

**Travel Report**  
**Countries: Denmark and Canada**  
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The purpose of the travel grant was to visit educational programs that offer courses in English that could be counted toward the undergraduate Liberal Studies degree at SDSU so that future teachers would be able to participate in international opportunities during their undergraduate experience. Two programs were visited during 2004. Denmark's International Study Program (DIS) was visited in Summer, 2004 and Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada was visited in Fall, 2004. The following report describes the outcomes of each of these visits and recommendations for participation by identified major degree areas.

**Denmark**

During Spring, 2004 I was invited Joan Elias Gore from Denmark's International Study Program (DIS) to attend the INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP held in Copenhagen from June 22-26. DIS paid for my airfare and SDSU Office of International Programs covered the cost of the hotel and other travel expenses through the awarded travel grant. Prior to my visit to DIS I spoke with Robert Carolin, Assistant Director for Education Abroad regarding his experiences when he visited DIS. I also received material describing the program from DIS. Denmark's International Study Program offers courses in English in several focused areas that supplement the education of students attended universities in North America. One of the main foci is Child Development and Diversity. This was the program I was most interested in learning about prior to my visit. Students from California can attend Denmark's International Study Program as a participant in the CSU full year study abroad program. However, DIS also may be a good place for SDSU students to study for one semester or as a participant in their summer programs.

The DIS Conference was outstanding. It was incredibly well organized and the attendees were treated like diplomats in many ways. We had receptions in castles and were welcomed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Denmark. Each of the program areas was described for all participants and then we spent the most time focused on our area of interest. This time included attending a class with current students, meeting current students to obtain their opinions about DIS, attending a typical field trip, visiting with community agencies and spending a holiday with the family of one of the faculty members who teaches in the concentration. In addition, I had time to meet with Julie Scott who had a leadership role for the Child Development and Diversity sequence of courses.

My conclusion from this visit was that the students found the program valuable. They found the discussions with peers inspiring and the city of Copenhagen a great place to study. However, DIS has as part of its mission not to duplicate what is offered in the USA and to offer programs of interest to supplement specialty areas. They were not interested in expanding their offerings to include more general topics needed by Liberal Studies students. Therefore, this is **not** a program that can be well articulated with SDSU's Liberal Studies degree.

However, there are **several outstanding programs** that I was able to learn about during this trip that would be of interest to SDSU students. Following my visit I met with faculty members in each of these areas to describe and promote the program and to give them a summer brochure. It is my opinion that the summer programs are the most attractive in terms of cost to students from the USA and in terms of program content. Although I am describing the summer programs, please note that year-long and semester length programs are offered in the same areas.

### **Scandinavian Furniture Design**

DIS offers summer programs in Interior Design, Scandinavian Textile Design, Ceramics Design and Furniture Design. This program would appeal to the Art and Furniture Design students at SDSU. I visited the school where the hands-on approach to these topics takes place. I was impressed with the philosophy of the program – which is to learn the craft first followed by design. In other words a student might come up with a great design for a piece of furniture that is computer generated and then find that the properties of the material does not lend itself well to the design. By first having students explore the materials, make small project with materials, by learning the craft first, students are better able to use design to achieve the most benefit from the materials. Students have to design a chair as their final summer project. The students also take a field trip to Sweden to visit furniture manufactures including IKEA.

### **HIV/AIDS in Western Europe**

This summer focus would appeal to the students in Public Health at SDSU who are focusing their work on HIV and AIDS prevention. This summer program was first piloted in summer, 2004 and has maintained as a formal offering. This program is designed in cooperation with the University of Maryland.

### **Marine Biology and Ecology**

This program would appeal to the Marine Biology majors at SDSU. The focus is on the North and Baltic seas. Denmark is made up of 409 islands which creates an interesting ecosystem to be studied that is different from the Pacific Ocean Marine ecology near to San Diego. Study tours to western Denmark and Poland are a part of the program.

## **Child Development and Diversity**

The summer program in Child Development and Diversity would appeal to the Child and Family Studies majors at SDSU. Students visit typical Danish programs for day-care and after school. Students discuss issues related to new immigrant education in Europe and in Denmark. A new program is offered by DIS in **Prostitution and Human Trafficking in Europe** also will be of interest to the Child and Family Development Department at SDSU.

