

# Some foreign students remain in Eugene for summer

Travel costs and the possibility of travel restrictions convinced many international students to remain in town this summer

By David Nelson  
Freelance Reporter

The majority of students at the University can go home for the summer relatively easily or inexpensively, should they choose to do so. This is not as easy, however, for international students.

And whether they've decided to stay in Eugene or head home, international students at the University and elsewhere made the decision under unique

circumstances this year. Because international students are far from home, they must contend with high travel costs. Some also have to cope with potential travel difficulties resulting from restrictions on countries that are believed to harbor terrorists, or countries that have a high incidence of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

This year, about 50 percent of international students are staying to take classes during the summer, said Magid Shirzadegan, associate director of the Office of International Programs. Shirzadegan said that percentage is only slightly higher than most years, however, adding that very few international students simply take a

vacation during the summer.

Students from certain SARS-affected countries may have stayed for fear that they will not be able to return in the fall. If their home countries have an increased incidence of SARS, a small chance exists that travel restrictions would prevent their return in September.

Ryohei Ishii, a freshman Japanese student, said he knows students from Hong Kong and China who were particularly concerned about returning home "because they are faced with (a) strict immigration situation to begin with." News of SARS is "making them more concerned about their trip back to (their) home country," the business major said. This summer, Ishii went

home to Japan, where there have been few reports of suspected SARS cases.

Even though fear of SARS and terrorism may play a major role in some students' travel plans, not all international students remaining for the summer are doing so for the same reasons. One such student is Brikena Haxhiraj, who originally came from southern Albania and has studied in other U.S. schools as well. She is working on a master's degree in educational leadership.

Haxhiraj has international friends here, some of whom are staying for the term and others who are returning to their home countries for the summer, she said. Some students graduated at the end of spring term but wanted to

live in the United States, so they stayed to look for jobs, Haxhiraj said. Other students stay to further their education by taking more classes. Others still remain for economic reasons: They cannot afford the travel costs required to visit home for every vacation.

Haxhiraj is not taking classes over the summer, but is instead continuing her present job at the Office of International Programs, where she works with payroll. Work is not Haxhiraj's only reason for staying, however.

"I like staying during the summer in Eugene because it is nice and quiet," she said.

David Nelson is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

## Tuition

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students to get University degrees," he said.

Moseley said another option might be to cancel the implementation of a 15 percent discount for classes taken before 9 a.m., a program that is also awaiting approval from the board. However, the financial gains from that would only be about \$300,000 to

\$400,000, he said.

The University is not alone; other schools are facing similar challenges.

Oregon State University is calling for an extra \$25 charge per resident undergraduate credit from 13 to 16 credits. If the changes are delayed to winter term, the school may have to cut about 150 courses for winter and spring terms.

"We're looking at roughly \$1.2 million in lost revenue," said OSU's Office of Budget and Fiscal Planning Director Gil Brown. He added if the board rejects the changes completely, it will result in a total loss of \$3.8 million, \$500,000 of which would have gone towards financial aid. Lost revenues affect both the school and students, Brown said — fewer classes may mean longer times to graduate,

which also means students pay more tuition and other expenses for their additional time at the college.

Portland State University is asking for the complete elimination of the tuition plateau, which would raise tuition by 18 percent for some students. Associate Vice President of Finance and Administration Cathy Dyck said PSU would be out \$1 million net in the fall if the board rejects the proposal. She said PSU felt it was necessary to institute the changes for several reasons, including the fact that it would be more equitable for its students. Sixty-one percent of undergraduate students take fewer than 12 credits and therefore do not benefit from the plateau.

"We get a lot of people who are going for a degree part-time," she said.

"We see ourselves as different."

Due to tuition plateaus, part-time students often have to pay more than they otherwise would to make up for funds lost when full-time students pay the same amount of tuition for a certain range of credits.

If the proposal fails, PSU students may also have fewer classes on the schedule, Dyck said.

Eastern Oregon University is also asking for an end to its tuition plateau, which would raise average resident tuition by about 20 percent. EOU Assistant Vice President of University Advancement Tim Seydel said failing to implement the changes would have a serious impact on the school.

"As a small university we don't have the kind of buffer to absorb

costs like a large university," Seydel said. "We're the local mom and pop store ... The impact is a lot more severe on us."

EOU, the smallest university in the OUS system, would feel a pinch of \$700,000 to \$900,000 should the education board ax the plan. Seydel said the changes are necessary because the Eastern is already hurting for money. It lost about \$3.1 million in state funding in the past biennium and is expecting more fiscal cuts this biennium. The money gained from the tuition increase would go toward alleviating the effects of those cuts.

"It's a couple of shovelfuls to fill in the holes that we have," he said.

Contact the reporter at ayishayahya@dailymerald.com

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## Lillis

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include bands of decorative brick work, four planters for trees and flowers and a ramp that will put traffic level with the sidewalks. The plaza will still allow traffic to pass, with about 16 feet between planters, said Janet Lobue, construction project manager for Facilities Services.

"The planters are there partly to provide places for trees, partly for places for people to sit and partly as a refuge for people crossing the street," said Fred Tepfer, planning associate with University Planning. "Part of the

thinking was to make it feel more like a pedestrian environment, and less like a vehicular environment."

He added the planters work to "keep the traffic in the middle of the street" and slow it down by providing visual cues that the area is primarily for pedestrians.

"One of the things we strove to do with the way the courtyard was laid out was to offset the planters and make a ramp," Lobue said. "So bicycles and cars go up there and they have a tendency to slow down. The other thing, culture-wise, is it opens up that whole quad. I think in that respect it'll serve the campus really well. It'll be a very clean space because of

the way that it's laid out."

In addition to Memorial Plaza, the firm is constructing an East Court and North Court, directly adjacent to Lillis. The East Court, located next to Gilbert Hall East, will consist of a lowered concrete courtyard surrounded by areas of vegetation. The North Court, located at the north entrance to the complex near the Computing Center, will be quite spacious.

Gilbert Court, located in front of the complex between Gilbert halls East and West, will have more planter boxes, brick work and outdoor seating areas for the cafes inside Lillis.

The construction of Memorial Plaza is not a new idea on campus, Tepfer

said. In the 1980s, when the University constructed the west gate where East 13th Avenue and Kincaid Streets meet, planners began including ideas for a plaza in front of the business school.

Lobue said the architects designing the area are veterans of University landscaping, saying they also planned the landscape around the science complex and the entrance at University Street and East 18th Avenue.

"I think this is one of the nicest ones they've done so far," Lobue said. "I think it's going to be a remarkable addition for the University."

Jared Paben is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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## DPS

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Two students, one representing the ASUO, also attended the forum, but they were unable to side with

University efforts.

Campus Outreach Coordinator Shannon Tarvin said she could not give an ASUO position on the issue because inadequate time was provided for student input.

"The ASUO Executive feels that, at this time, there are far too many variables to determine the possible repercussions or benefits," she said.

Contact the managing editor at janmontry@dailymerald.com.

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