

Overseas study increases for college students

■ **ABROAD:** England is still the most visited, but China and Costa Rica saw huge jumps in foreign students

By Deb Riechmann
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rising numbers of U.S. college students are studying overseas, and many aren't going to the traditional universities in Europe, a survey found. They're venturing farther afield, to Africa, Australia and the Middle East.

The number of American students studying abroad rose 10.6 percent to 84,403 in 1994-95, continuing a 10-year upward trend, a report released Sunday by the New York-based Institute of International Education said.

Foreign student enrollment in U.S. schools, meanwhile, rose less than 1 percent the past two years.

"As recently as a decade ago,

studying abroad was considered a luxury," said Richard M. Krasno, the institute's president. "I think it's now considered a more instrumental part of undergraduate education."

He speculated that American students are warming to the idea of studying abroad because they are being exposed to other cultures on their own campuses. Many also recognize the importance of a second language and international experience in competing for good jobs, he said.

"When I went to school, they said 'Here, study French. If you ever go to France, you'll be able to order off a menu.' Now, it's seen as a career asset," said Wayne Decker, director of the office of international studies at the University of Arizona.

Amy Hofsheier, 21, a student at the University of Arizona, is off to the Israel next month to study for 5 1/2 months at Ben Gurion Univer-

sity in Beersheva. She's majoring in archaeology and Judaic studies and hopes to see the country and improve her language skills.

"I think for myself. It's really a necessity," said Hofsheier, who hopes to do archaeology work in Israel one day. "The majority of the kids are still going to Spain and France, but I think interest is opening up to other places."

Kenitra Burton, 20, a junior at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., spent a month in Thailand as a freshman to broaden her knowledge of the country's language, culture and religion.

"I grew up a lot. I really matured. It gave me a whole other perspective on being a minority," said Burton, who is black. "I had braids in my hair at the time. They were all curious and kept asking 'How did you do that?'"

Suzanne Hartman, 21, a junior majoring in business at Emory University, is leaving in February

to study a semester in Sydney. Except for the air fare and personal spending money, she said it will cost about the same to study in Australia as it would at Emory, a private school in Atlanta.

"It's a great opportunity. More kids are doing it," Hartman said. "Schools are starting to realize that this is not just a trend, and they're making it easier — like finding you ways to talk to other students who have done it."

A fast-growing economic market in China led to a 30 percent increase in American students studying there in 1994-95, Krasno said. Costa Rica also reported a 30 percent increase, partly because students recognize the advantage of knowing Spanish, he said.

He said Australia is aggressively recruiting U.S. students. It reported a 42 percent rise in American enrollees in 1994-95 with 3,346.

While these countries reported large percentage increases in

American students, Britain still hosted the most — 19,410 students, or 23 percent of all study-abroad students. France, Spain and Italy ranked second, third and fourth with 7,000 to 7,900 students.

Despite a rising wave of Americans signing up for study abroad, the 453,787 foreigners on U.S. campuses this year is only 0.3 percent more than a year ago, continuing a six-year trend of slow growth. The largest number of foreign students arrived from Japan, followed by China, Korea, Taiwan, India and Canada.

The report, based on a 96 percent response rate from 2,579 accredited U.S. institutions, was published by the institute, a non-profit educational and cultural exchange organization.

The institute has conducted an annual statistical survey of the foreign student population in the United States since 1949.

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NEWS briefly

Man's death was an apparent suicide

A 23-year old Eugene man was found deceased by family members Friday afternoon.

The man was found in his east Eugene apartment about 12:30 p.m. His death was an apparent suicide.

The Eugene police department has not released the victim's name.

Police also found two other apparent suicide victims Friday. The deaths were not related.

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