

International House Gateway Fellows 2015-16

Gateway Fellowships:

The Chevron-Xenel Gateway Fellowship in Public Health (MPH)

Dania Orta Aleman is a new UC Berkeley student in the Masters of Public Health at UC Berkeley this fall. She hails from Mexico City, Mexico. She has previously done research on the prevalence, determinants and consequences of food insecurity in older adults in Mexico. Dania has also collaborated in the design of a community-based intervention to improve the management of diabetes among older adults in poor urban settings.

The Chevron-Xenel Gateway PhD Fellowship

Yuem Park just began his PhD studies in the Earth and Planetary Science department at UC Berkeley. He is from Australia and is also a rugby player and violinist. Yuem completed his bachelor's degree at Princeton University graduating in geoscience with honors. He feels fortunate to have done his academic field work in Ethiopia this past summer.

The Eltoukhy East-West Gateway Fellowship

Gözde Demirer was born in Istanbul, Turkey and is a new Ph.D. student in Chemical Engineering. She graduated from Koc University ranking first in the graduating class. She also volunteers with a community foundation to help deserving students improve their math and science skills. Gözde's research focus is on developing novel nanomaterials for cancer diagnosis and therapy.

The EWJ Gateway Fellowship

Luke Patterson is a new graduate student in Anthropology, focusing on Studies in Folklore. He is of Koori descent and grew up Dharawal Country where he was the only aboriginal student in his school. He trained in classical viola performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and continued graduate studies in Linguistics and Creative Writing. His research focuses on bio-regional identities and consciousness expressed through cultural forms across borders, such as those ordinarily separating academics and performance, as well as elite and vernacular cultural spheres.

The Carl & Betty Helmholtz Gateway Fellowship

Vetri Velan is a first-year graduate student from New Jersey working towards his Ph.D. in Physics with a likely focus on experimental particle physics. He is also a Graduate Student Instructor for Physics 7B, an introductory course covering the fundamentals of thermodynamics and electromagnetism.

The Joe Lurie Returning Peace Corps Volunteer Gateway Fellowship

Laura Sofen is a first-year graduate student in the chemistry doctoral program here at UC Berkeley. From 2011-2014, Laura served as an agriculture extension agent with the Peace Corps in the Comarca Ngabe-Bugle, an indigenous territory in the mountains of western Panama. She also worked with the program Universidad al Campo to encourage local youth to enroll in and complete degrees at the University of Panama's agriculture program. Since returning from Panama, she continues to enjoy mentoring young adults in science and hopes to eventually do research in areas of significant societal concern and scientific interest, such as energy or green chemistry.

Allan and Kathleen Rosevear Gateway Fellowship

Deepthi Gorthi coming from India, is a new Ph.D. student in Astronomy. She describes herself as a quiet girl from the noisy capital of Andhra Pradesh, India who has had a passion for science since she was a young child. She will be working on an astrophysics instrumentation project.

The Adrian Hao Yin Ü Gateway Fellowship

Hongxu Ma, from China, is a new Ph.D. student in Geography. He received a number of academic awards and scholarships including the National Scholarship that is "China's highest honor of scholarship". He developed several algorithms as part of his Masters research for which he independently applied for, and was awarded software copyrights and a national patent. Hongxu writes that he is motivated to study hydrology as a way to address the various ills inflicting the developing world.

Norway House Foundation Gateway Fellowship

Jonas Tungodden from Norway is a continuing Ph.D. student in Economics. Jonas did his undergraduate studies at the University of Bergen, where he earned degrees in Economics and Mathematics. As part of his undergraduate training, Jonas also spent time at McGill University, Renmin University of China and UC Berkeley. His research interests include labor, development and behavioral economics. Upon completion of his Ph.D., he plans to teach.

Joan and Egon von Kaschnitz Gateway Fellowship

Maria Eckstein from Germany, is a new Ph.D. student in Psychology (the Cognitive Neuroscience area of Psychology). Maria was awarded a 1-year scholarship for university – which gave her the necessary self-confidence to apply as the first in her family to pursue higher education. Her Study Abroad Professor at UC Berkeley saw her potential and encouraged her to apply for the Ph.D. program here. Maria dreams about doing even more research, asking and answering fundamental

questions about the human mind and brain and mentoring and teaching young people to be curious and open-minded, and changing the world by a little bit.

The Daniel Mouen-Makoua Gateway Fellowship

Allan Ogwang from Uganda, is a continuing Ph.D. student in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He graduated from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania with honors in Civil and Transportation Engineering -- and was also awarded the best final year student prize in the Civil Engineering department. He received his MSc. in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley in 2013. He worked for an NGO after his undergraduate work while he made plans for graduate studies.

The Open Gateway Fellowship

Paria Rashidinejad is a new Ph.D. Student in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science. She is from Iran where she excelled at the Sharif University of Technology, the leading technical university in Iran. She ranked at the top of a class of 176 and has been able to overcome the discouragement of being a woman in a male-dominated discipline.

The Rafael Rodriguez / Golden Age Fellowship

Hande GÖKŞİN UĞUR is a new graduate student in Jurisprudence and Social Policy. She was born in İstanbul, Turkey. Until recently, she was a Research Assistant at Boğaziçi University, Department of Political Science and International Relations. Along with her native language of Turkish, she is proficient in English and also speaks German.

The Rafael Rodriguez Golden Age Fellowship was established in 1989 as a tribute to the late Rafael Rodriguez who was an I-House Alumnus. His I-House friends established this endowment fund for a deserving international student. This Fellowship was a model for the following Gateway Fellowships.