

Chancellor's Scholars Program

WHO ARE CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS?

These scholars are some of the best and the brightest students who receive admittance to UC San Diego, and they are coming in with top GPA's and test scores.

They all have in common:

- Demonstrated academic excellence
- Leadership potential

However, these top students have had to work hard to achieve their place here, faced with difficult life changes. Chancellor's Scholars have one or more of the following attributes:

- First generation college attendee
- Hail from a 4th or 5th Quintile school
- Financial need
- California resident

https://emeriti.ucsd.edu/mentoring

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RETIRMENT RESOURCE CENTER DIRECTOR MESSAGE



Larissa Foggiano, Director
Retirement Resource Center
RA/EA/CSP/EMP

As the newest member of the Retirement Resource Center team, I am filled with admiration and pride for the incredible impact the Chancellor's Scholars and Emeriti Mentor Programs have had on the UC San Diego community. Although I am still getting to know the full depth of these programs, one thing is already very clear: this is a community built on connection, generosity, and a strong commitment to student success.

Since stepping into my role, I have been warmly welcomed by a passionate and dedicated group of colleagues, mentors, and scholars. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their experiences with me and helped me feel supported. I would also like to recognize our CSP and EMP Program Coordinator, Jen Homrich, for her outstanding leadership throughout the year. Her hard work and steady guidance have helped keep the program running smoothly and growing in exciting ways.

While I am new to UC San Diego, I bring a long-standing passion for community-centered work, and I look forward to bringing this same energy, care, and perspective to the Chancellor's Scholars and Emeriti Mentor Programs as we plan for the future. As we close another academic year, I want to offer my congratulations to our graduating seniors. Your accomplishments reflect the growth, determination, and curiosity that make this program so special. Whether you are heading into the workforce, graduate school, or summer opportunities, please remember that this community continues to support you even after your time on campus.

To our mentors, thank you for your time, wisdom, and continued dedication. Your involvement makes a lasting difference. And to our scholars, I hope your summer is full of rest, reflection, and celebration of all you have achieved.

I am honored to be part of this incredible community and excited for what is ahead.

Warmly,
Larissa Foggiano
Director, UC San Diego Retirement Resource Center

CONNECT WITH CSP ON LINKEDIN!

LinkedIn is a great networking tool that will be incredibly useful to you in all future endeavors.

Follow our profiles: UCSD Chancellor's Scholars Alumni

Follow our page: UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program Scholars

If you add "UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholars Program" to your profile's Education Section, you will be automatically added to the Alumni section on the CSP page.

Study Abroad Spotlight



Yukari Mendoza, 2023 Cohort
Major: Human Biology
Location of Trip: London

WHY DID YOU WANT TO STUDY ABROAD?

Traveling has always been a passion of mine since I was young. I've always been curious about different cultures and backgrounds that individuals were raised in or a part of. I carry with me a lineage of these same dreams and passions my parents grew up with. I would hear how impossible their dreams were as Mexican immigrants. Growing up, they struggled financially and could not obtain a higher education nor travel the world. However, because of my parent's hard work and support, they have helped make it possible for me. Studying abroad allowed me to embrace the eagerness and curiosity I've inherited. To explore the world and grow both personally and academically. I've always been fascinated by history and philosophy, so the Humanities was my opportunity to familiarize myself with the history of another culture and of the world. Studying in London as part of the UCSD Revelle Abroad Global Seminar was the perfect opportunity. The program allowed me to explore and understand significant historical events and literature in the very place they occurred. I knew that this experience would broaden my perspective and deepen my intellectual curiosity.

WHAT WAS AN AVERAGE DAY WHILE YOU WERE ABROAD?

An average day in London was always filled with an adventure. In the morning, I would attend my Humanities 3 and History class at the IFSA office in Soho. Our discussions were lively and very engaging. After class, I would often explore nearby cafes, museums, or historical places with friends and spend some time doing our readings together. We would also visit places like the Tower of London, Big Ben, and the London Tower Bridge. On other days, we would explore further as a class and did day trips to Oxford and Cambridge, where we would tour the universities. We even did an overnight trip to Bath and Salisbury, and visited Stonehenge on our way back. One of my favorite activities was walking through the markets in Camden and Notting Hill where I tried Venezuelan and Greek cuisine for the first time.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE WHILE STUDYING ABROAD?

