# The UnCollege Gap Year Program

*Do you believe you can change the world and you don't want to wait four years?*

**There's a better path to success.**

**Click here to apply to the UnCollege Gap Year.**

UnCollege is launching a Gap Year program to take ten people through a year long process of self-directed learning.  The program will involve three months in San Francisco learning how to create your own learning plans, three months living abroad, three months pursuing a creative project, and three months doing an internship.

**PARTICIPANTS WILL COMPLETE WORK IN FOUR PRIMARY AREAS:**

- *The Effective Self* – Develop the habits and practices of successful people, understand the depths of who you are and what you want to contribute.  Actualize all that you can be.
- *Hackademics* – Practice the basic and advanced skills required to participate in today's information economy.  From Math and Programming, to Design and Communication, you'll quickly pick up skills above and beyond any college curriculum.
- *Common Experiences* – Share adventures around the world with an awesome cadre of UnCollege Fellows, and visit pockets of great people and innovation across the globe.  Have jobs and experiences that connect you with both the world's elite and the rest of humanity.
- *Common Understanding* – Learn the equivalent of a liberal arts education, developing a foundation of knowledge that bridges cultures and fosters meaningful connections across disciplines and boundaries.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

We have built a custom-designed program to teach fellows the skills that are requisite for success in the real world but are never taught in school. Program participants will:

- Live abroad for three months
- Build your personal brand.  Speak at a conference, Write an op-ed for a major news outlet.  Build a personal website
- Work in the service and labor economy
- Build a portfolio of academic and professional work that will get you audience anywhere
- Find an internship and work in the real world.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

The cost for the entire 12-month program is $13,000.  The year will be divided into four segments: three months in San Francisco, three months abroad, three months doing an internship, three months doing an independent project.

For that sum you'll get:

- Three months of housing in San Francisco
- The custom-designed hackademics curriculum
- $2,000 in travel stipend to design your three-month trip
- Access to an elite network of mentors from around the world
- Our help in finding an awesome internship

**To apply to the Gap Year, click here.**

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**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

What do you need to be an UnCollege Gap Year Participant?

For legal reasons, you must be over eighteen to participate.  However, we welcome more than *just* eighteen year-olds.  If you're eighteen to twenty-eight we encourage you to apply.  You can have either a high school diploma, college degree, neither, or both.  We really don't care about that.

What are we looking for:

- **Extraordinary Intelligence.**  Are you clever enough to help solve the world's hardest problems?
- **Unstoppable Motivation.** Are you motivated enough to create your own destiny?
- **Unflappable Integrity.**  Can people count on you to live up to your responsibilities and do the right thing?

If these qualities sound like you to the *nth degree*, apply for the UnCollege Gap Year and create your own destiny.

# What Will I Learn?

The UnCollege Gap Year Program consists of four stages. Each stage lasts around three months.

| | |
|---|---|
| LAUNCH PAD | The Gap Year starts with a ten week residential program in San Francisco. Participants live together in a shared house, and pursue a set of challenges designed to develop the skills necessary for lifelong self-directed learning. Members of the UnCollege team provide one-to-one assistance and mentoring. |
| VOYAGE | Participants spend three months in a country they have never been to before, and where they do not speak the language. Whether it's working on an organic farm in Spain, teaching English to kids in Nepal, or learning karate in Japan, the UnCollege team will help you to organize your voyage and give you $2,000 towards your expenses. |
| INTERNSHIP | Drawing on our network of contacts in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, the UnCollege team will help you secure an internship with a company or NGO that is looking for dynamic young people like you. We've had companies like Google and IDEO reach out to us to find people who aren't constrained by the mindset of school. |
| PROJECT | Finally, the biggest challenge of all – create a real project that someone pays you for! Whether it be a mobile app, an art exhibit, or an event, if you can get someone to pay you for it, that's a sign the project has real world value. That's more impressive than getting a degree. |

STAGE ONE: LAUNCH PAD

The Launch Pad is a ten-week residential program in San Francisco in which participants focus on becoming more effective learners. Each week focuses on one a different meta-learning skill, from time management and finding mentors to goal setting and mental agility. The program is built around a series of challenges that will help participants to develop these skills in the real world, from building a website and organizing a brain party to developing a network of contacts in Silicon Valley. You will also get help in planning the rest of their Gap Year, including their Voyage and Internship.

STAGE TWO: VOYAGE

All of us at UnCollege are firm believers in the value of spending time in other countries and learning other languages. You can't help learning when you are abroad. That's why each participant in the Gap Year Program completes a three-month Voyage, during which he or she lives and works in a country they have never been to before. One option is to work on one of the organic farms affiliated with WWOOF (Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms). This is a proven way of developing many valuable skills, from adaptability and discipline to cooking and budgeting, as well as meeting people from other cultures. Other options include relief work, studying, and teaching. The UnCollege team will help you to organize your voyage and give you $2,000 towards your expenses.

