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: **Benjamin Kuhlman**

Title of Project: **Munich: Discovering the European Future**

Thematic Area(s): **Global Studies, Creativity**

Expected Start Date: **June 1st, 2015**

Expected End Date: **June 30th, 2015**

**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?*

This summer I plan to take a program to Munich through the German department at the University of Cincinnati. This program is a four-week language course with the option of taking additional courses to satisfy college credits. The program also has side trips throughout Munich and the adjoining countryside along with a significant amount of free time for student to explore the city and immerse them into Bavarian culture. During this downtime I would aim to explore the culture of Munich and how modern Europe is influencing the once medieval city. While I may find some relevant information during the itinerary of the program, this experience would clearly supplement this existing opportunity. Such topics would include the economic situation in Greece, migrant crisis, and other significant geo-political and economic conflicts currently facing Europe. I will study this through examining happenings throughout the city, seeking out new sources in Munich, and documentation through a mixture of many artistic mediums such as photography, poetry, and articles. Additionally, I will analyze how the mentality and culture of German and the entirety of Europe influence general perceptions.

The details of the program are very loosely specified at this moment, but I will update them as I am released dates and times by the German department. Itinerary at present is a departure date around June 1st and return around June 30th per the website, <http://www.artsci.uc.edu/departments/german/study-abroad/munich.html>.

This experience is personally meaningful for several reasons. Chiefly, is my personal passion for Germany and the German language. I have a strong cultural heritage with German and it is a language that is spoken with varying levels of proficiency by my parents and two older sisters. Along with this, I share a passion for the culture of the German-speaking world. I thoroughly enjoy studying German history, reading German literature, and partaking in German cuisine. Lastly, German is something I look to intertwine with my career path. I am majoring in Operations Management, which is very relevant to Germany, as the country is a sizeable manufacturing hub. Cincinnati alone has numerous American firms operating in Germany or German firms operating in America located in the metropolitan area. The Operations Management field is very receptive to the German language and German companies play a large role in the field. Through this understanding of contemporary Munich, I will have an advantage in competitive positions with components including work with German companies or work in Germany. I am also considering the idea of adding International Business as a discipline for my study. This trip would help me discover if it is a course load I would like to pursue. Through this investigation of potential degrees, this project would be great to present and discuss with other students how my experience on this study abroad led to my degree choices.

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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.

Dr. Eckard Rademann

723 Old Chemistry Building

Phone: (513) 556-2757

Email: [eckard.rademann@uc.edu](mailto:eckard.rademann@uc.edu)

Dr. Eckard Rademann is the professor in the German department at the University of Cincinnati who is leading this trip. He has conducted a trip to Munich for numerous years and is one of the most informed staff members at the University of Cincinnati in regards to the state of contemporary Munich. I plan to utilize Dr. Rademann by discussing with him the best quarters of the city to explore to uncovering some of the new aspects and trends occurring in Munich. Along with this direction, I would use Dr. Rademann as a check for if my work was worth investigating more into or if I should look for new directions for political and economic developments around the city.

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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.*

**1. Summarize the interconnectedness of geography, history, cultural traits and world issues.**

The basis of the project is to develop a deeper understanding for how current issues facing Europe politically and economically will impact its future. Seeking out forums where Europeans are demonstrating feelings towards the situations and scenarios facing Europe will fulfill this. This will be executed by finding political rallies, reading editorial articles, speaking with locals, and more. After gathering this information, I will examine how the German personality and culture affects general perspective upon these new developments. Beyond this, I would analyze how German perceptions are heavily influenced through their history and cultural traits. This would likely take the entirety of the trip, with free time being spent finding some of these activities.

**2. Demonstrate a sense of empathy, respect, and appreciation for others to build meaningful cross-cultural collaborations toward mutual growth and prosperity.**

It is incredibly important to develop a strong sense of appreciation for the diversity of perspective. Compared to how American media outlets perceive European conflicts, this project would help develop for myself greater breadth of understanding. Rather than the simple assumption of facts, this mission will help enable me to find greater appreciation for the well-rounded number of views in Munich. Cross-cultural collaboration is incredibly important for my desire to work with German companies and this project would help me incredibly for future career goals. Ultimately, this project would help grow interpersonal skills that would lead to building strong collaborations and my own quantity of empathy and appreciation. Again, this would be executed throughout the month-long experience mainly during time outside of class.

**3. Explore a new creative competency/medium or seek new ways to engage an existing competency/medium.**

Creative competencies that I would desire to explore would be through photography and poetry. I was fortunate to win a Scholastic Gold Key Award last year for poetry and it is a discipline that I thoroughly enjoy and would want to explore. Potentially through this medium I could develop a new understanding of this topic and demonstrate the information gained in a fresh way. I would also like to potentially explore these topics through editorials and photographs so that I could create a compact and informative glance at how Munich is developing with the modern world. Through these outlets, I could not only cultivate my own skills but create entertaining platforms for others to understand my work and project. Outside of class and likely before going to bed is the peak time of my creativity for writing poetry. Otherwise photos would be collected throughout the trip and my various experiences.

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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.

**Munich: Hofbräuhaus and History - Beer, Culture, and Politics**

Jeffrey S. Gaab

This text will help give me a strong baseline understanding of the development and culture of Munich so I will be sufficiently informed in major events that have taken place in the city over time. It is in no way definitive, but a valuable resource to increase my understanding of the city and its history.

In addition to this text, I will be using potential content in the classes I will take during this program, texts and excerpts read in context to these courses, and information shared with me by my advisor.

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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.

For my on-going reflection, I will journal how the experience is progressing. During my journaling I will reflect on the progression of the experience and any developments I may adapt to the experience. Along with this I will be journaling how the entire program and experience is affecting me in total. The journal will also be easy to chart the progress of the experience. Below are additional questions and topics I will address in this journal:

1. How life is adjusting to the environment of Munich?

2. Major incidents and news stories happening in Munich.

3. Developing perspectives about current events.

4. Comparing Munich to Cincinnati in various regards.

5. What is challenging me the most in this experience?

6. Could I adjust well to the business environment in Munich?

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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.

This presentation could be presented to any students interested in German and/or International Business. I could combine my findings into a pamphlet, an article published in The News Record, or even a presentation for German or International Business undergrads. Through these ways, I could access more people than through social media while also capturing the most interested audience who would be interested in one of these formats. My preferred method would be to do a PowerPoint presentation and discussion with interested students. I could market this with the German or International Business department as an event for interested students to hear about a relevant topic. Through this I could share my findings in a cross-sectional view of contemporary Munich to students interested in the related major, effectively being the best-targeted audience. I could then help advise students from my experience during these presentations in any questions they had about these degrees. If I was able to help these students decide on a major, that would be an incredibly fulfilling way to share my learning.

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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.*

Program Fee: $2,600

International Student ID: $22

Airfare: $1,700\*

\*Estimated airfare from 11/7/2015

The sources of this information is from the website for the UC Munich Program. Airfare data was collected by searching on Delta’s website and checking on kayak.com. Lower fares can hopefully be found and I will continue to estimate the best possible cost for the airfare. Additionally various items such as journals, a camera for photographs, and writing utensils are already in my ownership and would not need to be covered.

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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.