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Going to Summer School

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Going to Summer School?

Take a Vacation and Learn at a Foreign College

HAVANA, Mexico, Switzerland and Sweden aren't such far away places as they look on a map. Take another look at that map and pick out a country you'd like to visit for a summer before you give up your dreams of travel. Discover the sightseeing or summer school opportunities there, and then combine your dream and reality instead of envying others who are going abroad this summer. You, too, can be the person to whom your friends are sending "Bon voyage" notes.

Relaxation, new experiences, school credits that will transfer, fascinating work in languages, contact with international cultures will be yours in summer school abroad.

Worth Extra Money

But the drawbacks, you say—money, loss of time that could be spent in school or work during the three summer months—what about them? Granted, it will cut a larger amount from your bank account, but according to women who have tried it, summer school in Mexico can be had for the price of a quarter at Iowa State. With the added enjoyment of folk festivals, new and exciting scenery and faces, it makes the summer worth the extra money.

Joyce Meyer, a home economics senior, is one of the enthusiastic Iowa State women who has attended school in another country. Joyce was enthusiastic about the set-up in the National University of Mexico summer school, a branch of Mexico University proper. The school was fashioned especially for Americans—classes were taught in English and Spanish and entertainment was planned for the foreigners. During the 6 weeks Joyce was at school she took Spanish and architecture, two subjects which added to her elective list at Iowa State. She said that Mexican crafts, native dance and several graduate courses were also on the curriculum there. About 900 foreigners, mostly Americans, took advantage of the Mexican school, paying $50 tuition.

Joyce estimated that a person can live about one-third less expensively in Mexico than in the United States. With tuition, transportation and board and room she said that a person could spend 6 weeks in Mexico for about $350.

"The Mexicans wanted to sell their country to us," Joyce said. "We were entertained each week with a 'festival.' Natives from various Mexican states entertained with folk dances and music under stone arches decorated with gardenias and gladiolas. The entertainment wasn't professional, but it was genuinely Mexican, and introduced us to the real Mexico."

Nearer to the Texas border is Monterrey, in that picturesque city in Mexico. Courses are offered there in Spanish, literature, philosophy, sociology, history and the arts. Students may enroll in courses as unique as "aboriginal art" and "Mexican music for dances."

How does the University of Havana, located on the shores of the Caribbean, sound to you? In this school, older than all American universities except Harvard, courses in Spanish art, history, geography, customs and natural science of the Caribbean region are designed especially for North American teachers and students.

If you want to go north for the summer there is the Banff school of fine arts, located in Alberta’s Canadian Rockies. Two courses are offered there: the general course for students taking subjects professionally or for recreation and enjoyment; and the university credit course designed for those wishing academic credit.

Of course a European education will cost more

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than one at a college on this continent. The Institute of International Education, New York, advises students to allow a minimum of $750 to cover their costs for a summer. Transportation, visas and passports account for the increase in cost.

A widely advertised Italian university, the University of Perugia, offers a summer term July 1 to Sept. 30 in Italian language and literature courses. In British universities American students may study a variety of subjects in summer sessions. Shakespeare and Elizabethan drama are offered at a college in Stratford-on-Avon, England. A course in “Town and Country Planning” is offered at the University of Liverpool and other English literature and sociological subjects are offered at the University of London.

Switzerland offers summer courses at the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchatel and Zurich. Information about these schools and also Scandinavian colleges may be obtained from the Institute of International Education.

United States Schools

Remember too, that glamour isn’t restricted to foreign soil. Equally interesting and, incidentally, less expensive summers can be spent within our own boundaries.

Proof of this is found in the University of California where Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Korean languages are taught in a 12-week summer term. Seventeen hours a week are devoted exclusively to language study with emphasis on conversation.

Another example is the King-Smith school of Creative Arts in Washington D. C. whose advisory board includes architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Martha Graham, the famous modern dancer.

Actual classroom work constitutes a small part of the benefits derived from an educational vacation. Living in a region which was probably little more than a name to you before—either in or out of the United States—gives you an understanding of the country you could get in no other way.