

# NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

## Benefits and Cost Summary

### Expanding Institutional Resources

Many of the nearly 200 member campuses view NSE as a way to expand and enhance their own resources through a network of inter-institutional exchange which is under-pinned by a system of tuition reciprocity.

Benefits for participating campuses include:

- access to an extensive array of courses, programs and educational opportunities
- possibilities for curriculum sharing and joint program development
- access to study abroad programs, internships, and research options
- exchange among university honors programs
- resident assistant exchange option

**One of the real strengths of the National Student Exchange is the potential for developing joint programs among member institutions.**

Campuses can combine departmental strengths to develop a program which allows students to expand the depth and breadth of their education by taking courses at different universities. NSE's tuition reciprocity and common operating procedures facilitate and encourage this kind of activity where it is not practical to add courses or programs to current institutional offerings.

Programming of this nature may be accomplished through formal written agreements or verbal cooperative understandings as best meet the needs of the institution and the program. Several NSE universities are currently in partnerships with other member campuses in areas such as fashion and textile technology, landscape architecture, communication, agriculture, forestry, social work, and hospitality.

### Multicultural Opportunities

The changing diversity in cultural and racial characteristics across the United States, its territories, and Canada presents numerous challenges and opportunities for tomorrow's citizens and leaders. Recognizing this, the National Student Exchange has developed a membership composed of diverse colleges and universities, many of which offer distinct cultural experiences.

**By exchanging to institutions different than their own, students have an opportunity to gain insight into the historical and cultural makeup of different regions, to improve communications skills with individuals from diverse backgrounds, and to prepare themselves to live and work in a culturally diverse society.**

### The NSE Experience

Since its founding in 1968, the National Student Exchange has provided exchange opportunities for more than 90,000 students. Instead of crossing oceans, NSE students cross state, regional, provincial, and cultural borders in order to:

- take courses not available on their home campuses
- expand their academic program options
- acquire life skills
- reside in different regions
- break out of their comfort zones
- experience diverse cultural settings
- seek out graduate and professional schools
- explore career options.
- improve communications skills with individuals from diverse backgrounds
- prepare themselves to live and work in a culturally diverse society

These experiences help students examine their own values, beliefs and behaviors. Changes seen in student attitudes, understanding of other people in other settings, maturity, risk-taking, and decision-making help prepare them to join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce.

**Like study abroad, NSE is an enhancement of the student's undergraduate program, demonstrating to graduate schools and future employers that they have gone beyond the expected.**

The year on exchange is usually the most significant and enjoyable year in their education. Students return home with a fresh outlook on their education and better able to define academic and career objectives. It is also a year of dramatic personal growth and maturity, particularly for students who are not well-traveled or have lived most of their lives in the region where they are attending college.

Students frequently return from exchange with more self-confidence and independence, greater decision-making skills, better able to take risks, and with more clearly defined academic, career, and personal goals. It is not unusual for NSE students to consider, after returning to their home environment, participation in a study abroad program as well as graduate school and employment opportunities outside of their home region.

*"NSE changed the way  
I see the world!"*

Shaya Straw  
NSE and International Program Coordinator  
and Former NSE Student  
Northern Arizona University

## Modest Membership Costs

- \$750 annual institutional membership fees
- \$105 student application fees

The university identifies someone to serve as NSE coordinator. The institution is also obligated to send the coordinator to the Annual Placement Conference in March where more than 3000 placements are negotiated for the subsequent academic year.

## Campus Offices Most Likely to Administer NSE

- study abroad and international programs
- enrollment management
- student life
- academic advising
- student success center
- university college
- honors program

### Almost one-third of NSE programs are administered by study abroad personnel for the reasons listed below.

- NSE expands the scope of study away opportunities for the campus by offering exchange sites within the U.S. and Canada. Besides reducing language barriers, these more comfortable settings and compatible academic programs often become the student's first step towards global education experiences.
- NSE's Canadian Partners Program is an international study opportunity.
- Some of member campuses make their own study abroad options available to NSE students thereby expanding the scope of any one institution's international offerings.
- Campus procedures and support structures for NSE students are similar to those for international program participation.

## Coordinator Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the NSE are similar to those who coordinate study abroad or international exchanges for the campus. Such duties include:

- serving as a liaison with academic, administrative and student personnel services
- promoting the program
- helping students explore how NSE fits with personal and academic goals
- informing students of procedures related to financial aid application and disbursement
- processing outgoing and incoming applications
- negotiating placements
- ensuring that students have completed advising agreements
- orienting incoming exchange students
- serving as a home away from home for incoming students
- assisting students with re-entry
- abiding by the *Principles for Professional Practice for NSE Coordinators*

*"NSE is inclusive, innovative,  
and highly respected in  
the higher education community."*

Monica Schechter  
NSE Coordinator and Associate Director  
Study Abroad and International Programs  
California Polytechnic State University,  
San Luis Obispo

*"For me, going abroad  
seemed too far away;  
staying home seemed too close.  
NSE was the perfect choice!"*

Lauren Flaherty,  
Sonoma State University  
to the University of Northern Colorado

## Join Us at Our Annual Placement Conference to Learn More About NSE

- The Hyatt Regency
- Minneapolis, Minnesota
- March 4-8, 2008



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