

# SELF-DESIGNED EXPERIENCE PROPOSAL

## GUIDELINES

- **Timeline:** Submit proposals to the UHP database by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. Proposals should be submitted one month prior to the expected start date of the experience. International travel experiences require at least two months' notice.
- **Format:** Maintain the proposal format (e.g. headers, layout). Do not delete boxes.
- **Submission process:** Access the UHP Database (<https://webapps.uc.edu/uchonorsstudent>). Add a new record in the "Tracking Project" tab and upload your proposal document as an attachment (Word documents only – no PDFs).

*Note regarding Financial Aid and Honors Grants: All proposals with a grant request are reviewed in collaboration with the Office of Student Financial Aid. There is no guarantee of grant funding nor of a specific grant amount. Honors grant awards are typically 20% or less of the approved budget. The quality of your proposal can also impact a grant award. Honors grants are posted to students' accounts as scholarships and can affect an individual student's financial aid. Some students may not be eligible to receive a grant due to their financial aid status. If awarded an honors grant, students acknowledge full awareness of possible financial aid implications.*

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

All self-designed international travel experiences must be at least one week in length. You must provide a detailed itinerary (dates, locations and activities). If you are proposing travel independent of UC faculty, staff or a UC student group, you must submit your self-designed proposal by the following deadlines:

- October 5 – winter break experiences
- January 5 – spring break experiences
- March 5 – May/June experiences
- April 5 – July/August experiences
- June 5 – fall experiences

All independent, international honors experiences require a completed Worldwide Honors Experience application through UC International. UC International will verify successful completion of the application before an experience can be approved. Additionally, the [Student Travel Policy](#) restricts UC-sponsored travel to countries under a [U.S. Department of State Travel Warning](#). Those who wish to visit a country with a travel warning must seek an [exemption](#) 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.***

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

*Assumption of Risks: The honors experience and related experiential learning as described below may contain certain inherent risks that cannot not be eliminated. Aware of the risks, dangers, and hazards known and unknown to me, I agree individually, and on behalf of my heirs, successors, assigns and personal representatives, to **ASSUME AND ACCEPT ALL THE RISKS, DANGERS, HAZARDS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES** resulting in or arising from my participation in the experience.*

*Your e-signature, which will be completed in the UHP database prior to proposal submission, confirms that you acknowledge that you have read the entire proposal, that you understand its terms, that you have had the time and opportunity to read and ask questions regarding the proposal, you are fully aware of possible financial aid and tuition implications, and that you have signed it knowingly and voluntarily.*

## **Basic Information**

Full Name: Robin Bearss  
Title of Experience: Cosplay Adventures  
**Thematic Area(s):** Creativity  
Expected Start Date: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Expected End Date: July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### **Personal Connection**

#### **Section must include:**

- Explanation of why this experience matters to you
- Explanation of how this experience will help you progress toward becoming a **global citizen scholar**

*I think it's important for people to be creative in their lives and workplaces. There are many people who can simply follow the rules to get someplace, but less who can find a new way to get there using creativity and ingenuity. Creativity provides people with innovative ideas, as well as an outlet to express themselves. I greatly enjoy when a certain character is portrayed in a specific way by using aesthetics that correspond to their attitude and personality. I also admire when people mimic those costumes to emulate those character traits. That is why I find this project to be of importance; I believe creativity is something that will help me stand out in today's world, and allow me to improve my critical thinking skills. It will also allow me to further enhance my problem-solving skills and technical abilities, which will in turn help me progress as a global citizen scholar.*

Advisor Revisions/Feedback

### **Abstract**

#### **Section must include:**

- Brief description of the experience and explanation of how you will reach the 75+ hours requirement
- Description of risks (if any) inherent in this experience and safety precautions you will take
- Itinerary, including locations and dates, for any travel experience

