

# ALL THINGS UDA

*The Monthly Newsletter of University Degrees Abroad*



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES!

For the first time since the establishment of UDA, we are proud to announce that some of our undergraduate students will graduate from the University of Chester this year. Several of our students have completed their postgraduate studies as well. To celebrate this milestone, we hear from two of our postgraduate students regarding their experiences with UDA and their programs.

### HEARING FROM THE CLASS OF 2021: NATE SHIPLEY

*MSc, Strength and Conditioning, Leeds Beckett University*

"The graduate program has been a great experience. Getting my Master's has definitely opened my eyes to career opportunities and helped set me on a more clear path. COVID has made in-person practical learning very difficult, but more positively it has allowed me more flexibility with my studies as I had to return home during the U.K. lockdown.

UDA was instrumental in my application process, I had not thought about getting a degree abroad before they contacted me. Everyone from UDA was extremely helpful with the student loan, visa, and application process which can seem very overwhelming at times. When things open up a bit more this summer, my fiancé and I are going to travel around the U.K. and parts of Europe where possible. Most likely I will return home to Colorado after that."



# CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER CLASS OF 2021

*We wish you all the best for all that you pursue!*

Alex Meyers  
Gayson Davies  
Jackson Padilla  
Jayson Phoebus

David Ryan  
Hunter Montemayor  
Jak Eddings  
Mazin Elhassan  
Thirait (Steve) Thomas

DJ Jennings  
Isaiah Collins  
James Suiter  
Myles Williams

## WHERE THE GRADUATES ARE NOW: INTRODUCING JULIAN ALEXANDER '17

I attended Leeds Beckett University underneath the UDA program and studied filmmaking. I went to the school because it was very competitive and it was just really nice to be in a place that wasn't New Mexico, where I used to live. Being in the UK gave me a chance to get an understanding of different cultures. My program allowed me to explore my own kind of creative journey, which made me grow so much stronger as a person. I've developed so many skills and met people from all around the world as a result of being [at Leeds Beckett]. I got the chance to go everywhere due to the films that I created in the program. Some of my most successful works, mainly a film named *Leo*, are the reasons why I am in the position that I am now — that is, being a university professor, which I got hired to teach the same year I graduated. And I've been teaching across different schools since, first at New Mexico State University and also at El Paso Community College. I currently teach at the University of East London as a lecturer, where I'm also completing my PhD.

At Leeds Beckett, I wrote a film about a French man smuggling people from France to England. I'm from the borderlands, so topics like that were something that was very familiar to me, and when I came over here to Europe, this idea of borders had multiplied. The film, *Leo*, ended up being one of my most successful projects to this day. The movie went to a lot of places — the highlight is probably the fact that we were flown to a festival in Egypt by the film festival. We were nominated for a postgraduate student award at the BFI London Film Festival for the film as well. These are opportunities I never even knew existed for me. Those moments and those things were a direct result of the opportunities that UDA provided.

The brilliant thing about this program is that I wouldn't have been the same if I was somewhere



*Master's of Fine Arts, Leeds Beckett University*

else who knows, that could have been a different trajectory — but I had so much success in my graduate program. It was the best decision I could have made,

In the long run, I would like to be making films full-time, but this is such a great intermediary situation I'm in. I get a paycheck for teaching about film and I'm developing my skills at the same time, and as a result that gives me all the time in the world to actually develop other projects."