In summary, Copenhagen would be a wonderful place for students from SDSU to study abroad. It is part of Scandinavia and Europe with a rich history. Public transportation makes travel easy and English is understood by most of the average citizens. DIS offers a great opportunity for courses in specific fields of study as well as in the Danish language.

## **Canada**

Prior to my visit in Fall, 2004 Robert Carolin, Assistant Director for Study Abroad at SDSU contacted Judith Ellis who was instrumental in organizing meetings with all of the relevant faculty members at Simon Fraser University who offer courses that the Liberal Studies students would be taking if they attend SFU. Judith was sent a list of the courses required for Liberal Studies students during their sophomore year. Also prior to this visit equivalent SFU courses were identified by Dr. Phoebe Roeder and me and they were approved by the SDSU Evaluations Department. In other words, the students could be assured that they would get credit for these courses at SFU. The purpose of my visit was to meet with the faculty to assure we had selected the right courses and to make sure there would not be a problem with student enrollment due to impaction or required prerequisites. San Diego State University currently has an exchange agreement with Simon Fraser University. SFU sends more students to SDSU than we send to Canada. Simon Fraser University welcomes the possibility of sending more students from SDSU and agrees that the Liberal Studies program is a good match.

During my visit to Simon Fraser University I met with the following faculty, Sam Thiara, from Business, Christine Prisland from Humanities, Jeremy Carpendale from Psychology, Liliana Hill from languages, Barbara Thornburn from English, Emelia Kirkwood from Biology, Dennis Bevington from Philosophy and Hilary Jones from Geography. All faculty approved SDSU students to take their courses and Judith Ellis said that she would make sure there was room for students even in the more competitive courses. The only course where questions were raised was for the Geography course as Dr. Jones felt that the emphasis was different in SFU as the course at SDSU. I was asked to encourage students to take some special topics courses in Humanities that would not be offered at SDSU to add to their international experience.

I also had a meeting with Ian Andrews, Director of International Teacher Education in the Faculty of Education. Dr. Andrews has organized several study tours for students. He also arranges exchange and other opportunities for students who wish to study at SFU. We discussed ways in which we could work together to promote an exchange of faculty within our respective Colleges of Education. Targeting graduate students for exchange also seemed to be a promising direction.

In addition to meeting faculty regarding content of the courses, I took a tour of the campus, ate lunch in the student center and visiting the housing next to campus where international students would be staying. I was impressed with the number of international students attending SFU, especially from Asia. I was also impressed with the accessibility of the campus making it an **ideal location for students who use a wheelchair.**

Following my return from Canada, I met with Phoebe Roeder and Robert Carolin to discuss the positive outcomes of this visit. Robert created the brochure included in this report and we have been actively recruiting Liberal Studies students to take advantage of this opportunity. More work in the area of recruitment is needed as students continue to have misconceptions about Canada and prefer more exotic locations for study abroad.

In summary, Simon Fraser University sits on a hill overlooking a valley outside of metropolitan Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada. It offers courses that are clearly equivalent to those offered at SDSU and students would not have a problem obtaining credit for their work during study abroad. The campus composition of students and life in Canada would be surprisingly different than many students may think and would offer a positive international experience for many SDSU students. We will be making an increased effort to make sure that SDSU students take advantage of this already established exchange program.

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TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**Possible Course Alternatives for Liberal Studies in Sophomore Year**

**University Name:** Simon Fraser University  
**Country:** Canada

**Courses are available Fall, Spring and Summer Semesters**

**SDSU Course**

**Simon Fraser Course**

**English 220: Introduction to Literature**

English 101: Introduction to Fiction or  
English 104: Introduction to Prose Genres

**Geography 106:  
World Regional  
Geography**

Geography 100: Intro to Human Geography or Geography

**Biology 100:  
General**

Biology 100: Introduction to Biology

**Philosophy 101: Intro to Philosophy: Values**

Phil 100: Knowledge & Reality

**Religion 101: World Religions**

Humanities 230-3: Intro to Religious Studies

**Spanish Language  
Introduction to Psychology**

SPAN: 103-3 or SPAN 201-3  
PSYCH 100-3: Introduction to Psychology 1

**Psychology 230: Child Development**

PSYCH 250: Introduction to Developmental Psychology