Here's the Way- Study Abroad

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Here's the Way—

Study Abroad

TO SPEND a year abroad studying in Iran, Sweden or Switzerland sounds intriguing and adventurous as well as educational. American colleges have devised ways for students to have this profitable experience inexpensively.

Differences in educational systems and credit systems often require American students to have a bachelor's degree for study in European institutions. However in recent years certain United States schools have made special arrangements for undergraduates to spend their “junior” year or a summer session abroad. The language barrier is obviously one of the most difficult problems and intensive beginning courses are a must if a student has not had at least two years of the language study at the college level.

If the financial aspect of a trip to Europe is your problem, apply for one of the many scholarships and grants available. Graduate grants, some of which include travel grants, are offered by the United States government under the Fulbright Act and the Buenos Aires Convention. Awards for all students are now available for the 1958-1959 year from Iran, Israel, Austria, Denmark, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Brazil, Cuba and Mexico. Grants usually include tuition, board and room.

Various colleges and universities as well as private organizations sponsor “junior year abroad” programs. Courses are supervised and supplemented with lectures and tests by American faculty members. Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, has a program in France: Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, in Paris, Italy, Spain and Switzerland; Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia, in France; Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, in Munich; and Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois, in Switzerland. Individual arrangements can often be made between a student contemplating such a program and the colleges involved without working through any special organization.

Each summer many universities abroad discontinue regular courses to offer those in language, history and civilization of their own country. Tours to points of interest are part of the program as well as music, art, law, political science and sociology studies which could be of special interest to foreign students. Most of these courses are taught in the language of the country, and intensive beginning, intermediate and advanced language courses are given.

An example of such a summer school program is that offered by four British university summer schools for six-week periods this year. At Stratford-on-Avon, the course will be Shakespeare and Elizabethan drama with a special seminar on Elizabethan music. Literature, politics and the arts of seventeenth-century England will be the subject at Oxford while literature, art and social change in England from 1789-1870 will be taught in London. In the Edinburgh school, European inheritance will be offered. Scholarships for American students are being granted in the number of one to each thirty accepted applicants. While such a program is designed primarily for graduate students, anyone in the last two years of college is considered for acceptance. Other summer school programs include a German language and cultural seminar in Salzburg and a series of courses at the University of Vienna. At least one university in every country offers special courses.

Write to the Institute of International Education, 1 East 67th St., New York 21, New York, for bulletins, general pamphlets and specific literature as well as addresses of other sponsoring agencies to which you may apply or request further information. If you've always dreamed of going to Europe, of studying some aspect of foreign culture in context, of observing the language, people, customs and culture of a nation while studying them, you can! Many of the scholarship applications are due March 15. Investigate them until you find one to fit your needs—and bon voyage!