



## UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program

### International Study Scholarship

Sponsored by Ruth Covell, M.D. International Study Fund



### **ARYANNA ILETO**

*Major: Psychology*

*Cohort Year: 2023*

*Plans to study abroad*

*in South Korea or*

*Japan*

All my life, I have harbored a desire to study abroad. My fascination began at the age of 5 when my grandmother would regale me about her travels and present the multitude of magnets on her fridge. Each magnet filled the fridge to the brim, depicting landmarks from different countries ranging from France to Japan. Immediately, I fell in love with the idea of traveling and often imagined that one day I could be just like my grandmother. So, I set a goal that in college, I would study abroad no matter what and make memories I can hold onto as I grow old.

Therefore, when considering where I'd like to travel, South Korea or Japan come to mind. Not only are they renowned for their beautiful landscapes, but they also offer rich cultural experiences and exquisite food! As someone who has never ventured to Asia before, the prospect of immersing myself in these vibrant societies is incredibly enticing. From an academic standpoint, studying abroad presents an unparalleled opportunity to delve into the intersection of culture and psychology. As a psychology major, I'm eager to explore firsthand how cultural contexts shape behavior, attitudes, and mental health. This global perspective promises to deepen my understanding of psychological principles and their real-world applications. Additionally, studying abroad provides the opportunity to network with peers, faculty, and professionals from around the world. Building global connections can lead to collaborations, internships, and job opportunities in both my academic and professional settings.

While pursuing my academic goals, financial burden has been one of my main concerns, and I believe this scholarship would greatly alleviate it. I am fully determined to pursue new opportunities for growth and exploration, as fostering curiosity is essential for personal and academic development. In essence, studying abroad is more than just a checkbox on my college to-do list; it's a deeply ingrained passion. I'm eager to embrace the unknown and embark on a journey that promises not only academic enrichment but also unforgettable adventures. Studying abroad represents a chance to break free from the confines of familiarity and step boldly into the unknown. It's a testament to my unwavering belief in the power of education to transcend boundaries, both geographical and cultural, and to unite individuals from diverse backgrounds in pursuit of a common goal: knowledge, understanding, and personal growth.

In the end, studying abroad is not just about acquiring new skills or earning academic credits; it's about embracing the richness and diversity of the world around us, seizing every opportunity for learning and self-discovery, and forging connections that will last a lifetime. Hopefully, one day, I can inspire the next generation to study abroad, just as my grandma fueled my fascination within me. With South Korea or Japan as my potential destinations, I eagerly anticipate the journey ahead, knowing that it will be filled with challenges, triumphs, and moments of pure, unbridled joy.