Studying abroad was almost like going away for college in my perspective. My home is already 8 hours away from San Diego, and the plane ride to London was 10 hours, so being far from family wasn't new. I adjusted to the time difference pretty quickly, and at first, I felt the same sense of freedom and independence I had when starting college. During those first two weeks, I was in awe. I kept thinking to myself, "I did it. I'm in a foreign country by myself, and I'm traveling the world." It felt surreal to be traveling across the world by myself at the age of 19 .

But by the third week, the reality of being so far from home truly set in, and I began to experience some loneliness. Unlike college, where family is just a few hours away or a quick phone call can be made at any time of day, I was across the world. There was no reminder of my culture or background, and being eight hours ahead of my family made communication difficult. I missed the daily connection and comfort of home.

However, those challenges taught me resilience. I learned how to handle the discomfort, lean on the friendships I was building, and rely on myself more than ever before. This experience became a turning point in my growth as a person.



It reminded me of how far I've come, from dreaming about traveling to actually doing it.

HOW DID THE SCHOLARSHIP POSITIVELY IMPACT YOUR EXPERIENCE?

The CSP scholarship was vital in making my study abroad dream a reality. Without that financial support, participating in the program might not have been possible for me. The scholarship paid for most of my expenses concerning tuition and books. It alleviated some of the financial pressure on my family and I while also allowing me to fully immerse myself in my experience abroad without constantly worrying about money or focusing entirely on how I was going to pay off the trip. I'm incredibly grateful for that support because it gave me the freedom to focus on learning and exploring.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS ETIQUETTE DINNER 2025

The Chancellor's Scholars Program held its annual Etiquette Dinner on January 24, 2025. This prestigious event featured renowned etiquette expert Elaine Swann, who returned as the guest speaker for the occasion.

Elaine provided comprehensive instruction on western dining etiquette, guiding attendees through proper table manners, formal dining protocols, and professional conduct during business meals. Her facilitation gave scholars practical experience in navigating formal dining situations they may encounter in their academic and professional futures.

The event served as a valuable networking opportunity, allowing scholars to connect with program mentors in a formal yet welcoming environment. These interactions fostered meaningful professional relationships and gave scholars the chance to practice their newly learned etiquette skills in real time.

The dinner represented the program's commitment to developing well-rounded scholars prepared for success in both academic and professional settings, combining practical skills development with valuable networking opportunities.







2025 ETIQUETTE DINNER



Academic Development through Collaborative Learning

Each year, first-year Chancellor's Scholars develop essential communication and teamwork skills through engaging research projects. During Winter Quarter, scholars present on self-selected topics to their peers and Emeriti Mentors. This year's cohort focused on the theme of "Health and Well-being," exploring various dimensions including:

- Mental Health and Eating Habits
- Substance Abuse
- Stress Management
- Fitness and Physical Health
- Importance of LLM-based Therapists on Mental Health

Presentations undergo evaluation by both peers and mentors. This year, group 9 (Alondra Gutierrez, Perla Sanchez, and Johnny Nguyen) demonstrated outstanding work through their thorough research quality and presentation clarity on “The Best Ways to Manage Stress.”

In Spring Quarter, scholars transform their oral presentations into visual poster formats, learning to communicate complex information effectively through graphics and concise explanations.

On Friday, May 16th, we hosted our Annual Poster Presentation Session, bringing together scholars, mentors, and community members. This collaborative environment provided scholars with valuable opportunities to discuss their research and receive feedback, enhancing both their academic knowledge and professional communication skills.

The program continues to serve as a foundational experience for academically talented students, fostering intellectual growth while building a community of scholars prepared to address significant challenges in their future careers.

CSP Research Poster Presentation Session



CSP Oral Presentation Session



Chancellor's Scholar Voices: Learning Through Presentation Experience



Perla Sanchez
2024 Cohort

"My team and I focused our project on the topic of stress, specifically exploring effective methods for managing it. After reviewing various strategies, we selected laughter as our focal point for the poster presentation. We found this approach both engaging and unique, making it an ideal topic to capture our audience's interest while also deepening our own understanding.

Presenting to our peers and Emeriti Mentors was a valuable and rewarding experience. It provided an excellent opportunity to develop our public speaking skills and gain confidence in delivering professional presentations. Personally, this was my first time participating in a poster presentation aimed at a professional audience, which initially felt intimidating. However, the supportive environment and constructive feedback made it a genuinely positive experience.

Throughout the process, I gained important insights that will benefit me in future academic and professional settings. I improved my communication skills, learned how to effectively engage an audience, and became more comfortable presenting in formal settings. Overall, this experience served as a strong foundation for future presentations and helped me build core competencies in research communication and public speaking."

