



From the Four Corners of the Earth

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Since the time of Alexander the Great it has been the habit of serious students to travel in search of knowledge. Until recently the movement was limited to the well-to-do who could afford the luxury of extra money spent in broadening their education and cultural contacts. Since the end of World War I, however, student travel has, with the assistance of governments and private agencies, increased until international students are now numbered in the tens of thousands.

This year there are 26,759 visiting students in the United States, from literally the four corners of the earth. From Burma and Iceland, from Lebanon and Poland, from Siam and Sweden, from Nepal, Hungary, and the Fiji Islands—and from 142 other countries or dependencies—they are living testimonials to the wisdom of Daniel, who prophesied “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge will be increased.”

Equally encouraging for those who believe in travel as a means to the promotion of peace and good will are the numbers of Americans going abroad to live and study for a year or more. It is estimated that in 1948-49 more than 8,000 will reap the benefits of intimate contact with the culture and people of more than 15 nations.

How does an interested student find out about such things as scholarship opportunities, courses of study, entrance requirements, travel regulations? More than 30,000 of them turn for help and information each year to the Institute of International Education, 2 West Forty-fifth Street, New York 19.

The institute was founded in 1919 with the aim of promoting international good will and peace by aiding a two-way exchange of students between the United States and other countries of the world. It has no scholarship funds of its own, but administers those of a large number of institutions, government and private agencies, and individuals.

The institute has under its auspices this year 1,204 students and specialists, here and abroad, studying in the widest possible range of subjects—from engineering to education and from agronomy to architecture.

A program recently undertaken in cooperation with the Government of Korea will bring about 35 Korean students to the United States. Twenty-one German and Austrian students are here now, under the joint auspices of the Institute of International Education, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and the Student Relief

Campaign of the National Federation of Catholic College Students. Under an arrangement with UNESCO, the institute, in cooperation with professional organizations, supervises travel and study programs of reconstruction specialists from six war-devastated countries, who will make use of the knowledge they acquire here in rebuilding the educational and cultural systems of their homelands. Nineteen Americans have traveled to Switzerland to study on fellowships given by Swiss universities and societies, and administered by the institute.

The institute has the responsibility for the preliminary selection of students applying for foreign study awards under the Fulbright Act. This act, sponsored by Senator Fulbright of Arkansas and passed by Congress in 1946, provides that certain sums of money derived from the sale of war-surplus materials in some 20 countries abroad be set aside in the foreign currency to pay the tuition, travel, and maintenance of selected American students for a year of study in those countries. Foreign students coming to the United States from these 20 countries can receive travel awards out of Fulbright funds and so supplement scholarship grants given by colleges and universities here.

Agreements under the Fulbright Act have been signed with China, Burma, the Philippines, Greece, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Belgium and Luxembourg, France, and Italy. Negotiations are at present proceeding with Austria, Australia, Egypt, India, Iran, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Forty students are now studying in the United States under this program, and another 40 abroad. This number may seem small, but it must be remembered that such a large program takes a great deal of negotiation and organization. It is expected that within the coming year 500 foreign students will be able to travel to the United States under Fulbright, and that 350 Americans will receive complete awards for study abroad. The program is planned to assist a large-scale movement of students among the 20 countries for a 20-year period.

The growth in international education is a wholesome one. An ever-widening circle of people will benefit from the broadened contacts, the increased knowledge, and the international point of view gained by these students. The value to peace and international understanding derived from educational travel cannot even be estimated.