices into daily life. In America, everything is incredibly fast-paced and we are encouraged to be highly individualistic. In Spain, however, people tend to be less hurried, and they are deliberate about appreciating the world around them. There is also an emphasis on group activities and collective accountability.

