

European travel



Airfare - \$700-\$900
Hotels - up to \$100 per night
Youth Hostels - average \$10 per night
Euro-Rail Flexipass - \$200-\$300

Scott Maurer/DN

European travel expensive

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Editor

Few recent graduates travel abroad to Europe probably because of high costs, employees of local travel agencies said.

Karen McGinn, manager and a travel consultant at Contact Travel, 4001 S. 48th St., said the price of an airline ticket alone could range from \$700 to \$900.

This price doesn't include costs for staying in hotels or youth hostels, she said.

Linda Kunz, a travel consultant for Travel Agents International, Meridian Park Centre, 70th and O streets, said students who wanted to travel in Europe on their own would find that hotel rooms cost about \$100 a night.

"Europe travel is very expensive," Kunz said.

Costs vary for youth hostel or bed and breakfast programs, Kunz said. Traveling by program is usually cheaper than traveling alone, she said.

Kunz said students could buy a Flexipass, a pass that allows students to travel by train or water taxi as much as they want for a certain number of days. But these passes cost between \$200 and \$300.

Lori McCullough, a travel consultant for Allied Tour & Travel, said youth hostel programs are probably the cheapest program that students traveling to Europe can use.

She said Allied travel had received few calls from May graduates inquiring about Europe travel.

These students are probably "just worried about getting a job" following graduation, she said.

Kunz also said few graduating seniors had called to inquire about European travel.

"Right after you graduate, you're probably so worn out you want to stay parked for a while," she said.

Kunz said that if students are thinking about Europe travel, they should plan ahead for the cheapest prices.

Get a job

May graduates face tough market

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who graduate in May will face an extremely competitive job market, an official said.

"It's not unusual for graduates and alumni to be taking many months to find employment in the position they are looking for," Larry Routh, director of UNL's Career Planning and Placement Center, said.

"I've been in this profession for a long time, and this is unusual how competitive it is."

Routh said several factors had led to the competitiveness of the job market. The recession and military cutbacks are two main ones, he said.

Both have caused people to lose their jobs, which places experienced workers out in the field competing for jobs with graduates. People in southern California and in the northeastern United States have been hardest hit by these factors, he said.

Another problem for graduates, Routh said, is that many students have entered fields such as engineering, actuarial science and business that once were considered to mean sure employment. As greater numbers of people enter these fields, he said, demand for graduates has decreased.

"Today it seems like the word has gone out on areas that have been hot on employment, and as more and more people go into those fields, supply starts exceeding demand," he said. "A lot of the big corporations have really cut back in

hiring or have had layoffs."

Although finding a job will be difficult for this year's graduates, Routh said, it will not be impossible.

"It's a tough year to be a college graduate, but I don't want people to think there is no hope, because we are hearing from people who continue to become employed," he said. "Students can get jobs, it might just take longer."

Graduates who stay in the Midwest when looking for work are at an advantage, Routh said, because the region is not dependant on the industries that have been hardest hit by the recession.

"We don't have companies as severely hit," he said. "We're not affected as much."

Routh said there is no "hot" field in today's job market. He advised graduates to not pick their future jobs based on fields' perhaps temporary popularity.

"It's kind of like the stock market, to tell you the truth," he said. "If you pick it on supply and demand, you're making a mistake."

"Pick a field where you will be very well qualified — pick one where you can be the best."

Routh advised students to work in internships and get other career experience before they graduated.

He said they should also stop by the career placement and planning office to use its resources.

Staff in the career office will help students develop a resume, contact employers and arrange campus interviews. For a \$15 charge, the office will send students' resumes to potential employers through a computer system.



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