STAGE THREE: INTERNSHIP

The third stage of the UnCollege Gap Year Program is a three-month internship. This will help participants develop strong teamwork skills balanced with the exercise of individual responsibility, as well as learning how to work to tough deadlines. Internships are also invaluable ways of building professional networking contacts and mentoring relationships. Drawing on our network of contacts in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, the UnCollege team will help you secure an internship with a company or NGO that matches your personal goals.

STAGE FOUR: PROJECT

Participants start hatching ideas for their Project when they start the Gap Year Program, so by the time they finish their Internship they should be in a position to dive into a well-prepared endeavor.  Above all, the Project must have a specific deliverable, such as a mobile app, an art exhibit, or an event – and the participant must convince someone else to pay for it. This will help you learn how to convince other people of the value of your ideas, a vital skill that will help you no matter what direction you pursue after you graduate from UnCollege!

# Meta-learning Curriculum

During the Launch Pad phase of the Gap Year program, UnCollege scholars will work through a series of learning challenges designed to help scholars learn how to learn.  Meta-learning skills are the skills that make you a better and more effective learner which will enable you to learn everything else.  These are the skills that you will use everyday for the rest of your life.

Each week during the Launch Pad phase scholars will focus on learning one meta-skill.  Each week scholars will be given a challenge and the week to complete the task.  For example, to learn the meta-skill of building a community, the challenge might be to organize an event with 100 people in attendance by the end of the week.  These challenges will be lead by the program manager and house director.

Other meta-skills include:

- Advanced communication, negotiation, and speaking
- Empathy and emotional intelligence
- Dynamic problem solving and project management
- Confidence and personal efficacy
- Agency, empowerment, and charisma
- Teaching and learning as a mentor and learner
- Organization and time management
- Self-evaluation and goal-setting
- Self-advocacy
- Self-transformation and re-invention
- Conflict resolution
- Overcoming personal bias and local maxima
- Context-setting and synthesis

Most of the week is for self-directed learning, both individually and in groups. This will be structured in close collaboration with the program manager, who will be on hand for during the day to help participants find resources, solve problems, and keep track of their progress.

There will be six scheduled sessions per week, totaling about 10 contact hours:

1 guest lecture by an invited speaker

1 individual meeting with program manager

4 group meetings (1 per day, Monday – Thursday), consisting of:

- 1 Effective Self session (program manager leads discussion about a particular habit or practice of successful people, including time management, applying for jobs, going to job interviews, understanding your emotions, learning from mistakes, taking calculated risks, networking, innovation and creativity, problem solving, finding your niche, relaxing)

- 1 Hackademic session (skills, including building websites, writing code, basic accounting and invoicing, writing business plans, setting up a company, hardware hacking, graphic design, public speaking, writing content, making videos, data analysis and visualization)

- 1 Experience session (each week, a different person shares a particularly significant experience in their life with the rest of the group, and guides a discussion about what we can all learn from this experience)

- 1 Art session (each week, a different person selects a short story, a movie, a piece of music or some other work of art, and introduces it to the group; then we watch or listen to it together, then we talk about it afterwards)

# Who Are We?

**Dale  Stephens** is the founder of UnCollege and the author of Hacking Your Education (Penguin, 2013). Dale left school at twelve to become an unschooler, the self-directed branch of homeschoolers, and has appeared at TED 2012; on news outlets including CNN, ABC, and NPR; and in New York Magazine and Forbes. His writing has been published in the New York Times, the Washington post, and fast company. Dale has inspired young people all over the world to take control of their education and the Gap Year Program is based on his unique approach to self-directed learning.

**Dylan Evans** is Program Director at UnCollege. Dylan has taught at various universities around the world, written several popular science books, and set up two companies.  He has also led a year-long experiment in sustainable living in the Scottish Highlands, made a film for British TV, and won six research grants. Dylan loves meeting other people with enquiring minds and unconventional approaches, and is deeply skeptical of the idea that school and university are the only way to get an education.

**Jo Welch** is House Director (San Francisco) at UnCollege. Jo has worked in a wide variety of industries, from hospitality to defense to software and technology, as well as running her own specialty bakery and food trailer. Whether building houses with Habitat for Humanity or managing a music venue at South by Southwest, she never passes up the opportunity for a new challenge. Jo is looking forward to meeting the amazing participants in the Gap Year Program and help support them through the challenges to come.

# What Does It Cost?

The Gap Year Program costs $12,000. Here's what you get for your money:

- A ten week intensive residential program in San Francisco (room and board included)

- A chance to learn alongside other educational hackers like you

- Personal guidance by members of the UnCollege team

- Help with finding an internship and planning your voyage

- $2,500 stipend to go abroad for three months

- Access to networks in Silicon Valley

- Practical assistance in building your own learning plan

- Lifelong membership in the UnCollege Gap Year Alumni Community

**What if I can't afford it?**

UnCollege is working with Pave, a new company which allows people to raise equity investment in exchange for future returns. We are committed to finding ways of providing financial support to gifted applicants who cannot afford the full cost of the Gap Year Program themselves. More information on this will come shortly.

