New Administrative Partnership between UC Education Abroad Program and UC Santa Barbara

On Wednesday May 4 UC President Mark Yudof and UC Santa Barbara Chancellor Henry Yang signed a Memorandum of Understanding transferring administrative oversight of the systemwide UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) to UCSB.

UCEAP is the signature academic study abroad program of the University of California serving all UC campuses. The “power of ten” has enabled UC to build sustainable and quality academic programming with 117 host institutions in 34 countries, with 4,834 UC students participating in 2010-11.

As a unit of Academic Affairs at UCOP for the last two decades, UCEAP has grown from strength to strength. The first group of 80 UCEAP students departed for Bordeaux, France in 1962. Since then, UCEAP has built an alumni base over 100,000 strong. 76,800 UC students have studied on the program and UC has hosted 24,000 non-degree international students as part UCEAP’s reciprocal exchanges.

UCEAP has also responded to changing academic needs of students and the University. As did the first UCEAP Bordeaux students, many UCEAP students participate in year-long immersion study abroad in a host institution. Five of our campuses are among the national leaders in long-term study abroad as reported by Institute of International Education Open Doors - UCSB (7th), UCSD (10th), UCB (16th), UCSC (18th), and UCI (19th); but other options are available. UCEAP students also participate in semester, quarter and summer programs, special focus programs and language and culture programs.

Having begun as an academic program on the Santa Barbara campus almost 50 years ago, UCEAP and UCSB expect the program to flourish across the system through this new administrative partnership. As Vice Provost Daniel Greenstein, who has supported Provost Pitts in administering the program said, the move was based on the idea that “academic instructional programs like UCEAP are better served at a campus than they are at the University’s administrative headquarters – UCOP.”

Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director of UCEAP, Jean-Xavier Guinard said, “this is a real opportunity to celebrate UCEAP’s leadership and accomplishments in international education over the past 50 years and to build the study abroad program of the future.”

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