

Dean Barrett Tells of 1960 Light Program

It is something of a strain to condense into a few brief paragraphs two weeks of streaking across the Atlantic on jet aircraft, hopping from one European airport to another on shorter flights, visiting half a dozen or so universities, and absorbing local color in Madrid, Paris, Munich and Bonn. Nevertheless, here is a brief report.

First of all by action of the Faculty and thanks to detailed arrangements with universities abroad, students who study under the Light Program will have opportunity to earn credit toward graduation here. Those who go abroad with only one year of language and whose work on tests in the foreign universities and back here is strong enough to exempt them from taking an intermediate language will be exempted from second-year language here and considered to have met the graduation requirement, and will be awarded three hours credit in the language. Other students who wish to pursue a special field of interest while abroad can make arrangements through their departments of major to undertake a project which will be supervised by a faculty member in the foreign university and will be awarded three hours credit on completion of a term paper or thesis resulting from the work. The universities abroad are clearly enthusiastic about this arrangement and more than willing to help carry it out.

It seems very likely that we will set up a program in Madrid this coming summer as well as sending a few of our students in Spanish to Bogota. This is not absolutely firm yet. It depends on how many of the grantees will be going to Spanish-speaking countries, and the final selections will not be determined for a few days. It also depends on whether we can make all the detailed arrangements for a program of our own in Madrid, since there is no university there which can serve us as Caen and Bonn do. The Madrid program, like the one in Bogota last summer, would be set up for our students from beginning to end.

It seems definite now that all students going to France will go to the University of Caen for the first part of the summer and then down to Grenoble for the last two or three weeks. This works out very well this year, for the Caen session will close earlier than usual. The arrangement, of course, has the great advantage that students in France will see two entirely different parts of the country - as different, indeed, as two countries are.

Contrary to our hopes, we will not open in Munich this coming summer. The dates at the University of Munich and at the Goethe Institute do not fit properly with our schedule, and all students going to Germany will study in Bonn.

Finally, you can take my word for it that Europe is wonderful, even in the winter, and that it will be even better this summer.

- Laurence Barrett