Honors Self- Designed Proposal

Complete this proposal **prior** to your experience’s start date and upload it in the UHP Database (<https://webapps.uc.edu/uchonorsstudent>). Create an experience (“Add a new record”) in the “Tracking Project” tab and upload your proposal document as an attachment. The deadline for [submitting proposals](http://www.uc.edu/honors/experiences/experiencesubmission.html) is the 5th of each month (excluding July).

Proposals are intended to be well developed plans for your experience. However, experiences are exploratory in nature, and we are flexible with changes throughout the experience. If your experience changes after receiving approval on your proposal, contact your honors advisor to verify the changes still satisfy the requirements of an honors experience.

**Basic Information**  
Full Name: Dillon Dragomir

Title of Project: Study Abroad in Singapore at Nanyang Technological University

Thematic Area(s): Global Studies

Expected Start Date: 1/5/2016

Expected End Date: 5/10/2016

**Guidelines**

1. Proposal submission timeline: Proposals should be submitted at least one month prior to the expected start date of the experience. International experiences require at least two months’ notice. Contact your honors advisor immediately for any exceptions.
2. Proposal length: While the quality of the proposal is most important, strong proposals are typically 3-4 pages single-spaced.
3. Proposal format: Please maintain the proposal format (e.g. headers, layout)
4. Time commitment: Experiences should consist of at least 75-90 hours of preparation, execution, and reflection. This is approximately equivalent to the commitment of honors seminars and pre-approved experiences.

**Requirements for International Travel**

All self-designed international travel experiences require two months’ notice and must be at least one week in length. You will need to provide a detailed itinerary (dates, locations and activities). If participating in independent travel (not with UC faculty, staff or student group), you must also fill out a [Worldwide: Honors Experience application](http://studyabroad.uc.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10217) via UC International.

Additionally, the [Student Travel Policy](http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/about/docs/university_policies/student_travel_policy.pdf) restricts UC-sponsored travel to countries under a [U.S. Department of State Travel Warning](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html). Those who wish to visit a country with a travel warning must seek an [exemption](http://www.uc.edu/international/study-abroad/applying-to-study-abroad/travel-restrictions---exemptions.html) through UC International. Students traveling without a faculty or staff leader must individually request an exemption. ***We cannot allow you to count this travel as an honors experience nor can we give you a grant without an approved exemption.***

1. **Abstract**

*Briefly describe the experience. What makes this experience personally meaningful? What goals do you have for this experience? What is your timeline for this experience?*

*\*If you are proposing an international experience, provide an itinerary.*

*\*\*If you are developing this experience from an existing opportunity (class with a study tour, campus organization, co-op, etc.) that is not already an honors seminar or pre-approved experience, how will you differentiate your experience from what is already required of other students?*

Imagine a world where everyone thinks like you. At first thought, a world like this sounds amazing. Everyone would agree with you and the solution would be reached quickly and easily. The problem with this is when no one asks “why” or “can this problem be solved in a better way”, complacency is expressed. For me, as a University of Cincinnati computer engineer, I have learned that diversity is something to welcome; the best innovation happens when people disagree. Working with a pool of people from many different backgrounds, allows competitive creative solutions to be formed. I want to be able to understand what makes people think certain ways and use my knowledge to understand problems from many different aspects, to create solutions to account for the consumer’s needs. This way of thinking is something I will be able to gain from the international diversity at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

I will be traveling to Singapore to study at the Nanyang Technological University for the Spring 2016 semester. This experience will be personally meaningful because it will allow me to broaden my cultural horizons. For many years I have loved music, art and the history of the United States. While I am in Singapore I hope to learn more specifically about their music, art, dance and language. The timeline is not extremely set in stone but I will more than likely reach my goals on the weekend. I plan to find some friends who are local to Singapore and learn more about where the locals go for fun. I want to get the native experience and go to a local marketplace and experience some very authentic Singapore food.

When I arrived at college I became seriously interested with international students. I found their culture, customs and languages very intriguing. As I began to work more and more with them, I started to understand the positives of working with them in a team. This has in turn led me to hope to pursue a more immersive experience in which I would be able expand my cultural horizons and better prepare for a global marketplace. What I plan to develop most while I am in Singapore is my teamwork skills. As an engineer working in teams is detrimental to the success of the project.

