

Students gain by study in foreign universities

By David Steinmetz
Of the Emerald

Just to "be there" describes the most important advantages of participating in the University's Study Abroad program, according to Paul Primak, program advisor.

The program allows a University student to spend between a term and a year in a foreign country, attending a college or university there, for \$1,850 to \$5,200 per term for Oregon resident undergraduates.

Primak says being in France while taking a class on the history of France, for instance, is the difference between reading it "like a novel," and actually being where the history happened, Primak says.

A stay in a foreign country gives the student a "very, very different view than a tourist would get," he says.

This can give the student what Primak calls the most important advantage for the program: a greater self-awareness, a greater awareness of others, and an ability "to understand the differences not in terms of right and wrong, but why."

Programs have been set up with France, Germany, England, Japan, Spain, Denmark, Mexico, Norway, The Netherlands, The USSR, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Italy, and Austria.

The most popular destination is Avignon, France, which costs \$1,850 per term for a resident undergraduate. Tuition and fees include lodging in a French home, two meals per day, textbooks, medical insurance and program excursions.

However, students must pay their own transportation to and from France.

Liberal arts courses are given in English at the local university, covering subjects which take advantage of the local French museums, towns, historical sites and culture.

All credit classes are transferable to the University, as in programs with all other countries.

Students are also interviewed, and selection is based on scholarship, motivation, maturity, and emotional stability.

Primak says the requirements depend on the program and the amount of independence the student would have. For instance, the USSR program is in a very different environment.

However, the most complaints of culture shock and homesickness come from France, Primak says.

The programs are sponsored

by either the Oregon State System of Higher Education or the Northwest Institutional Council on Study Abroad.

While the NICSA programs only require a basic knowledge of the foreign language, OSSHE programs require at least two years of college-level classes in the language.

Financial aid from the University, including Guaranteed Students Loans, will apply to the expenses.

Program expenses have increased over last year, but only by about 6 percent because foreign countries have generally had greater inflation rates, Primak says.

Participation in the program had been increasing, to 80 students last year, but "holding steady" lately, he says.

Applications and more information is available from the Office of International Services in Oregon Hall, which also works with foreign students and Fullbright, Marshall, and Evans scholarship applicants.



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