Dear #NewDon:

Congratulations on your admission to the University of San Francisco! It is with great pleasure that I invite you to apply for the Muscat Scholars Program (MSP). You were chosen based on the honor of being the first in your family to go to college. This exciting program for first-generation college students begins two weeks prior to Orientation and is designed to provide a challenging and rewarding experience by helping you learn what it takes to succeed at USF. We want to assist you in setting high academic expectations for yourself, to help you build learning skills, and to enhance your understanding of how best to maximize your strengths.

We also want you to have fun, make new friends, and develop a network of support that will be essential to you as a student at USF. One of MSP’s defining features is its dynamic community. You will be assigned a peer mentor, a staff mentor, a Muscateer and meet MSP program alumni during the program. If you’re worried about coming to USF without friends, we have you covered!

MSP’s other defining feature is the academic preparation. You’ll be taking courses in writing, math, contemporary issues, and information literacy taught by some of USF’s most engaging faculty and staff members. You’ll also participate in workshops about learning styles, USF resources, and time management. When you’re not in class, you’ll be engaged in Tribe meetings, discussion groups, hands-on learning exercises, and a variety of on- and off-campus activities. You will receive 2 units of elective course credit for successful completion of this summer program.

MSP continues during the school year with you taking two required courses: Psychology of Success in the Fall and Career Exploration in the Spring. These two classes, along with two off-site retreats on will give you the opportunity to develop a plan and a program for the transition from college to career. Throughout the year, we will have socials and gatherings to help continue to build community and foster connections.

The Muscat Scholars Program begins on Sunday, August 9, 2015 and ends after graduation Friday, August 21, 2015. The program is, in effect, your “full time” job for these two weeks. The daily schedule begins in the morning and, on most days, continues through the evening hours. Required activities are also scheduled over the weekend (August 15-16). We will be living in Hayes Healy residence hall for the duration of the program. If you'll be living on campus in the Fall, you will remain in your assigned MSP rooms. Food is also included during your residence in the program.

We do hope you’ll join us. If you are interested in applying to Muscat Scholars Program, go online and submit your application via our website: www.usfca.edu/Muscat. You must submit it online to us by June 1, 2015. We accept applications as we receive them, so get your application in early! Applications received after the date will be considered on a space available basis. Upon acceptance to MSP, you will be asked to pay a $100 program fee.
Please note – if you are interested in Muscat Scholars Program, please complete the USF Rooms application. Once completed, you will see Roommate Selection. **Please do not participate in Roommate Selection process. You will choose a fellow Muscat Scholar as your roommate!** This individual will be your roommate for the remainder of the school year.

If you have questions or would like to talk with someone about the Muscat Scholars Program, please contact me at (415) 422-6841, via email: lobo@usfca.edu or via Twitter: @itweetusf. I am very much looking forward to greeting you on campus when you join us in August!

Sincerely,

Charlene P. Lobo Soriano, Ed.D., NCC  
Program Director, Muscat Scholars Program  
Academic Success Coach  
Associate Dean, Student Academic Services for Branch Campuses