At the conclusion of my experience, I plan to have explored my passions at Nanyang and conducted relevant research. While there, I hope to not only explore the university, but wander out into the city and utilize the benefits the beautiful city has to offer. All of these activities, knowledge and personal enrichment will be contingent on being able to fund my trip to Singapore. The Gilman Scholarship will allow me to get over the financial hurdles of studying abroad and focus specifically on getting the most out of my experience there.

**Departure Date: 01/05/2016 Return Date: 05/12/2016**

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Brief description of the experience  Personal connection to the experience  Identified goals for the experience  Timeline from start to finish  \*Itinerary (international experiences only)  \*\*Explanation of differentiated experience from what is required of other students | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Experience Advisor**

*Identify an experience advisor and provide their contact information. Explain why you chose this person and how you plan to utilize your advisor for this experience.*

Note: Advisor(s) should have knowledge or expertise in an area related to the experience. Honors advisors, undergraduate students, and family members cannot be experience advisors.

My experience advisor is my study abroad advisor Ryan. I meet with him every week or so and he answers all of my questions. I plan to utilize his experience with students studying abroad to decide many important decisions about housing and safety in Singapore. He is also a very useful resource when applying for scholarships to study abroad because he has an idea what some scholarship committees are looking for and he has offered to proofread my essays.

Name: Ryan Meyer

Email: meyerr2@ucmail.uc.edu

Phone: 513 556 4278

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Experience advisor name and contact information  Description of why advisor was selected  Specific plans to engage with advisor | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Connection to Learning Outcomes**

*List 3* [*learning outcomes*](#ThematicAreas) *from any thematic area(s). Provide specific activities you plan to engage in to help you make progress towards the chosen learning outcomes. Describe how you expect each activity to help your progress. Include an estimated time commitment for those activities.*

**Develop practical travel skills that promote safe, stimulating, and productive travel throughout your life.**

First and foremost I will just be meeting this learning objective by traveling outside of my comfort zone and to a country, which is so much different than the United States. Singapore is a perfect fit for me because of its original British colonization and large Asian immigrant population; the country will allow me to study in my native language, but at the same time experience Asian culture. When I travel to the east side of Singapore, being immersed in Mandarin Chinese will be a unique and very different experience for me. I will have to learn to communicate through means other than verbal and will gain a better understanding of navigating in a foreign land. This will be an important skill to acquire for me if I hope to be a safe global traveler. The time commitment for this activity will be ongoing and something that I face everyday interacting with my many professors and Nanyang students who are very different than me.

**Demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity by acknowledging the impact of their own identity and the experience of social norms, customs, or beliefs that are different from their own.**

On the weekend I will venture out into the city with my new friends and try to experience and explore the best attractions Singapore has to offer. Since the country is so small, I will be able to travel over to the portions of the country, which are highly influenced by Asian culture. I plan to do this by taking advantage of some of the amazing free museums, such as The National Museum of Singapore or the Singapore Art Museum. I will spend all day at both of these museums and become fully aware of how Singapore in itself has become an economic powerhouse in Asia. I find this very interesting and believe there is a lot to learn from these museums.

While in Singapore, I plan to achieve a greater knowledge of a different economic system than our own. I have repeatedly learned about different types of government in school and have been persuaded towards believing democracy is the best economic system. While I am in Singapore, I want to explore the differences of their government. I hope to see how people in Singapore rate and value their economic system and get a feeling for how another country views our economic system in the US. When I return home, I plan to bring with me invaluable experiences and have a better appreciation for Asian art and music. Time commitment for these activities will be around 20 hours.

**Analyze and interpret the meaning of results.**

Also, while I am in Singapore I plan to pursue research at the university. I have previous research and strongly believe I will at least be able to find an unpaid position in a lab I like. I have a lot of interest in bioinformatics and machine learning and hope to apply my job at the Center for Intelligent Maintenance Systems at UC, to a research Position at Nanyang. While at this time I do not know what current positions or opportunities may present themselves, if I find a position I will be analyzing and interpreting the meaning of results. Time commitment for a research position could vary from 50 to 100 hours.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  3 learning outcomes explicitly identified from any thematic area(s)  Examples of activities and explanation of how each will assist the progress towards the chosen learning outcome  Estimated time commitment for each activity | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Academic Resources Connected to the Learning Outcomes**

*List 1-2 academic resources you plan to use to enhance your understanding of the learning outcomes. Explain how each resource connects to your learning outcome(s) and helps you execute your experience. Please include the title and author/creator for each resource.*

Note: Academic resources are professional works that can be used to assist your understanding of the topic. Some examples are books, documentaries, videos, or research journals.

