
ROTATING UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL FEATURES

The Rotating University program offers courses of study abroad, usually of four to six weeks' duration. The purpose of these courses is to develop "international citizens," individuals capable of acting spontaneously in accord with the Laws of Nature in any culture. Most courses focus on academic topics relevant to the culture. Some include the study of local language and geography. In every course students learn to manage their daily study and travel within the laws and customs of a foreign country and culture.

Past courses have ranged from biking and hiking through New Zealand; visiting famous art museums and historic places of Italy; cruising the Greek islands; to exploring the rich cultural and spiritual traditions of India, the Land of the Veda.

COURSES

HUM 232 Discovering South Africa: The Land and Its People

This Rotating University course introduces the history, culture, and politics of South Africa, as well as the spectacular wildlife of the African bush. Students travel as a group from Johannesburg to Drakensberg, Durban, Cape Town, and back to Johannesburg. In addition they spend ten days altogether studying the wildlife in Ezemvelo, a nature preserve, and Kruger park, a "big game" reserve. All students prepare multiple presentations on South African languages, history, culture, and other topics.

FA 229 Rotating University in Italy: Italian Art and Culture

In this course, students visit the cultural centers of Italy, viewing Italian painting, sculpture and architecture. In addition, students learn beginning Italian, which they can use while experiencing the rich culture of Italy. We may visit several of the following historical locations: Lake Como, with trips to Bellagio, the Villa Balbianello, and the Villa Carlotta; Milan, home of the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci, the Gothic Duomo, La Scala opera house, and the Galleria Vittorio Emmanuele II; Venice, where students take gondola rides down the grand canal and visit the Basilica di San Marco, the Accademia, and the Peggy Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art; Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, where students see the Duomo, the David by Michelangelo, the Convento di San Marco, and the Uffizi Gallery; Rome, where the group visits the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Piazza Navona. Students also visit smaller Tuscan villages, such as San Gimignano, Siena, and the Cinque Terre, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

The focus of the course is on the Renaissance, the cultural and artistic awakening of the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, which is often thought to form the foundation for modern Western culture. We study the art of the great masters of the Renaissance, including Michelangelo Buonarroti, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Botticelli, Filippo Lippi, Brunelleschi, Fra Angelico, Giberti, Giotto, and Donatello. (4 credits)

ESS 325: Rotating University in Australia: Leadership in Adventure Sport

This is a leadership training course in Australia and all students will take an active part in the leadership of the course. We actively interact with local cultures and ecosystems. We will travel by a combination of transportation ranging from bicycle, car, train, and bus, to boat. Every 2–3 days we will stop for another adventure, such as surfing, snorkel diving, hiking, mountain biking, sea kayaking, and white-water kayaking/rafting. This will be a self-sufficient trip where we will tent and prepare our own food as we travel. Australia is a large country so we will travel by motorized transportation on many occasions as we move between ecosystems. (4 credits)

ESS 325: Rotating University in New Zealand: Leadership in Adventure Sport

New Zealand is the setting of this leadership training course, and follows the same format and activities as the Australian excursion (see above), except that New Zealand's size makes this trip a compact adventure lover's paradise, so we will travel by bicycle as much as possible. (4 credits)

WTG 410 Rotating University in Italy: Travel Writing

From Mark Twain to John Steinbeck, some of the world's most admired writers have found inspiration in the topic of travel. In this course students learn the conventions of travel writing as they visit the following locations in Italy: Lake Como, with trips to Bellagio, the Villa Balbianello, and the Villa Carlotta; Milan, home of the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci, the Gothic Duomo, La Scala opera house, and the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II; Venice, where students take gondola rides down the grand canal and visit the Basilica di San Marco, the Accademia, and the Peggy Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art; Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, where students see the Duomo, the David by Michelangelo, the Convento di San Marco, and the Uffizi Gallery; Rome, where students visit the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Piazza Navona. Students also visit smaller Tuscan villages, such as San Gimignano, Siena, and the Cinque Terre, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Course work includes reading examples of popular travel writing on Italy. By analyzing the work of top travel writers and through in-class writing workshops, students become familiar with techniques of travel writing and learn to apply them in their own writing. As students visit cultural centers in Lake Como, Venice, Florence, Rome, Tuscany, and the Cinque Terra on the Mediterranean Sea, they record their personal observations of Italian

people, places and daily life in a travel journal. The course culminates in the writing of a personal travel essay. (4 credits)

MVS 485 Discovering Vedic India

The Rotating University course to India is an introduction to Vedic India as described and explained by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Students travel under the auspices of the University, as well as the Indian organization for teaching the Transcendental Meditation technique, doing group practice of the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi programs together, enjoying a rich blend of travel, study of Maharishi Vedic Science, Sanskrit, and interaction with students and faculty from several Indian educational institutions. Other topics include history of Maharishi's teachings in India, ancient Vedic civilization, the Vedic Pandit tradition, and the Maharishi Effect.

MVS 485 Rotating University in Switzerland: Reading the Vedic Literature

In this course, students read the Vedic Literature in Sanskrit and view videotapes by Maharishi on the Vedic Literature from the unique videotape collection available only in Seelisberg. Students live in Maharishi European Research University, located in the Swiss Alps high above Lake Lucerne. Formal class is held in the morning, and in the afternoon students take group excursions to experience the beauty of Switzerland. Boat rides on Lake Lucerne include visits to Weggis, Vitznau, Brunnen, Lucerne, Herchenstein, Stans, Buochs, and Engelberg. Students also climb alpine paths around the lake and take lifts to famous peaks, such as Rigi, Pilatus, Mount Titlis, and Stanserhorn. (4 credits)