



UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program

Dr. Ruth Covell International Study Award Award Recipient - 2019



Kyle Skelil
2016 Cohort
Nanoengineering

Summer 2019
Barcelona, Spain
Sydney, Australia

During summer 2019, I was fortunate enough to both intern and study abroad. I first spent 2 months in Barcelona, Spain, where I was the lead engineer for the Instituto Tecnico Ortopedico, an orthopedic doctor's office. My job there was to shadow the lead doctor to treat patients and 3D scan them, so that I could 3D CAD their required remedies. In my time there, I made arm and leg casts, insoles, prosthetics, and other orthopedic devices. I also was able to help fit the patient once these printed and work with them through their physical therapy, so I could truly see the impact our work was having. I worked closely with the other technicians, who created the parts by hand, but I was hired to try out the 3D printing. After I finished my time there, I moved to Sydney, Australia for another 2 months. There, I studied neuroscience and was able to visit some labs doing cutting edge research in brain development.

As someone who was raised in a multicultural household, I always felt the allure of going abroad to understand more of the world. I knew that college was the time to do it, but I was conflicted as I also wanted to intern for a summer. I was lucky enough to learn that I could do both, and jumped on the opportunity immediately. After spending my time there, I can truly say that I have come back a different, more mature person. I was able to understand not just the cultures of these other countries, but the cuisines, the politics, the societies as a whole, and how different they are to what I was used to. The exposure and understanding of such different parts of the world truly help one be more open minded and accepting, and I encourage everyone who can do it to try.

Aside from learning more about these cultures and my own self, I also had amazing times there. I made great friends that I traveled all over with, including Amsterdam and the Great Barrier Reef (which I even got to snorkel in). I was able to celebrate regional holidays of our neighborhood in Barcelona, and I was able to watch a Broadway show in the Sydney Opera House. The experiences and friends I made are ones I will treasure for the rest of my life, and I would not have been able to learn so much and try to help those people without the assistance of Dr. Ruth Covell. To that, I am forever grateful.

