

Special rates help with visits home

Foreign students travel, study during holidays

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

Foreign students have a lot of options open to them for the winter break, according to Pat Johnson, program coordinator for International Educational Services.

"A lot of them travel," Johnson said.

International students can either go home or travel around the United States during their vacation times.

About 12,000 students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are classified as "foreign students," including students, scholars and permanent residents, Johnson said.

IES is able to offer these students and others at UNL special airfares to go home, Johnson said.

"We have special rates through CIEE," the Council on International Educational Exchange, she said.

The cheap fares are from major port cities to other ports only, she said. For instance, a student could travel from Seattle to Beijing for \$729 this December.

That's an excellent price, Johnson said. A normal, discounted seat from Seattle to Beijing can cost \$1,040, according to Lincoln Tour and Travel.

Different airlines offer different deals, and the prices can change every few months, Johnson said.

These prices are among the best available, but sometimes a student can find a cheaper one, she said.

However, 75 percent of foreign students are graduates, Johnson said, and can't afford to go home.

For students who would like to travel in the United States, IES has a travel library.

IES does not organize a Christmas tour program, Johnson said, because the weather is unpredictable, and the office is preparing for the new students coming in next spring.

"A lot have their own agendas planned," she said.

Another program is Christmas International House, Johnson said. Foreign students can stay at homes around the United States from Dec. 19 to Jan. 2. Homes and group housing are available, depending on the location.

The hosts live in a variety of locations, including Fort Meyers, Fla., Santa Barbara, Calif., Annapolis, Md. and Cuba, Mo.

The students are guests of the local community, and the program

costs \$25 registration fee and the round trip transportation.

Some students will also go home with their friends or roommates, Johnson said.

Other students will stay in Lincoln over the break, she said, especially the ones who live in apartments off-campus.

Students who stay can study, visit friends, and take a leisurely vacation.

Chi-fang Chen, a graduate student from Taiwan, said he would

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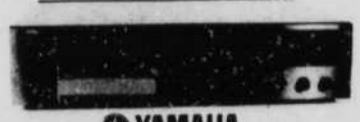
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