Foreign aid at Int’l Office

By PRADEEP KAPADIA

The idea of going abroad for a summer, a semester, or a year has always been thought of, by the majority of students that have let it cross their minds, as a possibility that requires more time and effort than is allowed with a full workload and two papers overdue. True as this may be, the International Office is making it a little easier for students to gather information on some aspects of going abroad.

Starting this past semester, the International Office is offering its resources to any student who wants to find out about the different programs involving travel, work, and study abroad. The International Office is located in Brown House on Professors Row, upstairs from the Ex-College and is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Here, you’ll find a resource library containing pamphlets, brochures, student guides, handbooks - basically general information - on such things as how to obtain a passport, charter flights, Eurail passes, volunteer work programs, job opportunities, and, in an effort to help Deans Kelly, Folch-Pi, and Terry, some information on study programs abroad. We also issue International Student I.D. cards which entitle the student to discounts on everything from charter flights to theatre tickets in 62 countries around the world.

For students who want to know about foreign countries, and how it feels to be in a certain city with a certain program, the International Office offers a valuable resource - a resource file of International students and faculty at Tufts who have volunteered to talk to interested students about what it is that makes their country different. Tufts currently has over 450 students and faculty from over 80 countries. The file also contains American students and faculty who have lived abroad or have knowledge of a particular program. Leslie Long, the Foreign Faculty and Student Adviser at Tufts, thinks that any student going abroad should take advantage of this resource file. Says Ms. Long, “The best way to find out about a new country, city or program is to talk to someone who knows about it so that he or she can tell you about what to expect. Students thinking of going abroad should gather as much information before they leave to help them adjust to a new culture. By knowing people from the country before you go, you may also avoid the pitfalls many students fall into - associating only with other Americans. Students do not always realize that they may not be welcomed into the society with open arms. It becomes easier to associate with other American students.”

For students interested in studying abroad through a Tufts program, the person to see is Dean Kelly, and the student interested in programs other than those offered by Tufts, the person to see is Dean Folch-Pi. Of special interest to students who would like to find out about how to apply to study programs abroad, are a series of meetings each semester with Deans Folch-Pi and Terry to go over such aspects as transfer of credits, recommendation of certain programs, and addresses to write to for applications and more information. These meetings often include students and faculty from different countries that are willing to answer questions about living in their country.

Later this semester, two meetings are scheduled - one with representatives from the World Affairs Council on studying abroad, and an informal gathering with international students, to talk about foreign countries.

If you're thinking of going abroad to travel, work, or study, come visit the International Office to browse through the available information and to talk about your interests.