"One of this year's highlights was participating in the CSP research talks. For the poster presentation, we concentrated on how laughter can lower cortisol levels, making it an accessible and efficient stress-reduction technique.

Presenting to Emeriti Mentors, many of whom have years of research and academic expertise, was nerve-racking, given it was my first time doing a poster board presentation. However, I believe it gave me more self-assurance and taught me how to express myself professionally and effectively.

From this experience, I developed several fundamental skills, including professionalism, research literacy, and oral communication. I learned how to communicate research in a way that people could comprehend and interact with."



Alondra Gutierrez
2024 Cohort



Johnny Nguyen
2024 Cohort

"In this project, I presented my research on Laughter in Stress to a group of peers and Emeriti Mentors. My work focused on how laughter decreases cortisol levels in ways that are cost effective and beneficial to the body.

Presenting to such a diverse and experienced audience pushed me to refine how I communicate complex ideas in a clear, engaging way. I learned to anticipate questions, distill my main points, and highlight broader impacts—skills essential for both academic and professional communication. A key insight I gained was the value of narrative in making technical or abstract material accessible.



2025 POSTER PRESENTATION PERLA SANCHEZ, ALORA GUTIERREZ, & JOHNNY NGUYEN

The feedback I received helped me better understand how to tailor my message to different audiences while maintaining accuracy. Through this process, I strengthened several core competencies: oral communication, critical thinking, and adaptability. Most importantly, I gained confidence in my ability to represent my work thoughtfully and with clarity."



CAMPUS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Maggie Thach Morshed is the proud daughter of Vietnamese refugee parents. As the eldest child, she was the first in her family to complete college. A product of the CSU system, Maggie received a B.A. in Mass Communication and Journalism from Fresno State. She also received her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction from UC Riverside-Palm Desert. Her professional experiences include being a sports reporter, editor, freelance writer, biographer, and SAT/ACT humanities instructor. So many of Maggie's professional life has revolved around words and writing, and she brings that expertise to her current role as the Humanities Lead at OASIS, where she coordinates the Language Arts Tutorial Services (LATS) writing support program.

Maggie Thach Morshed
Academic Resource Communities
OASIS Humanities Lead

Her writing expertise coupled with her lived experiences of being first-gen, low-income, and other marginalized identities informs her work at LATS. Maggie trains her writing facilitators to provide holistic and culturally relevant support for students seeking writing guidance. Being at a STEM-heavy school such as UC San Diego, writing can often feel like just a hoop to jump through. But Maggie wants students to know that writing is a way of thinking, and being able to convey your thoughts and ideas clearly is important no matter what field you're in.

Over the past year, LATS has presented to Chancellor's Scholars about how to make a LinkedIn profile more compelling, email etiquette, and effective scholarship essays. Maggie's goal is to impart on students that writing—whether it's for a scholarship essay, research paper, or personal statement—has the potential to change the trajectory of not only a student's educational journey, but also their life. Even if students think they are already strong writers, writing is an endeavor that can always be improved. There are always different perspectives to consider and insights to make. It's a lifelong process to deepen your writing abilities.

While students may be reluctant to reach out for writing support, making appointments with a LATS writing facilitator is just one way students can prioritize their thinking and writing processes. Perfect writing doesn't just appear magically on the paper—it needs to be thought out, refined, grappled with. Making time to talk through that process is vital part of not just writing, but of learning.

ABOUT OASIS

LATS is a part of OASIS (Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services), a unit on campus that strives to facilitate the holistic enrichment of UC San Diego students through community-based and culturally responsive programming and events.

OASIS's programs provide holistic support for students at all entry points into UC-San Diego. All of our programs provide several benefits, such as direct access to professional staff, peer mentorship, community activities and events, academic resources, and scholarship opportunities. Using our services and being part of our programs means you will be joining a wide network of like-minded individuals committed to becoming socially just changemakers and making a positive difference in the world.



Annie Nguyen, 2022 Cohort
Major: Political Science, Business Economics
Minor: Human Rights & Migration

CSP CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES ARE YOU CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH ON CAMPUS?

I formerly served as the Special Events Director for the Sixth College Student Council, where I had the opportunity to plan, budget, and execute large-scale events, including trips to Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, Six Flags, and Big Bear Mountain Resort. Now I am the Vice President Programming of Sixth College! I also work as a Senior Orientation Leader, helping to design and lead training sessions for new Orientation Leaders, while supporting the Sixth Orientation program for incoming first year and transfer students. Lastly, I serve as Secretary for the UCSD Student Fee Advisory Committee, where we provide recommendations on the allocation of funds to support innovative programs that address student needs and improve campus life.