<http://thaholiday.com/10-free-things-to-do-in-singapore/>

Author: Lauren Sgarlato

I will use articles similar to this one to locate free and cheap activities in Singapore which will not only help me better understand their culture, but get to experience the best Singapore has to offer. Many of these articles have taught me about free museums which will help me learn more about Asian culture and fulfill my learning outcome to better understand Asian culture.

Also, I would like to learn how such a small country has become such an economic success in Asia. The overall differences in government will be very new to me and it will be good to first hand encounter a government different than the US. One article I located talks about the economics of Singapore and how the small country has flourished.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/03/economist-explains-23>

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  1-2 academic resources connected to the learning outcomes  Title and author of each resource  Description of how resources will help make progress towards learning outcomes and execution of experience | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **On-going Reflection**

*The on-going reflection should help you process the experience and progress toward your chosen learning outcomes. Describe your method for reflecting throughout the experience. Indicate specific reflection questions/topics you plan to use to guide your reflective process.*

Note: A variety of methods can be used for on-going reflection. Some examples are videos, drawings, blogs, songs, and journals. Reflection topics to consider include your ideas/insights about the experience, connection to other areas of involvement, and your progress towards the learning outcomes.

While I am in Singapore, I will keep a journal of the specific dates I partake in interesting cultural activities or do any traveling throughout Singapore. Every journal entry I will focus on: What I learned from that experience? What I hope to learn from the next experience? What did I enjoy? What did I dislike? How has that experience changed me? Has the experienced altered my perspective? I will use very similar reflection questions to help me better define myself as a person and gain the most out of each experience. Finally, at the conclusion of my study abroad experience I hope to make a video of all the fun times I had at Nanyang and reflect back on how the experience has changed me as a person.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Method for ongoing reflection  Reflection questions/topics clearly specified | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Sharing Your Learning**

*Describe how you plan to actively share what you’ve taken away from this experience with a targeted audience. Explain why you chose this specific audience.*

Note: While social media can be an effective platform for sharing, only posting on your personal learning portfolio or social media account(s) does not reach a targeted audience.

I plan to present my experiences to the Engineers Without Borders club. Some of my goals for the project are to culminate an interest in the engineering department at my school to study abroad. I hope to instill in the group of engineers I speak to an interest to study abroad. Also, I plan to give students the necessary resources required to successfully design a study abroad experience that an individual could get the most benefit out of.

My goal is to help educate the engineering students at the University of Cincinnati on the benefits of studying abroad and approximately the steps necessary to take if an engineer wants to study abroad. I know many people were not very supportive when I first attempted to study abroad and I hope to change this atmosphere into a more attainable goal and not something that is nearly impossible to do. It is difficult to study abroad as an engineer, but I hope to better inform passionate engineers that it is possible with a little effort on the student’s part. To do so, I plan to give a verbal presentation to a club who's goals are very dear to me.

The difference between making an impact and putting someone to sleep could just be the presentation style. To avoid this I will skip the boring power point and go with a more interactive presentation. I will share on the personal, comical and or amazing experiences I will have exploring the city of Singapore. Additionally, I plan to regularly make videos and or a blog which could then be compiled to make a video to help represent the culture of Singapore and give the students in Engineers Without Borders a better idea of what actually makes a study abroad experience so personal and life changing. To pay my gratitude forward I will talk about how the Gilman scholarship helped me attain making studying abroad a financial possibility and give the correct information for anyone who may seem interested in checking out the Gilman scholarship.

