



UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program

Dr. Ruth Covell International Study Award Award Recipient - 2018



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2016 Cohort
General Biology

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“Sabaidee luk” (Hello dear) my dad welcomes me with a hug, as I reach him at the airport terminal. “Ni kow mow? Xiang sit fan mow?” (Are you tired? Do you want to eat?) my mom asks me, as she helps me with my luggage. “Hi Mom, hi Dad. Ni mow kit kow. Kap ni sit fan low jung he fuyke chong. Choy yan how knet huh.” (I’m not too tired, and I ate before heading to the airport. It’s pretty hot here.) As we leave the airport, our conversation continues with my dad speaking in Lao, my mom in Chinese (Hakka), and me responding in both English and Hakka. This is how I grew up, where my Asian heritage and American values intermix to form my identity.

While I do not think about it often, I do recognize the significance of my cultural background, as it led to my desire to study abroad and learn more about the cultures of the world. I applied to the University of Sussex in England, for Spring semester of 2019. I chose this location and university after much deliberation, as I still wanted a university town atmosphere, but with the ease of traveling to other European countries. I also chose this location because I was interested in learning first hand, how the culture there differs from my American one despite their similarities in language. What better way to do this than to immerse oneself in said environment?

I took this experience as a chance to culturally immerse myself in the academic and social culture - not only in England, but also in thirteen other countries (24 cities) across Europe. In my time abroad, I saw the world through a different perspective, tasted local cuisine, met new friends, and learned how much I am capable of! This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me and I will forever cherish my memories and friendships. My study abroad experience was made possible with the assistance of the Dr. Ruth Covell International Study Scholarship and I am forever grateful for the financial support!



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