# Apply

**Are you smart as hell? Can you keep up with the most rigorous gap year program in the world? Does the future seem uncertain? Do you believe you can change the world and you don't want to wait four years? There's a better path to success.  Click here to apply to the UnCollege Gap Year.**

**INTRODUCING The UnCollege Gap Year Program**
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**PROGRAM DETAILS**
**The cost for the entire 12-month program is $12,000**.  The year will be divided into four segments: three months in San Francisco, three months abroad, three months doing an internship, three months doing an independent project.  Housing and food is included in the cost of the program for the first six months. For that sum you'll get:**

- Three months of housing in San Francisco
- Three months of food and transportation while in San Francisco
- The custom-designed hackademics curriculum
- $2,500 in travel stipend to design your three-month trip
- Access to an elite network of mentors from around the world
- Our help in finding an awesome internship

**The program will launch in September 2013.**
**Applications will be due March 30th 2013.**
**Acceptances will be sent April 15th 2013.**
**To apply to the Gap Year, click here.**

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**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**
**What do you need to be an UnCollege Gap Year Participant?**
**For legal reasons, you must be over eighteen to participate.  However, we welcome more than just eighteen year-olds.**
**If you're eighteen to twenty-eight we encourage you to apply.  You can have either a high school diploma, college degree, neither, or both.  We really don't care about that.**
**We care that you have a desire to learn and will be the best you can be.**
**What are we looking for:**

- Extraordinary Intelligence.  Are you clever enough to help solve the world's hardest problems?
- Unstoppable Motivation. Are you motivated enough to create your own destiny?
- Unflappable Integrity.  Can people count on you to live up to your responsibilities and do the right thing?

**If these qualities sound like you to the nth degree, apply for the UnCollege Gap Year by March 30th, 2013 and create your own destiny.**
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**\*\* The cost of the program was previously advertised as $10,000.  The cost has increased to $12,000 as food and transportation are now included in the first six months of the program.**

# Program Dates

Please see the following calendar for upcoming Gap Year Program dates.

**Fall 2013**
Launch Phase: September 16, 2013 – November 23rd, 2013
Voyage Phase: December 2013 – February 2014
Internship Phase: March 2014 – May 2014
Project Phase: June 2014 – August 2014

**Winter 2014**
Launch Phase: January 3, 2014 – March 15th, 2014
Voyage Phase: April 2014 – June 2014
Internship Phase: July 2014 - September 2014
Project Phase: October 2014 - December 2014

**Spring 2014**
Application Deadline: October 1st, 2013
Launch Phase: March 21, 2014 – May 31, 2014
Voyage Phase: June 2014 - August 2014
Internship Phase: September 2014 - November 2014
Project Phase: December 2014 - February 2014

**Summer 2014**
Application Deadline: January 1st, 2014
Launch Phase: June 27, 2014 – September 6th, 2014
Voyage Phase: September 2014 - November 2014
Internship Phase: December 2014 - February 2014
Project Phase: March 2014 – May 2014

**Fall 2014**
Application Deadline: April 1st, 2014
Launch Phase: September 12, 2014 – November 22, 2014
Voyage Phase: December 2014 - February 2015
Internship Phase: March 2015 – May 2015
Project Phase: June 2015 - August 2015

# FAQ

## What is your refund policy?

If you leave within the first 2 weeks, we refund what you've paid so far minus $4K. So if you paid the whole lot up front, you get 8K back, and if you paid the deposit plus $6K you get $3K back.

## When are the tuition fees due?

To secure a spot in the program, you must submit a $1,000 deposit.

The balance of the tuition is due by 1.5 months before the start of the program, or as follows:

| Payment | Fall 2013 | Winter 2014 | Spring 2014 | Summer 2014 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | $1000 | $1000 | $1000 | $1000 |
| 2 | $11000 or $6000 | $12000 or $6000 | $12000 or $6000 | $14000 or $7000 |
| 3 | $4000 | $4500 | $4500 | $5000 |
| 4 | $2000 | $2500 | $2500 | $3000 |
| TOTAL | $12000 or $13000 | $13000 or $14000 | $13000 or $14000 | $15000 or $16000 |

| Payment | Fall 2013 | Winter 2014 | Spring 2014 | Summer 2014 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 Jun 2013 | 1 July 2013 | 1 Oct 2013 | 1 Jan 2014 |
| 2 | 1 Aug 2013 | 1 Nov 2013 | 1 Feb 2014 | 1 May 2014 |
| 3 | 1 Dec 2013 | 1 Mar 2014 | 1 Jun 2014 | 1 Sep 2014 |
| 4 | 1 Feb 2014 | 1 May 2014 | 1 Aug 2014 | 1 Nov 2014 |

## Do I need insurance?

We require you to have your own health and travel insurance while part of the Gap Year program.