

UH offers study opportunities around the globe

By Charlotte Marten
Ka Leo Staff Reporter

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's International Exchange program offers something unique this summer. Students can study world peace for two weeks in Japan at Hiroshima City University while earning UH credits.

John Alford, a current UH student, spent fall 2005 in England and recommended anyone to take the chance to get out of their comfort zones.

"Studying abroad is the most valuable experience I have ever had," Alford said. "I learned so much about other people, but more importantly I learned about myself and what I want to do with my life. It is a cheap way to see the world. You pay normal UH tuition."

This two-week summer course, from July 26 to August 7, will introduce students to the nature of war and peace by revealing different aspects of wartime experiences, including the bombing of Hiroshima. The course will also explore contemporary issues related to world peace in the era of globalization.

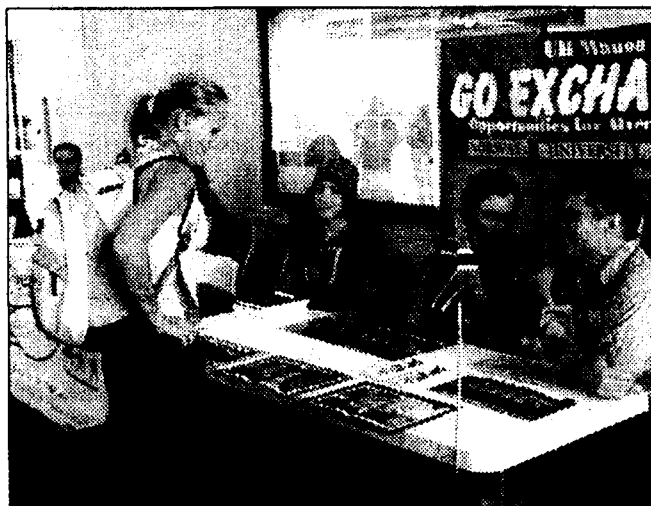
Brien Hallett, director for the Matsunaga Institute for Peace at UH, has been working with the Hiroshima peace program for three years and will be joining the program in Hiroshima this summer as well, talking about the roles of the media.

Hallett said that this course is different from other courses because it offers an emotional impact that is life-changing.

"This course confronts students with one of the most serious problems that faces human kind: the atomic bombing," Hallett said. "The information they learn is less important than the place and the emotions. It is incredible."

Darrell Kicker, the International Exchange coordinator, has been working at UH for two and a half years and said that more UH students should take advantage of the exchange program.

"I would recommend all students to study abroad while in college," Kicker said. "It is affordable, you get credit for it and it opens your eyes to the world. Not only do you learn about other cultures, [but] when you're removed from your own country and culture, that is when you really learn about your own identity."



International Exchange members discuss benefits and details of studying in different countries.

COURTESY PHOTO
DARRELL KICKER

The Hiroshima and Peace
summer course application deadline
is April 30. For more information
visit <http://www.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/Hiroshima-and-Peace/index.htm> or
contact Darrell Kicker at kicker@hawaii.edu.

This is the fifth year UH will offer the Hiroshima and Peace course in Japan.

"Students who come back from Hiroshima think it changed their world view," Kicker said. "They talk about the overwhelming emotions behind the atomic bombing and the war."

Kicker explained that this program was developed as an agreement between Hiroshima City University and UH, but [it] grew fast, and today, students from around the world enroll in the course.

"We are proud to have this program established," Kicker said.

Akihiko Kotani is an international student from Osaka, Japan, taking his full degree at UH. He thinks the best thing about studying abroad is the cultural experience.

"It changes the way you think about the world and about America," Kotani said. "I think people should take this opportunity to visit Japan to see what really happened during the Hiroshima bombing."

This intensive three-credit course will be taught in English by specialists in peace research, Asian, European and North American studies. They will focus on cross-cultural misunderstandings, regional security, perspectives on violence, nuclear weapons, globalization and approaches to peace.

Kicker said that he encourages students to get study-abroad experience on their résumés.

"I think it distinguishes you from other people and it speaks to your understanding of the world," he said. "Employers would be impressed."

According to Kicker, there is one main difference between the International Exchange program and the Study Abroad program. Study Abroad teaches UH courses abroad and the students receive UH credits, while the International Exchange exposes students to the host institutions' courses and students get transfer credits.

Kicker said that there are more students coming into UH than going abroad, which can become problematic because the International Exchange program is based on a balance to cover tuition.

"My main focus is to promote international exchange to get students to go out," Kicker said.

According to the International Exchange program, the estimated cost for study in Japan is \$2,000, which includes airfare, ground transportation, UH summer session II tuition, lunch, snacks and incidental expenses. If one is receiving financial aid, it also applies overseas.

This program offers home-stay accommodation, including breakfast and dinner with English-speaking Japanese host families. Students can choose to stay in a hotel or another location at their own expense.

According to Hiroshima City University's Web site, Hiroshima recovered from total destruction by the atomic bombing on August 6, 1945. The city rebuilt itself as the "International City of Peace and Culture."

It has become a vigorous city in the new century, with abundant greenery and a rich culture that aims to make important contributions to peace throughout the world.