HOW HAS YOUR INVOLVEMENT SHAPED YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS OR PROFESSIONAL GOALS?

My goal after graduation is to attend law school. Being involved in various leadership roles on campus has helped me develop strong time management and organizational skills, both of which were essential while balancing academics, work, and studying for the LSAT. These experiences have strengthened my ability to manage competing priorities and have reinforced my passion for pursuing a career in law.

CAN YOU SHARE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU'VE CONTRIBUTED TO POSITIVE CHANGE ON CAMPUS?

As SPEC Director, I make these otherwise costly experiences accessible to underserved communities within Sixth College. Growing up in a low-income household, I understand firsthand how financial barriers can limit opportunities. By providing affordable access to these events, I hope to create memorable experiences for students who might not otherwise have the chance to participate.

HOW HAS THE CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR GROWTH OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS?

The Chancellor's Scholars Program played a significant role in my personal and professional growth over the past three years. In particular, the CSP interview sessions were instrumental in helping me succeed in interviews for various positions. They equipped me with the skills and confidence to present myself effectively.

"Orientation has been my most meaningful experience as a first-generation student because I actively work to make campus resources more prevalent, bridging the gap that students experience when they transition from high school or community college to university life. I help create an inclusive and welcoming community for new students, helping them connect with their peers and feel valued as members of the community here at UC San Diego."



UCSD SIXTH COLLEGE ORIENTATION

Chancellor's Scholars Alliance

The Chancellor's Scholars Alliance (CSA) experienced an exceptional year of growth filled with community engagement and memorable social connections. Throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, scholars came together in ways that strengthened their bonds while making a positive impact on the UC San Diego campus.

One of the year's standout service activities took place at Roger's Garden, where scholars rolled up their sleeves to support campus sustainability efforts through hands-on environmental work. The CSA peer mentorship initiative continued to thrive, with upper division scholars providing support and discussion to mentees on planning out their classes for the quarter, advice on how to get involved in campus organizations, and activities that could support their academic and professional goals.

As CSA looks forward to the next academic year, the organization remains committed to promoting service, academic development, community engagement, leadership, and fostering a strong sense of community among recipients of the UCSD Chancellor's Scholarship.









Valentine Bouquets

Dog Toy Workshop















CSA x Roger's Garden Service Event

Scholars Friendsgiving















Gliderport Social

Celebrating a Year of Growth and Achievement

As we reflect on the conclusion of this remarkable academic year, we are filled with immense pride in the extraordinary journey our Scholars have undertaken. What began as a group of talented individuals has transformed into a tightly-knit community built on mutual support, shared experiences, and collective ambition.

Throughout these past months, our Scholars have not merely participated in programs—they have actively helped shaped them, demonstrating remarkable growth in both their leadership capabilities and professional competencies. We've witnessed them step beyond their comfort zones to lead complex projects, facilitate meaningful discussions, and advocate for positive change within our institution and beyond.

The professional development our Scholars have achieved extends far beyond technical skills. They have honed their abilities in critical thinking, effective communication, collaborative problem-solving, decision-making—all essential qualities that will serve them well in their future endeavors.

Perhaps most importantly, the sense of community they've cultivated has become a powerful foundation for their continued success. The networks formed, the friendships established, and the collaborative spirit developed will remain invaluable resources as they navigate the challenges and opportunities that await in the coming academic year.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and support of our incredible Emeriti Mentors, campus partners, and Retirement Association Volunteers. Their generosity with their time, expertise and wisdom has been a cornerstone of our Scholars' success.

Winter and Spring CSP & ACSP Professional Development, Communication, and Leadership Sessions

Academic Internships and Experiential Learning Opportunities: Tricia Taylor-Oliveira, Academic Internship Program, Teaching & Learning Commons - Experiential Learning Hub
Impromptu Speech, Introduction and Practicum: Samantha Champi, Center for Student Involvement
Study Abroad Tips and Tricks: Jay Minert, Global Initiatives - Study Abroad
Speed Networking: Emeriti Mentors, CSP Alumni and RA Volunteers
Interview Questions Practicum: Emeriti Mentors, CSP Alumni and RA Volunteers
LinkedIn Overview: Maggie Thach Morshed, OASIS Humanities Lead
How to Interview: Michael Stromayer, UCSD Career Services
Transferable Skills and Mock Interviews: Jennifer Homrich, CSP
The Basement Overview: Melissa Campbell, Office of Innovation and Commercialization
Writing Effective Scholarship Applications: Maggie Thach Morshed, OASIS Humanities Lead