*For my proposed honor's experience, I plan on constructing a costume which I will make using various materials, and tools. Some examples of these include: pipe cleaners, a hot glue gun, a blow torch, or colored construction paper. First, I will draw a sketch of the desired finished product, including any additional accessories to the side. I will then discern which materials to use for which pieces of the costume, and what methods I will use to hold them together. A list will be made of the materials I need (such as cloth, pieces of cardboard, foam, felt, tape, etc....) and will then be obtained either from my household or the store. These articles will be put together to generate the desired final product. Although the specific costume I wish to make is yet to be determined, I will make sure to choose one that involves complex tasks to last me up to four months. I will also make sure that the costume I choose to make has components of the production process that I have never encountered before, and therefore am not comfortable with. If I discover that the costume I choose requires a significantly shorter time frame than expected, I will start creating another costume after the first one is completed. Everything that I will complete for the first costume will also be completed for the second costume. I plan on working on the costume for six hours every week- two hours on Monday, two hours on Wednesday, and two hours on Friday. This will account for 78 hours of work on my experience. Additionally, at the end of the week I will record a 10 to 15-minute reflection video of myself, answering a series of questions that are listed below in the "ON-GOING REFLECTION" part of the proposal. I also plan on documenting all the planning I do for this project, and uploading that onto my honor's website along with my video reflections. This experience will start on the first Monday of May and continue until the last Saturday in July, on which I will film my final, 20-minute reflection. I will have a total of about 91 hours put into this experience at the end of the time allotment. After the product(s) are complete, I will showcase them at a convention, and engage in conversation about costumes with others who dressed up. I plan on documenting my convention experiences by filming them, and possibly doing so for the conversations I have as well. Different things will have to be introduced to me and I will have to become proficient enough to use them efficiently on my project. I will most likely have to research methods and materials for most steps along the way. This could take anywhere from two to five hours a week depending on how hard the technique is to understand/master. Different things around my house, at the store or that can be found in nature may be*

utilized. Collecting these items will not be included in the time allotment, and will be done with my own money (if applicable) and time.

Also, for sections of the costume making where I will need more than two hands- or must wear the apparatus I am working on to alter it- I will ask one or more of my family members to help me.

My personal connection with this experience evolves from my love of Japanese culture and Halloween. Cosplay is an art form originating from Japan that allows one to express themselves, while simultaneously occupying another's persona. The word can be separated into its literal meaning "costume play". Halloween is celebrated in a similar sense, with children dressing up like scary monsters or ghouls. I find the idea of preparing a disguise and wearing it both intriguing, and enticing. Conventions are also something that interests me because the sense of community is very high, with sometimes complete strangers reenacting different scenes from their favorite show. I am interested in gathering information on those kinds of situations as well.

Some sub-goals I have for the experience include: learning how to choose what materials to use for different processes, learning to use tools that are foreign to me, learning how to fit the costume to my measurements, and becoming familiar enough with the materials I work with so that I can use similar techniques for future projects. My more specific experiential and personal goals can be found in the GOALS RELATED TO THEMATIC AREA(S) section of this proposal. This experience will involve many hours spent creating things and using my imagination to envision what I want things to look like, which is why I chose creativity as my thematic area.

Possible risks result mainly from the tools I might use. I will account for these risks by making sure I have read directions of all unfamiliar materials, and will take all recommended safety precautions (ex: taking the project outside if spray painting to diminish my exposure to fumes). I also plan on having another adult present if I am using a tool I feel particularly uncomfortable with (ex: table saw).

The convention I plan on attending is called "Buckeye Comic Con". I used the following website to find the convention date closest to the end date of the project: <http://www.popculthq.com/2017/06/01/comic-con-cosplay-convention-list/>. The con is from 10-4pm on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and is in the Akron/Canton area. Admission is \$4 (additional sources can be found in the BUDGETING section of this proposal). Since the convention is a few weeks before the end of my project, I can focus on using the feedback I received at the convention to improve upon my costume for the sequential weeks. This will allow me to have the most ideal form of my project by the end of July.

Advisor Revisions/Feedback:

## **Advisor**

### **Section must include:**

- Experience advisor name and contact information
- Description of why advisor was selected
- Specific plans to engage with advisor

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

*Dr. Joni Stoll*

*Band Director for Southeast High School*

*330-297-6402*

*jstoll@sepirates.org*

*I chose Dr. Stoll as my academic advisor because she has been an extremely influential role model in my life. I played clarinet in high school under her direction, and had such a positive experience that I continue playing today, participating in the Bearcat Marching Bands here at UC. Although music is extremely different from costume design, it is not unrelated. I learned many valuable creative skills while developing my instrumental abilities, such as improvisational skills and focusing on many parts of a whole and how they interact (players in a band vs. pieces of a costume). I plan on emailing Dr. Stoll to discuss my plans and procedures of this experience. I feel she will give me helpful advice, and support me when I am having difficulties. I plan on doing so at least once per two weeks to update her on my progress and acquire assistance if needed.*

I also plan on contacting my second cousin, who has been involved with cosplay for at least 4 years. I will contact her via Facebook, since we live in different states, and ask for advice about particularly hard processes involving complex materials.