I will be contacting Engineers Without Borders in the near future on the presentation idea. At this time I have not specifically asked them if I could give a presentation, but since presentations are fairly common, I do not see a conflict with giving one. I am also an active member on the grant writing committee and the community engagement committee. This is a club, which has a lot of meaning to me and also places emphasis on the benefits of traveling abroad. Many students in this group have traveled to foreign countries to enact new sanitation systems and would be interested in hearing about study abroad opportunities. I feel this group may not have been influenced greatly to study abroad in the past, but will have an interest because many of them have joined the club due to their interest in travel. I believe I can make the biggest impact by directly speaking to students and giving them a very personalized look into what a study abroad experience could bring them. I hope to interest a previously under-represented group of engineers and help them see that studying abroad is definitely a possibility even with strict engineering curriculums.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  At least one method to actively share take-aways/learning from the experience  A specific audience and why the audience was selected | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Budget (if applicable)**

*Provide an itemized budget and indicate your source for cost information.*

*\*If you are engaged in an unpaid internship or research, please indicate the number of weeks and hours per week you plan to participate.*

***COST (Semester Program)***

***1,500.00 Plane Ticket***

***5,500.00 UC Tuition***

***1,500.00 Room and Board***

***47.25 Nanyang Health Insurance***

***30.00 Visa***

***221.00 NTU Registration Fee***

***1750.00 Food***

***24.00 NTU Health Fee***

***8.00 Student Card Fee***

***12.00 IT Facilities Fee***

***17.00 Sports Fee***

***75.00 Travel Abroad Health Insurance***

**500.00 Books**

**750.00 Singapore Transportation**

**1,000.00 Personal Expenses**

**$ 12,934.25 Total Cost**

**Resources**

**600.00 Federal SEOG**

**2,813.00 Federal Pell Grant**

**648.00 Ohio College Opportunity Grant**

**1,750.00 University Scholarship**

**700.00 University Need Grant**

**1,250.00 CEAS Scholarship**

**$ 7,761 Total Resources**

**I currently have a job at the IMS laboratory on the 5th floor of Rhodes hall. I have communicated to them and they seem comfortable with me working from Singapore. This is a very flexible job, which allows me to work any amount of hours and any time. This will allow me to help supplement some cost while in Singapore.**

**Expenses Source: http://global.ntu.edu.sg/GMP/GEMTrailblazer/GEMTrailblazerexchange/Beforeyouapply/Pages/LivinginSingapore.aspx**

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Notes:  Detailed budget of expenditures with sources to justify budget estimates  \*Indicates the number of hours per week and number of weeks of participation | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

**Thematic Area Learning Outcomes**

**Learning Outcomes for the Community Engagement Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals.
* Develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration.
* Articulate the purpose of service on a social issue or public policy and how service mutually enhances individual growth and the common good.
* Explain how education, advocacy, mobilization, or public policy can influence social issues and transform communities.

**Learning Outcomes for the Creativity Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Discover new techniques to gain knowledge, consider options, make new connections, and ask questions.
* Explore a new creative competency/medium or seek new ways to engage an existing competency/medium.
* Understand and optimize the use of people, technology, physical resources or community in a creative process.
* Articulate the broader significance of a creative project and the value of its contributions.

**Learning Outcomes for the Global Studies Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Develop practical travel skills that promote safe, stimulating, and productive travel throughout your life.
* Summarize the interconnectedness of geography, history, cultural traits and world issues.
* Articulate the interdependence of professional fields to address current and impending global issues such as technology, the environment, human rights, or politics.
* Demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity by acknowledging the impact of their own identity and the experience of social norms, customs, or beliefs that are different from their own.
* Demonstrate a sense of empathy, respect, and appreciation for others to build meaningful cross-cultural collaborations toward mutual growth and prosperity.

**Learning Outcomes for the Leadership Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Formulate and manage a shared vision and develop goals towards its achievement.
* Motivate and collaborate effectively with others towards completion of shared projects or goals.
* Develop strategies to identify and respond to challenges and obstacles.
* Identify personal strengths and areas of growth and evaluate opportunities to maximize skills and abilities.
* Synthesize the current trends related to a specific issue or field and evaluate how thought-leaders are currently addressing them.

**Learning Outcomes for the Research Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Demonstrate the ability to locate, interpret, and critically evaluate primary sources appropriate to field.
* Identify and apply appropriate methods to collect and organize data for analysis.
* Analyze and interpret the meaning of results.
* Produce dissemination appropriate to the field in order to share the results or impact of the research.
* Articulate the broader significance of the research project and its relationship to other fields, research and ideas.