

# Overseas study program tests student adaptability

By OSCAR HALPERT  
Of the Emerald

What do Avignon, Poitiers, Breukelen and Dubrovnik have in common?

All are European cities included in Study Abroad, an educational program for college credit offered by the University.

The Study Abroad Program provides students the opportunity to test their University education in another culture.

"There's a whole school of thought that says experience is a better teacher," says program coordinator Paul Primak.

"In this situation, a student doesn't have the usual supports to fall back on and has to learn how to make decisions alone," he says.

Study Abroad participants pay \$3,500 to \$7,500 to attend school in one of seven countries — England, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia. Programs in all countries except Yugoslavia

and Mexico are one year long.

In addition, a program in Sweden begins this fall, and a cooperative program with Russia will offer a series of language courses in Leningrad. Another program is being considered for Spain, Primak says.

The Yugoslavia program is primarily for graduate students or students with faculty recommendations, he says.

"It's kind of a magical mystery program. It has the mystique of the Iron Curtain, which I think sets some students off."

The seven programs are divided into two categories — one administered by Oregon State University and sponsored by the Oregon State System of Higher Education, and the other administered by the Northwest Institutional Council on Study Abroad.

The NCSA program requires only a basic knowledge of foreign language, but the OSU program requires two years of

experience with the language of the student's selected country.

Ann Burter, a University English major who visited Germany, says even two years of a foreign language may not be adequate.

"I'd had three years of German, which is theoretically enough, but I'm not sure it helped me," she says.

"You find that much of what you learn in the classroom here is wrong in certain contexts. For example, sometimes I was too formal and other times I wasn't formal enough."

Students who apply for the program are screened for language ability and grade point average. Not everyone who applies is accepted, Primak says.

Each student is interviewed by Primak, whose recommendation is the sole evaluation for the NCSA program.

"We select students on the basis of their flexibility, interest in a foreign country and ability to gain something from the experience. GPA is a secondary consideration," he says.

Budget problems do not seem to be limiting student interest in the program, Primak says, adding that enrollment in the NCSA program is up 25 percent for next year.

Most program costs include tuition, fees, room and board. Round trip transportation is extra, although the program price does include some excursions within the country.

## Leisure expert to speak

Douglas Sessom, a nationally recognized specialist in parks and recreation management, will spend next week at the University as a guest lecturer and advisor for Project EXE-TRA.

Sessom, the chair of the leisure and recreation department at the University of North Carolina, will give a University-wide colloquium Aug. 6 at 3 p.m. on "Contemporary Leisure Concerns."

The author of numerous articles and books on leisure counseling and leisure education trends, Sessom is a proponent of "quality" use of recreational time.

In addition to discussing constructive ways for using leisure time, Sessom is expected to speak on leisure trends in the 1980s, the amount of time that should be devoted to leisure — including staggered blocks of recreation during working hours (flux time) and vacation periods — and alternatives to the 8-to-5 work day.

Sessom's visit, which is sponsored by the recreation and park management department's Center of Leisure

Studies, is part of Project EXE-TRA, a federally funded doctoral training program with emphasis in therapeutic recreation.

The colloquium will be given in EMU Room 101. Further information about Sessom's visit, which will include meetings with faculty and students, is available from the Center of Leisure Studies, ext. 3602.

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