Looking Back, Moving Forward: Reflections from the Class of 2025

As members of the graduating Class of 2025 prepare to close one chapter and begin another, they carry with them not just diplomas and achievements, but the deep understanding of what it means to be a UC San Diego Chancellor's Scholar. They remember the uncertainty of freshman year, the overwhelming middle years, and the bittersweet clarity that comes with senior year. Reflecting back, they have advice for current Scholars.



"Don't be afraid to be uncomfortable! Time will fly by and you don't want to regret the opportunities you didn't take."
-Hailee Rodriguez-Terry

"Make sure to apply to clubs, look at internships and take advantage of the plays, and events hosted in other parts of campus like the theatre district."
-Jett Kletter

"Make sure to enjoy your time as a student as much as possible. Make the most of your time as a student, get involved and do as much as you can!"
- Casey Hild





"Take advantage of all the resources and opportunities that CSP offers, they will really help you put yourself out there and stand out." - Jackie Cardenas

"Really learn to manage your time well. It's easy to put too much priority in one aspects of your life and not the other, like too much in your studies but not enough in relationships. But both are very important things in your life that needs to be taken care of, so balance your time wisely, because you're not getting it back."
- Aliana Calpe



"Be ambitious in your college career and take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way." - Erick Sanchez

"Never be afraid to take chances and put yourself out there!"
-Sparrow Hargrove



CSP Our year in Focus



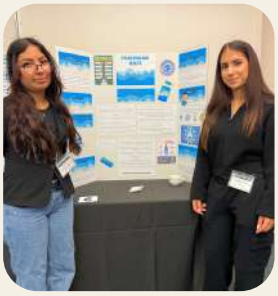
















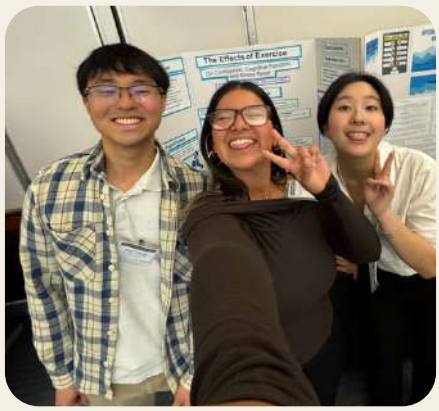






























VIEW MORE CSP 2024-2025 PHOTOS

Please Donate Generously to the Emeriti Association's Chancellor's Scholarship Fund

Through the Chancellor's Scholarship Award, scholars receive $5,000 a year for four years at UC San Diego. Your monetary support of this program allows bright young scholars to achieve a higher education and helps them meet the challenges they face at a rigorous university like UC San Diego. Please help us continue to award these prestigious scholarships to students in need. With your financial help today, we can ensure that future scholars continue to receive outstanding educational and leadership opportunities at the university. Chancellor's Scholars are the future leaders of America. With your contributions today, we can help make these scholars' dreams a reality.



There are many ways to make a gift:

1. Mail your check made payable to **UC San Diego Foundation - Include: "UCSD Emeriti Association Chancellor's Scholarship Fund # 4556**" to:

UC San Diego Gift Processing
9500 Gilman Drive, MC 0940,
La Jolla, CA 92093-0940

2. Donate by phone by calling UC San Diego Gift Processing at (858) 534-5289

3. Donate online by visiting **UCSD Emeriti Association Chancellor's Scholarship Fund # 4556**

Note: Gifts must be postmarked by 12/31/2025, to count as a deduction for Tax Year 2025.

2025-26 Upcoming Events

2025 CSP Fall Welcome
Fall 2025

Emeriti Mentor Fall Luncheon
Fall 2025

CSP Etiquette Dinner
Winter 2026

CSP Donor Recognition Dinner
Spring 2026

CSP Closing Reception
Spring 2026

Next Publication: Nov. 31, 2025
Executive Editor: Larissa F, Director, UCSD RRC
Managing Editor: Jennifer Homrich, Program Coordinator, UCSD CSP/EMP
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The UCSD Chancellor's Scholars Program is domiciled on the UCSD Campus in University EXT Building

UC San Diego

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