

## UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program

## Dr. Ruth Covell International Study Award Award Recipient - 2022



Dephny Duan
2019 Cohort
Roosevelt College
International Studies – Political Science
Minors: Asian American & Pacific Islander Studies
and Human Rights & Migration Studies

Plans to Study Abroad Summer 2022 Indonesia (Global Seminar)

This summer, I look forward to studying abroad with "Health, Healing, and Sustainable Community Development in Bali," a program that aligns with my academic, professional, and personal interests. Currently, I am a third-year student of International Studies - Political Science with a regional specialization in Asia. I am also an interdisciplinary humanities and social science student of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Studies and Human Rights and Migration Studies, interests of which were deeply shaped by my experience growing up in a multicultural community as an eldest daughter of immigrants and first-generation college student. I have rooted my diverse studies in community/socio-political activism, multiculturalism, diasporic studies, and environmental studies. With this combination of critical studies, I am dedicated to engaging in and bringing my knowledge, experiences, and unique perspectives into spaces of development, academia, and community. I have been and continue to constantly learn and grow in organic, multi-dimensional ways inside and outside the classroom with a deep commitment to social justice, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary collaboration, and community building. While learning from the wisdom of the community, I have utilized classroom knowledge to help develop frameworks for generationally-sustainable community projects, programs, and education that seek to uplift and empower.

Most recently, in partnership with UCSD's Library, Asian Pacific Islander Middle Eastern Desi American (APIMEDA) Programs and Services, and AAPI Studies Program, I helped to spearhead the AAPI Community Archival Project, an archival and oral history project that seeks to preserve and highlight decades-long student and community activism for the AAPI community. I also am currently the Chair of the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Alliance at UCSD and their former Political Awareness and Action Coordinator as well as a former Community Assistant at APIMEDA Program and Services and Social Justice Leadership Academy educator at UCSD's Cross Cultural Center. Moreover, despite having had my previous study abroad programs in Asia canceled due to the pandemic, I have actively immersed myself in communities of international, global identities, most notably living in International House. Altogether, I have been able to learn immensely from as well as help establish community-building channels for meaningful multi-generational, multicultural interactions, revealing that we are all more connected than disconnected, and I seek to continue growing and engaging in such relationships.

By studying abroad in the region I am specializing in my undergrad and future graduate studies, I will be furthering my knowledge and in-the-field experiences with preserving community knowledge and bridging the gap between communities and powerful, decision- Dr. Ruth Covell International Study Scholarship 2022 Awardees making bodies to ensure a more compassionate, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future. Moreover, I am most excited about being able to immerse myself in the cultures and communities that I have been interacting with throughout my life in multiple realms and am now formally studying. Ultimately, I hope to bring my studies and experiences to intersect with community work, education, and policy/programs development that centers on (re)humanizing our global society, of which this study abroad program is a vital part in my pursuit to growing as a global scholar and leader.