

# THE SCOOP

## UCI SCHOLARSHIPS

SUMMER 2023  
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### **SCHOLARS MEET & GREET**

KIM NGUYEN & ALAN PERALTA

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UCI STUDY ABROAD CENTER

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A CROSS-BORDER CONVENING

# KIM NGUYEN

SCHOLAR OF UC IRVINE

**Sophomore Year  
Biological Sciences Major  
Summer Success Scholarship**

It is honestly difficult for anyone moving from country to country. My first language is Vietnamese, and my second language is French. I did not know a single word in English, and it was very hard for me to start from scratch until now to have proficient English. I got help from my family and my brothers. One step after another step, I worked all the way up to college and I am really surprised that I got into UCI. It has been great the past few years since I have adapted to a new lifestyle. I have my new friends here and I actually found my friends that also came from Vietnam with me.

I am currently working for the Continuing Medical Education (CME) department, and I just got accepted into a lab as a work study position. I also recently got accepted to volunteer at UCI Medical Center. UCI provided all the opportunities for me to expand the advancement of my knowledge. I have been doing really well with the professors helping me and, in the lab, the professor also teaches me how to do things and what things are.

My goal is to go to medical school. Right now, I am looking into a pulmonologist and being a specialist in lungs and the respiratory system. I want to study this so that I can take care of myself and later on, I can take care of other people as well. The scholarship really helped my family with the financial side, and I can focus on my summer classes too. It helps me to focus on my schoolwork without worrying about money and finances. I want to take a lot of classes here at UCI, but without taking classes during Summer I may have to take a 5th year at UCI, and I would not be able to graduate at the same time as my friends. Being able to take Summer, gives me more time to finish the courses that I want to take at UCI.



# ALAN PERALTA

**Freshman Year  
Mathematics Major  
Summer Success Scholarship**

I come from a low-income area in Anaheim. Being a first-generation student, there is not really someone to look to for help in college. It is not always easy to find someone that knows the entire struggle of being low-income while also going to a UC. I cannot go to my parents for that and because of that, I sometimes feel alone trying to go through it by myself at times. With the financial aspect, my parents cannot really help me with college, so I am working multiple part time jobs right now that I took to pay for housing. I have been trying to work towards eventually being able to pay off my loans, so I do not stay in debt and that is still a struggle that I am facing right now.

I made an outline of my 4 years here. When I was doing that, I realized that I might have to take 20 units every quarter to be able to graduate in 4 years. I looked into Summer Session and moved my courses to Summer so that I do not have to take so many classes during the quarter. With Summer Session, I can complete some classes to graduate on time.

Lately, I have been trying to pick up a lot of shifts to cover the cost because I had to pay out of pocket. The scholarship was able to cover that, and I am grateful to get the scholarship to cover it. I do not have to stress about paying this off, picking up more shifts, and I am able to focus more on school rather than going to work and not having time to study and focus on my education. Especially since I am taking a lot of units, I should be putting more time into my school. With this scholarship, I am able to do that.

At UCI, I learned to be more outgoing and to try to reach out for resources that I think I need. People say apply to scholarships, but I feel like not a lot of people apply to them. I am constantly looking for some to apply to. I am learning to take any resources that I can take that are available to help me. The scholarship has relieved a lot of stress for me.

# UCI STUDY ABROAD CENTER ——— CAMPUS RESOURCE

The UCI Study Abroad Center has been around since the early days of campus. Formerly called the Center for International Education and previously under the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE), the Study Abroad Center was moved under the leadership of the Global Engagement Office in 2017 to align resources with UCI's priorities and strategies in support of global visibility and student activities. Health, safety, and risk management remains a high priority, ensuring that students and faculty preparation and support abroad is reflective of best practices. Always centrally located on campus near the Student Center, the Study Abroad Center is expanding in space as the number of study abroad students' interest and enrollment has grown.

Today the center has remained steadfast in its mission to foster a culture at UCI in which study abroad is expected and achievable for all students with an aim to ensure that UCI students' study abroad experiences help them affect positive change in the world, both locally and globally. The UCI Study Abroad Center works closely with various strategic campus constituencies to support global education and focus their efforts on outreach, advising, and orienting students throughout their process before, during, and after participation. They have employed student workers, typically past participants of study abroad, as a way to outreach and advise, but also to support our own UCI students with professional development and mentorship.

The UCI Study Abroad Center provides services and support to faculty members, staff members, students, and others participating in a student international activity. UCI students can participate in a variety of program options: UCEAP, UCI Faculty-led programs, UCI Bilateral Exchange programs, UCI Consortia programs, independent programs consisting of UCI pre-approved partner programs for credit, financial aid, and other not-for credit opportunities, and other UC programs. The UCI Study Abroad center supports all international practicums, residentials, international independent study, and research opportunities. Programs can vary in many ways and can be short term or year-long.