Advisor Revisions/Feedback:

### **Goals Related to Thematic Area(s)**

#### **Section must include:**

- Two specific and measurable **experience** goals related to chosen [thematic area\(s\)](#) outlining the intended results/outcomes/achievements
- Two specific **personal** goals related to chosen [thematic area\(s\)](#) outlining how you hope to grow as a result of this experience
- Examples of activities and explanation of how each will assist in the progress toward the goals

*Throughout this experience there will be multiple paths that I can take to accomplish the same task. Different types of paints, plastic pieces, and materials in general could alter the functionality and presentation of the costume. Being aware of the different choices and using information such as available funding and time frame to discern which path to pursue is necessary, and facilitates smooth transitions between segments. If I have prepared for what I want to do, specifically, then the process going forward will be easier. For every different segment of the costume I work on, I plan on creating a written or drawn plan for the process. This should take up to two hours a week of the time I spend working on the costume. I also plan on sketching my costume before I engage in the activities required to make it. I have never done this before, but I believe it will improve the flow of the experience significantly by providing a form of my costume that I can readily access when dealing with troubles. This should take up (at the most) the first week of the process. My first experience goal is to improve upon my planning skills. I will measure my success by comparing the plans I lay out for each process. The more organized the plan, the more effective it will be and the more knowledge I have about what exactly I want to do. I will include pictures of all these plans on my honor's website, when the project is finished.*

*Although I have created costumes before, I have never set out with such a high expectancy level before. I plan on doing my best to make a costume at the highest level of outward appearance and functionality that I am capable of producing. Adding details to the costume could unearth questions like how to add color or shading in a certain place. The knowledge I gain from this critical thinking can help lead me to a better finished design. The finished product will hopefully take the entire time allotment to complete, but protocol for finishing early would simply be to start a new costume. For this new costume, the difficulty of manufacturing should correlate with how much time is left until the end of the project. My experience will grow from either a single costume or a conglomeration of what I had time to accomplish; either way I will be bettering my knowledge of the subject and my ability to create. I will, throughout this experience, develop new skills that I can utilize in future projects. Improved dexterity, concentration, and knowledge of tools used are some examples of things that will improve over the total duration. This is my first experience goal. I will measure my progress with the questions I plan on answering during my reflections (these can be found in the "ON-GOING REFLECTION" section).*

*A personal goal I have for myself is stepping out of my comfort zone. When I attend the convention, I will be displaying an original work. I may get negative feedback. Part of my goal is to realize that constructive criticism is part of the process and necessary for continued growth. I also plan on engaging with total strangers about their feelings and costume methods. Normally, I would not approach people on the street and strike up a conversation in this way. Doing this will help me become more comfortable starting conversations and more confident with what I can do. I will measure my success for this goal by how confident I felt at the convention, and how comfortable I would be doing the same thing at another one.*

*Another personal goal I have set for myself is to enhance my schedule-following abilities. I oftentimes set deadlines for myself that I do not meet. For this project I plan to increase my self-discipline skills and stick to my original time line and schedule. This is a skill I need to master for not only my future schooling and job, but also life in general. Setting up a project schedule and following it shows determination, self-motivation, proactivity, and integrity. These are things I would like to imbue onto myself, and I think that this project is an excellent way to start working on it. I plan to measure my success by how much I stick to the original schedule.*

*I will address all four of these goals and whether I believe I have accomplished them or not in my final reflection.*

Advisor Revisions/Feedback:

### **Academic Resources Connected to the Goals**

#### **Section must include:**

- Two to three academic resources connected to your goals
- Title and author of each resource
- Description of how resources will help make progress toward the goals

