Foreign study programs lack students

By Sarah Clark Emerald Reporter

Fewer University students have applied to study abroad in the last two years, according to figures from the Office of International Education and Exchange.

Programs in France have been hit the hardest, said Janeen Felsing, associate director of overseas programs. A winter-term program at the Universite du Maine in Le Mans was canceled Tuesday because only six students had enrolled, Felsing said.

Administrators in the OIEE and the Department of Foreign Languages are now trying to learn the causes for lower enroll-ment figures. Although they have not collected any statistics, they suspect higher costs of education and a poor national economy have contributed to the problem, Felsing said.

During the 1990-91 school year, 398 University students studied abroad through programs the OIEE administers. That number dropped to 299 during the 1991-92 school year. Preliminary figures indicate that 1992-93 enrollment numbers will be

Ballot Measure 5's passage in 1990 resulted in tuition hikes that may deter students from studying abroad, Felsing said.

"Students became more cost-conscious," Felsing said. "They may have worried about not delaying their education and accumulating debt. There's the misperception students have that going that going abroad does that."

A bleak economic outlook and higher education costs nationwide have made recruiting students for study abroad programs difficult throughout the country, said Romance Language Department Head Francoise Calin.

At the University, declining student population may be low-ering the number of possible study abroad applicants, Felsing said. Recent changes to the OIEE staff may have also played a role in lowering study abroad enrollment, she said.

The weakening of the U.S. dollar may have been a factor for students considering programs in Western Europe, Felsing said.

The decline of the dollar could have had a major impact on studies in France, including the Le Mans program, Felsing said.

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> Francoise Calin, Romance Language department head

However, enrollment figures for Germany, which has a very strong currency, have remained the same.

'For the most part, the other programs seem to be holding steady," Felsing said.

Most of the programs the University offers send students from other institutions, so the programs' total enrollments are not dependent on whether enough University students sign up.

This was not the case for the Le Mans program, which requires at least 10 students from the University to enroll in order to operate. Though more than 300 second-year French students were told about the program, Calin said, only six enrolled.

Calin said she fears this year's cancellation will be permanent. "We have a contract with that university in France, and we are breaking that contract," she said.

In response to the cancellation, the OIEE plans to survey French students during winter term to see how the programs in France could be improved to meet students' needs

"The paradox is that we are at a time when everyone speaks of multiculturalism, diversity and international exchange," Calin said. "At the same time, although there is a desire to go abroad, there is a financial crisis.

The OIEE has attempted to ease some of the financial burden for students going abroad by implementing a short-term loan program this year. Students can also use their financial aid when studying abroad, but often that aid is not available until the program is underway. The loans can pay for immediate costs such as travel, Felsing said.

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Students often call to confirm that they have a cold or the flu, only to be asked if they have a fever.

"Ninety percent of the University community does not own a thermometer," Nelson said, adding that even simple illnesses cannot be confirmed if callers do not know their temperature.

Nelson cautioned that the Ask-A-

Nurse number cannot and does not make diagnoses. Nurses answering the phones provide information, not treatment for diseases, and can only recommend that callers seek medical attention.

In addition to medical information, the program offers a physician referral service. The program's computers are able to recommend a physician based on a caller's specialized needs.

"You may need a doctor who speaks Spanish," Nelson said. "You may have a

certain kind of insurance and you need a doctor to treat you."

Nelson said Ask-A-Nurse refers many student callers to the University Student Health Center. She said the two agencies maintain a close working relationship and exchange much information.

The program also gives referrals for all services and programs provided by Sa-cred Heart, as well as referrals to many similar community health services outside of the hospital

Homecoming activities to begin today

Students will have a chance to meet a soap opera star, see Public Enemy and attend a pep rally on Satur-day as part of this years Homecoming events. Homecoming activities begin today and run through Saturday, when the Ducks confront the California-Berkeley Golden Bears.

At noon today, students can have their picture taken with the Duck. Photos are \$1 each. Also today at at 3 p.m. in the EMU Main Lobby, camous organizations will decorate Homecoming banners.

Adopt a Duck-Business will end today's activities. Residents of 11 greek houses and 1 dormitory will gather at 5 p.m. in front of the University Bookstore to decorate their adopted business

"Homecoming is a celebration with students, alumni and the community. Adopt a Duck-Business is a way to connect the community with the stu-dents to decorate the campus," Homecoming Chairwoman Lorissa

On Friday, Spirit Day, (don't forget to wear green and yellow!), a Home-coming pep rally will grace the EMU Courtyard. University cheerleaders, football coaches and the Duck will be in attendance to start the weekend activities

"The Pep Rally is a time that sets the game for the following day,' Kathee Haase of the Homecoming committee said. "A time where fans and players can come together. The whole point is to have fun and scream really loud."

At 8 p.m. Friday, Public Enemy will perform in the EMU. Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Autzen Stadium parking lot, fans can meet General Hospital star Antonia Sabato Jr.





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