The Study Abroad Center hosts an annual “Go Abroad Fair” each fall, allowing students to personally engage with the UCI Study Abroad Center, independent program providers, and other UCI campus departments to answer any questions that they may have. The center also visits classrooms, clubs, and community events to present study abroad topics such as academics, housing, financial aid, scholarships, and more. Undergraduates and graduate students can study abroad in almost any country in the world. The center has a Global Risk Manager that helps assess locations for risk and safety as a part of the student’s approval process. Among the most popular destinations for UCI students are South Korea, England, Spain, Italy, and Japan.

The center believes that with advance planning, every student can and should study abroad. They highly recommend that students start the application process early (between 9 to 10 months in advance) to ensure full preparation prior to the student’s departure. This includes making sure that necessary applications are filled out, submitting a campus approval request, and making sure that other academic requirements are met. The Study Abroad Center is committed to making study abroad available and accessible to all students.

# UCI Study Abroad Center

## Where will you go?



[Studyabroad@uci.edu](mailto:Studyabroad@uci.edu)

[studyabroad.uci.edu](http://studyabroad.uci.edu)

[@uciabroad](https://www.instagram.com/uciabroad)



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# Yardi Systems, Inc.

Yardi® Systems is a real estate software company that develops and supports industry-leading investment and property management software for all types and sizes of real estate companies. Founded in 1984 by Anant Yardi, the company has grown to over 9,000 employees in 42 locations across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. At the core of Yardi's success as a company are a series of beliefs and values that both shape the culture of work and guide the creation and constant improvement of Yardi's products. Those beliefs and values include: integrity, trust, communication, respect, innovation, collaboration, and community service.

Yardi is keenly aware of the importance of higher education and of the transformative power that such an education can offer to individual young people. Yardi seeks to create scholarships for incoming scholars with the hope and intention that they will benefit from meaningful educational opportunities. Thus, the Yardi Foundation was established in 2014.

Yardi's educational philanthropic giving specifically focuses on providing partial scho-

larships to highly qualified students with financial need at 20 universities across North America (19 in the United States and 1 in Canada). At many schools, including UC Irvine, the scholarship is awarded to students majoring in business; at UC Irvine specifically, the scholarship is available to students who are majoring within the Paul Merage School of Business, the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science, or the Henry Samueli School of Engineering. The hope is that students who receive the scholarship will feel financially supported by the scholarship and perform well enough in courses to maintain the scholarship for all four years of college.

Yardi anticipates that having a collection of Yardi scholars across North America will also develop collective learning and networking opportunities for their scholars that both build community and support the scholars' future career interests. Networking can be a critical element to creating career opportunities and success, and so Yardi is mindful of developing such experiences for their scholars as well as helping to fund classroom learning.

***"Supporting education is a core pillar of Yardi's corporate philanthropy. We believe in the life-changing impact of a college degree, especially for first-generation scholars, and we are thrilled to partner with UCI to help these students achieve their goals."***

***- Jay Shobe, Senior Vice President***

# Building Binational Bridges

## A CROSS-BORDER CONVENING

The UCI Scholarships Department recently had the privilege of providing scholarships and collaborating with the UCI DREAM Center and the UCI Center for Liberation Anti-Racisms and Belonging (C-LAB) on an extraordinary event that has left a lasting impact on our students, staff, and faculty. The Building Binational Bridges Convening in Mexico City was an incredible opportunity for our participants to connect, learn, and build meaningful relationships.

Partnerships were established with UC Alianza MX and Otro Dreams en accion. These organizations played a pivotal role in supporting and empowering our students throughout their time in Mexico City. UC Alianza MX, a UC system-wide initiative, focuses on strengthening ties with Mexican institutions and creating opportunities for collaboration. Otro Dreams en accion, a grassroots organization, aims to amplify the voices and experiences of undocumented students.

Through these partnerships, our students were able to connect with local experts, activists, and community leaders who provided valuable insights and guidance. These interactions sparked meaningful conversations, inspired innovative ideas, and encouraged our students to become agents of change within their communities. Activities in the convening aimed to have participants discover, remember, and (re)write one's immigration story, explore one's cultural and racial/ethnic identity through cultural exploration sessions, build connections with undocumented, returned, and deported immigrants, and identify avenues for liberation and belonging in the U.S. and Mexico.

Click the button below to watch the highlights from the 2023 Building Binational Bridges: A Cross Border Convening!

[CLICK HERE](#)