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

*Cosplay Basics: A Beginner's Guide to the Art of Costume Play by Yuki Takasou*

*This book has tips and tricks for making your own cosplays, wearing wigs and makeup, and attending events in costume. This informational guide will help me better understand how to prepare for a convention and how to get the most out of the costume I will have made, as well as techniques I can choose from to build it in the first place. I think it would be a good idea to read sections of the book before I start making my costume so I can reference it during the creative process, and so I have a better idea of what to expect from an outing in my costume.*

*My Love Letter to Cosplay*

*TED Talk by Adam Savage*

*This speech, made by the former co-host of Myth Busters, is inspiring to say the least. It is also very informative about the comic con discourse community. He talks about how people choose a pose for their costume and even practice certain gestures or behaviors so that when people film them or take pictures they are as accurate as possible. I hadn't known about this before watching the talk, and it is going to be a great resource for when I travel with my costume.*

*I also plan on utilizing the YouTube channels "Glam&Gore" and "AlysonTabbitha" as they provide some excellent tips as far as examples on how to use specific materials and exorbitant costume accents I might utilize.*

Advisor Revisions/Feedback:

### **On-going Reflection**

#### **Section must include:**

- Method for ongoing reflection
- List questions you plan to ask yourself to gauge your growth related to your goals as well as understanding of the selected thematic area(s)

*The on-going reflection should help you process the experience and progress toward the goals you have identified.*

*Note: A variety of methods can be used for reflection. Some examples are videos, drawings, blogs, songs, and journals.*

*My method for documenting my progress and feelings toward the costume making process is to film myself any time I work on it. Editing techniques, such as time lapsing the film during tedious tasks or skipping repetitive sections will help cut down on time. These will be utilized when I upload the videos to YouTube and my honor's website. I will also do a reflection segment every week where I will answer the following questions:*

*What new techniques have I utilized?*

*What obstacles have I encountered?*

*What overall feelings about the product so far do I have?*

*What would I have done differently this week?*

*How does the costume look at this moment?*

*Do you feel as if you have improved upon your skills, technical or otherwise?*

*How excited are you for the outcome?*

*Would you feel proud showing this off to other cosplayers?*

*I will also film myself going to the convention and interviewing/conversing with other cosplayers. What I will discuss with them is located below in the "SHARING YOUR LEARNING" section. I also plan on documenting all of the plans for the different segments of my costume, either in written or drawn formats.*

Advisor Revisions/Feedback:

### **Sharing Your Learning**

#### **Section must include:**

- At least one method to actively share what you learned focused on growth connected to thematic area(s)
- A specific audience and why the audience was selected

*While social media can be an effective platform for sharing, only posting on your learning portfolio or social media account(s) does not reach a targeted audience. Consider signing up for the [Global Citizen Scholar Showcase](#) as a method of sharing.*

*I plan on posting all my reflections both on <www.youtube.com> and on my learning portfolio so it will be publicly accessible. I also plan on putting my planning schematics on my learning portfolio. People who search for me directly will then have access to my reflections and can find out more about me in that way. In addition to this I plan on wearing my costume to a convention where I will ask people I meet to exchange costume making stories with me. The convention admission fee is \$4. This will provide some people (who also make costumes) with some information about how I did things while also gathering potentially new information from them. I can use this information to potentially improve my costume. I chose this audience because their presence at the convention indicates that they have a passion for cosplay and are knowledgeable in the subject. They will more than likely be willing to discuss more about the topic. I aim to talk to 10-25 people, and will be filming these conversations (with the participants permission). I will also provide any of the additional things that I learn from them in my final reflection video.*

Advisor Revisions/Feedback:

### **Budget (if applicable)**

#### **Section must include:**

- Itemized budget of expenditures with sources to justify estimates (review information on [Honors Grants](#))
- If you are engaged in an **unpaid internship or research**, please indicate the number of weeks and hours per week you plan to participate

*Convention Admission Price: \$4.00*

<http://www.harpercomics.com/conventions.php?show=13&date=137>

*Gas Prices: \$3.00*

*My car holds 14 gallons. It takes me five hours to need a refill.  $5 \text{ hours} * 60 \text{ minutes} = 300 \text{ minutes per tank.}$ ,  $300 \text{ minutes} / 14 \text{ gallons} = 21 \text{ minutes per one gallon.}$*

*From my house in Ravenna to the Akron/Canton area is 20 min. One gallon of gas costs around \$3.*

*Total Budget: \$7.00*

Advisor Revisions/Feedback: