

Information exchange helps students find work overseas

By Michael Rivers

Of the Emerald

Current or graduating students who want to work abroad may find the path a little easier if they utilize the services of the Council on International Information Exchange.

CIE is an organization that

aids students in obtaining work permits and with finding employment abroad. CIE currently can arrange for employment in six countries including Great Britain, France, Ireland, Costa Rica, New Zealand and West Germany, according to Michelle Lippert, a CIE travel

consultant.

CIE also is working currently on an agreement with Australia, Lippert said. The organization is encountering some difficulty with the government, however, she said.

Students applying for work abroad through CIE, which has

been in existence for about 40 years, first must fill out an application for a work permit, Lippert said. After the work permit is approved, students are put in contact with the "sponsor" in the country where they applied for the permit, she said.

The sponsor provides orientation for job seekers, giving them the names of companies that have hired foreigners before, Lippert said. Some people also go to U.S.-based companies that have branches in those countries, she said.

There are no requirements for students applying through CIE except that they have had at

least one semester of college, Lippert said. However, students may want to have some grasp on a foreign language if they want to go to a non-English-speaking country, she said.

"Britain is probably the most popular because English is the only language requirement," Lippert said.

The cost of applying for a work permit through CIE is \$82. But Lippert believes the

cost is worth it because students don't have to deal with nearly as much red tape.

Ordinarily, someone applying for a work permit would go to the consulate of that country, Lippert said. However, if a student were to go through the British consulate for example, it would be next to impossible to obtain a work permit, she said.

"The British consulate won't give you a work permit unless you have a guaranteed job, but you can't get a job without a work permit," she said.

Lippert said her company is able to avoid this catch-22

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because it has made a deal with the governments for the work permits, she said. There is a reciprocal agreement between sponsors so that CIE, the U.S. sponsor, sponsors as many foreign students in jobs in the United States as travel abroad to work, she added.

Last year CIE, which has 22 agencies around the United States, sent more than 4,000 students overseas.

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